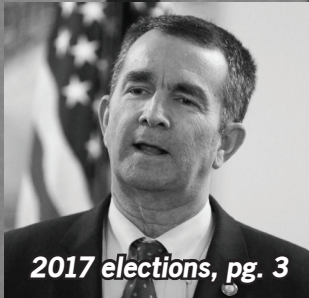
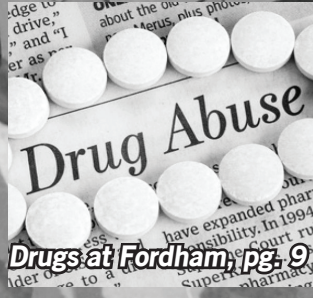




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the paper

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

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

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Copy Editor

Scott "the complete discography of Right Said Fred" Saffran

Contributors

Andrew Millman, Christian Decker, Robin Happel, David Kennedy, Kyle Zarif, Katelynn Browne, William O'Brien, Jan-Carl Resurreccion, Annie Muscat, Jack Archambault, Olivia Langenberg, Marty Gatto, small dogs, Taika Waititi, actually clever 280-character tweets, missing the bus and movie, medium dogs, *The Bell Jar*, Mark Hammill trolling Evil!Rey, Congressional testimony, big dogs.

THE PAPER MEETINGS

TUESDAYS AT 9
MCGINLEY 2ND



Off Year Election Brings Big Wins for Democratic Party

After a rough year, some good news for long-suffering Democrats

by Andrew Millman
Staff True Blue

Last Tuesday, the first regularly-scheduled general election in the country since Donald Trump became president was held. In two states won by Hillary Clinton, Virginia and New Jersey, the Democrats won the governorships and other major statewide offices. Washington voters gave the Democrats a majority in the state legislature, Maine expanded Medicaid in a referendum. Two New York counties, Westchester and Nassau, elected Democrats as county executives for the first time in many years, while Republicans retained a Utah congressional seat.

The most-watched race of the night was the Virginia gubernatorial election between incumbent Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) and former RNC chair Ed Gillespie (R), who had been in a statistical tie in polling. Surprisingly, Northam won by a nine-point margin, which was four points better than Hillary Clinton's win in the 2016 presidential race. The Democrats won in two other statewide races as well, with Justin Fairfax and incumbent Mark Herring winning the races for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, respectively. Additionally, Democrats picked up fifteen seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. As of now, the party holds forty-nine of the one-hundred seats in the chamber, but four races with Republicans currently in the lead are within the 1 percent margin necessary for a recount. It should be noted that Democratic candidates won 53 percent of Virginians' votes for delegates, but will probably retain only forty-nine seats.

In other news from the state, Danica Roem (D) will become the first ever open transgender person to serve as state legislator after defeating an incumbent who had passed his decades-long po-

litical career on being Virginia's self-described "homophobe-in-chief" and refused to use the proper pronouns when addressing Roem. Looking forward, Northam won three congressional districts in the state currently held by Republicans and came very close in another. These races will be important in next year's midterm congressional elections.

The outcome in the other gubernatorial election was expected. With unpopular incumbent Chris Christie (R) term-limited, New Jersey elected Phil Murphy over Christie's Lt. Gov., Kim Guadagno (R), by thirteen points. Murphy has promised a progressive agenda that includes criminal justice reform, marijuana legalization, a state bank, gun control, and increased education spending. Like Virginia, New Jersey could also be important in the 2018 midterms. Two Republican incumbents have already announced their retirements and another two GOP incumbents appear to be vulnerable. Those eight districts in New Jersey and Virginia could be crucial to the Democrats' path to retaking the House in 2018, which would require them flipping twenty-two seats.

In Washington state, a special election was held that decided control of the state senate, which had been controlled by Republicans. Manka Dhingra, a Democrat, won the open race in a suburban district near Seattle. Democrats now hold the governorships and state legislatures in all three West Coast states, California, Oregon and Washington. The three governors of those states have already voiced their desire to work together on a number of progressive causes, most notably climate change. Washington Governor

Jay Inslee wants to implement a carbon tax (among other policies) to tackle the issue.

In Maine, the state's voters overwhelmingly supported a referendum to expand Medicaid under Obamacare, which could insure an additional seventy-thousand residents in the state. Maine Governor Paul LePage (R) had already stated that he will not implement the voters' decision. However, activists in several states are planning to launch referenda campaigns of their own to expand Medicaid in 2018. In New York, Democrats won two county executive positions long held by Republicans in Westchester and Nassau. In Westchester, George Latimer (D) defeated incumbent Rob Astorino (R) by sixteen points after Astorino had previously won by ten points. In Utah, Provo Mayor John Curtis won a special congressional election to replace Jason Chaffetz in a conservative district. Curtis is notably more skeptical of President Trump than most of his new congressional colleagues.

The final major election of 2017 will be the special election for the Alabama Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions when he became Attorney General. State Attorney General Luther Strange had been appointed to the seat by former Governor Robert Bentley, but lost in the Republican primary to former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore. This was in large part because of Strange's association with the scandal that forced Bentley from office. Moore has twice been forced out of office for violating judicial ethics and his charity has come into question for allegedly funneling money to his relatives. Shockingly, four women recently came forward to accuse Moore of child

molestation when they were underage. (Ironically, Moore has claimed that legalizing same-sex marriage would lead to child abuse.) The women were backed up by thirty sources that corroborated their accounts. His Democratic opponent in the race is former U.S. Attorney Doug Jones, who prosecuted the perpetrators of the 1963 Birmingham church bombing, which killed four young girls.

The revelations have caused headaches for Senate Republicans. A poll taken after the scandal was reported has Moore and Jones in a tie in a state that voted for Donald Trump by nearly thirty points. However, when given the option of voting for Luther Strange as a write-in candidate, Jones is ahead in the poll by two points. If Moore were to lose the race, the GOP's majority in the Senate would drop to 51-49. Moderate GOP Senators Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Susan Collins (ME) could now stop many controversial bills, such as the Republicans' tax plan. If Doug Jones were to win, the Democrats would only need to win two Senate races in 2018 in order to take back the Senate, most likely in Nevada and Arizona, instead of also having to win in either Texas or Tennessee. The question will be if Alabama voters will choose a Democrat over a Republican who is facing credible child molestation allegations, which is not a guarantee since the state overwhelmingly supported Trump, even after the Access Hollywood tape and multiple accusations of sexual harassment levelled against him.

Mueller Madness: First Indictments in Russian Collusion Case

by Christian Decker
Staff Special Counsel

Manafort and others plead “nyet” to conspiring with the Russians

On October 27th, the first charges were filled in the ongoing Russian probe considering the country’s interference in the 2016 presidential election. By Monday the 30th, we had two indictments, one of former Trump campaign manager Paul “I look like every shady business man ever” Manafort, and his business partner Rick “who the hell is this guy?” Gates. Even more exciting, former advisor to President Trump, George “ok seriously who are these people?” Papadopoulos, has pled guilty to lying to the FBI about brokering meetings between the Trump campaign and Russian officials, according to *The Hill*. Now, these indictments are not directly affecting the White House, as these meetings and business dealings occurred either before the campaign or did not directly relate to it, except maybe the Papadopoulos guilty plea. However, this would mean that when the President hired Manafort, that the President either knew about Manafort’s shady background and hired him anyway, or that he simply just didn’t bother to find out.

Whatever the case of the President’s oversight or lack thereof, the indictments are pretty damning for Manafort and Gates. The men are accused of making tens of millions of dollars by working for the Ukrainian government and concealing that work through lying and falsifying paperwork, according to *The Hill*. They are also accused of laundering millions of dollars to fund expensive goods for themselves. In Manafort’s it came in the form of expensive designer suits, and, apparently, copious amounts of rugs, according to *Last Week Tonight*.

As of right now, Manafort has pled not guilty to the charges and appears to not be cooperating with investigators. On the other hand, Papadopoulos has been cooperating surprisingly well with investigators. Because of Papadopoulos’ involvement with the Trump campaign and the implications of trying to set up meetings with Russian officials, his testimony could be key in allegations against more of the White House and campaign staff, and possibly even the President himself.

The White House has attempted to distance itself from Papadopoulos, saying

“Tom Cruise in *A Few Good Men*” Mueller might have enough evidence to indict former national security advisor Michael “definitely not a Russian conspirator” Flynn. This is potentially problematic for the President, considering he could be facing charges for obstruction of justice for firing James “the Scapegoat” Comey, the now former director of the FBI. It is even being rumored that Flynn could be aiming for a Presidential pardon. This could be a risky move for Trump, considering Flynn

business man who had ties with the Turkish government. Under federal law, he was required to register with the Department of Justice as a foreign agent. However, he did not do so until March of this year. If Flynn is indicted, this could have serious repercussions for the President. Because of President Trump citing “this Russia thing,” as his reason for firing James Comey, who at the time was investigating Flynn, the evidence could come full circle back to the President.

Mueller is also looking into a possible indictment of Flynn’s son, Michael Flynn “how many Jr.’s could there possibly be” Jr. for work with his father’s intelligence firm, which may implicate him in his father’s charges. It is also possible that Mueller is using this as leverage for Flynn senior to cooperate with the investigation.

Mueller is also currently investigating statements that Donald “my dad bought me everything” Trump Jr. made that may have been dictated by his father. Trump Jr.’s statements were regarding reports that he had met with Russian agents for dirt on then Democratic candidate Hillary “I can’t run a good campaign to save my life” Clinton. The statement was amended several times, first stating that there was no meeting, and later that it was about potential adoption. At first the White House denied any knowledge of these meetings at all. However, *the Washington Post* later reported that the President may have directed these responses from Air Force One.

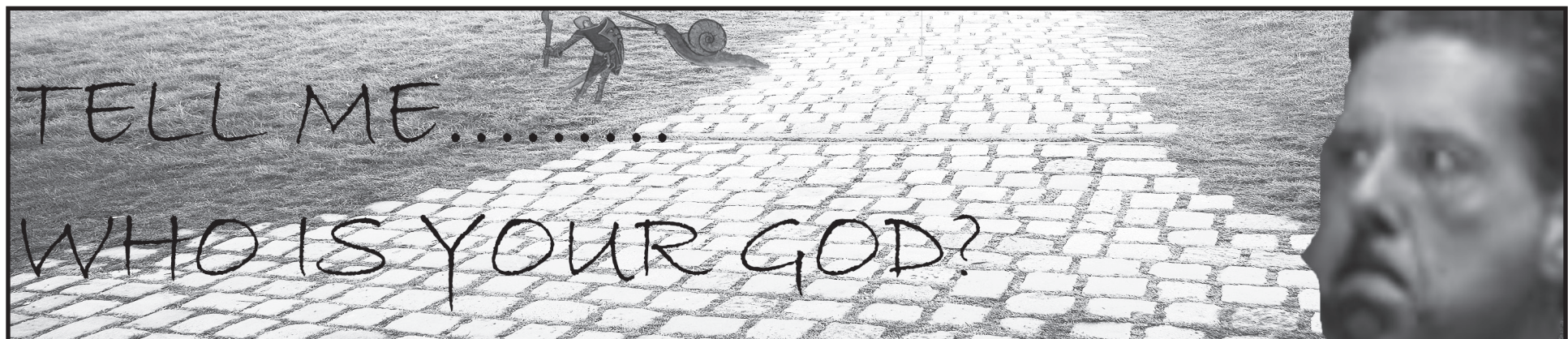


that he wasn’t really a top advisor in the White House. However, as recently as a few weeks ago, Papadopoulos was seen in an Instagram photo posted by the President himself, during a prominent advisor meeting at the White House. In the photo, Papadopoulos is sitting directly next to the President.

Recently it has come to light that Rob-

resigned for being implicated in possible Russian collusion, and pardoning him could send a clear signal of his intentions.

Mueller’s evidence is apparently lobbying work that Flynn had done in 2016, according to *Business Insider*. According to sources, Flynn was lobbying for Ekim Alptekin, a



College Democrats and Republicans Meet for Civil Debate

by Declan Murphy
News Co-Editor

The Fordham College Democrats and College Republicans met up on Thursday, November 2nd, for their semesterly debate, sponsored by the Fordham Political Review. Over a raucous hour and a half, the two sides covered four topics: free trade policies, minimum wage, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the death penalty. The panel was moderated by Father Bentley Anderson, from the African-American Studies department.

The debate began with an attempt towards bipartisanship. As is custom for these departments, two Democrats and two Republicans debate, with one of each on each side of the given issue. In this case, the issue was free trade. Even among those on same side of the issue, ideological differences emerged. On the pro-free trade side, the Democrat argued for protections afforded by international agreements, while the

No one resorts to name calling, ad hominem, or weird attacks--NOT

Republican put forth a view bordering on anarcho-capitalism. On the anti-free trade side, the Democrat worried about potential abuses of labor while the Republican espoused protectionist sentiments. Faced with such internal contradictions, the two sides debated the merits of each approach with limited success.

The second debate dealt with minimum wage (which, in the interest of full disclosure, I participated in). The debate was intended as an economic one, but soon took on moralistic tones. What began as a discussion of the economic realities of a \$15 minimum wage became an ideological critique and defense of corporate America. After the moderator cut off the Republican's closing statement due to time, the crowd grew restless, signaling a discord that would last the remainder of the evening.

The third debate dealt with DACA,

and was unfortunately derailed almost immediately. The Republican debater's laptop crashed, and, lacking notes, he turned to the offense. After a fruitless back-and-forth, in which the Republican seemed baffled by the fact that these "childhood arrivals" had now become adults, the debate turned to the legality of the President's executive order. Given Trump's extensive use of executive orders, the discussion turned back into a defense of each side's respective Presidential model. As with most, the debate ended in an impasse.

Finally, the Democrats and the Republicans debated the death penalty, in perhaps the most provocative event of the evening. The tone was alarmingly colloquial, with debaters throwing around terms like "wack" and "dog". The Q&A dove into subjects both practical (the economic costs of the death penalty versus life in prison) and purely provocative (an ill-advised question

about whether ISIS members deserve the death penalty). While both sides raised intriguing moral and philosophical questions, ultimately these were buried in the adversarial tone.

These debates are a tradition within the Fordham political scene, but increasingly, they reflect the growing divide on campus. The recent speaking appearance of Roger Stone highlighted these divides, but the spirit of animosity lingers. Even when working together, the Republicans and Democrats are unable to put aside differences. The ideological has become increasingly personal. It does not bode well for a campus already marked by major political divisions.

Local Elections Matter: de Blasio Remains in NYC Edition

by Nick Peters
News Co-Editor

In a wave of Democrat victories all across the country in the recent election (see page 3 for details), there were also some noticeable victories in New York City. First and foremost for these victories was Mayor Bill de Blasio's reelection victory. It was a victory that many had predicted, but some were worried that it might be a repeat of the 2016 presidential elections. However, while this was a predictable election, there was also a lot on the line in New York City than just the mayorship.

In the primaries, Mayor de Blasio ran against Sal Albanese, Richard Bashner, Robert Gangi, and Michael Tolkin. However, the debates for these primaries only consisted of de Blasio and Albanese. Albanese was the only other candidate who could raise enough money to participate in the debate. However, despite Albanese's efforts, de Blasio basically took the election. On the Republican side, Nicole Malliotakis, a New York State Assembly member, ran without opposition in the primaries.

For the actual general election, the

Victory secured with help of political superstar staffer Nick Peters

candidates were de Blasio, Nicole Malliotakis for the Republicans, Sal Albanese (running again) for the Reform party, Akeem Browder (Green). Michael Tolkin as an independent, Bo Dietl also as an independent, and Aaron Commey for the Libertarian Party. However, the only major faces in the debate were de Blasio, Malliotakis, and Dietl. Many pundits believed the debates were not great, as even the crowd started heckling de Blasio, and a person had to be removed. There was a lot of squabbling throughout this election, and de Blasio showed himself as the opposite of his two opponents, painting them as right wingers, who were in the vain of Donald Trump. The strategy effectively paid off.

However, there were other issues at stake in this election. Most important was the Constitutional Convention that was being voted for on the ballot. Every 20 years New Yorkers can vote to have a convention, where representatives are sent for around 8 months to rewrite and change parts of the constitution. Basically, every other part of the New York constitution is open for delegates to remove or add as they will. For many

this is very dangerous, for others this provides a huge opportunity. The split for a convention was not even Democratic and Republican, as both sides themselves were divided on this. On one hand, progressive groups such as those for legalization for marijuana were for it, as were several pro-business groups. Vehemently opposed to the constitutional convention were pro-union, pro-labor groups.

Across the boards, the results were extremely strong for Democrats. De Blasio won by a sweeping 67 percent of the vote, compared to Malliotakis' 27.8 percent. The rest of the mayoral candidates did in the 2 and 1 percent. The convention was promptly voted down by the entire state, at a solid 85 percent of the vote. The second constitutional amendment, pension reform, was voted in at around 70 percent. The third amendment, Adirondacks land use, was a little more divided, with a 52/48 split in favor of the amendment, with most of New York City voting no. Democrats largely retained the City Council. However Elizabeth Crowley (who previously flipped her seat from

Republicans) lost to Robert Hodlen, turning the 30th district back to the Republicans.

A lot happens at the local level. The constitutional convention could have promised major changes to the very foundation of New York State, yet few knew about it. It opened the door for ANYTHING to be changed. This is huge and sweeping, and it just passed by unnoticed. More people should vote locally and pay attention. Local politics is fascinating, and a lot is at stake. People can easily implement a lot of change at the local level, and very easily compared to the federal level. When your next election comes around, I highly advise you to pay a little bit of attention to the going-ons of the local level. Its fascinating, and most of all extremely important.

Note: I worked on this election for the de Blasio campaign in the Bronx. However, for the purposes of this article, I wanted to stay as bipartisan as possible. This article is intended to stress the importance of local politics.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

by Nick Peters

Angry the paper Editor Shuts Down the paper Twitter Account Before Leaving

This Saturday, during our regular scheduled production, one begrudged co-editor left in deep anger. Before leaving, the cheeky bastard jumped onto a computer which had *the paper* twitter open on it, and deleted it.

This lasted a total of 12 minutes until one EIC noticed and contacted Twitter to get the issue resolved. Unfortunately, Twitter doesn't give a shit about *the paper*, so they did not even respond to us. Because of this, all of the quality content that was on our twitter has been lost to the endless void that is the internet of 2017 CE. It will never be seen again.

Content lost includes things such as Meme Mondays, random nonsensical tweets from our EIC's (although they deny it), all *the paper* articles that have been tweeted out, and the numerous retweets from *paper* editors' accounts that totally are not them retweeting themselves.

Obviously this is a tragedy, Shakespearean or Greek in nature. This vile and cruel twist of fate has sucked a little bit more happiness from an already joyless world, nay universe.

The identity of the editor shall remain nameless, but he quit, so if one were to peruse our editor list for this issue, it is apparent who this perpetrator is, just saying.

If you see this editor, snarl at them, mock them, and tell them they are a horrible human being who contributed to the pain and suffering of this miserable planet we call Earth in the year 2017. Life is dead. Joy is dead. Happiness is dead. *the paper* twitter is dead. Long live @fupaper. Joined in 2010. Died in 2017.

What is dead may never die.

Businessman Talks to Strangers 3: SHJINA Edition

by Luis Gómez
Co-Editor in Chief

Asia has been one of Donald Trump's most common rhetorical targets since the campaign. Trump has repeatedly railed against China for currency gouging practices, and both China and Japan for taking manufacturing jobs away from the US. Trump also spent much of the campaign attacking the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a multilateral trade agreement with several Asia-Pacific nations, which was the target of one of his first presidential orders.

When Trump announced an Asia trip, therefore, it seemed more consequential than previous visits to the region. International presidential trips are always hyper-complex tasks of planning, and they offer a chance for leaders to present, essentially, their thesis on international relations for their administration.

The twelve-day Asia trip brought Donald Trump to Japan, China, South Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Trump met with leaders from each country, partaking in bilateral meetings regarding trade and military strength.

Further highlighting the importance of this trip is Trump's consistent attacks on the North Korean regime. Trump and Kim Jong-un have been sparring verbally for months, provoking one another into increased military action.

Since Trump took office, Kim Jong-un's regime has conducted over fifteen missile tests, and launched rockets over Japan. Tests like this have been common for the North Korean regime, especially since the country's acquisition of a nuclear bomb in 2006. During the Obama administration, the regime performed at least a dozen missile tests, only some of which were successful. However, North Korea's operational capacity has increased lately, as has their missile test success rate. Experts now believe that North Korea has reliable mid-range nuclear missiles, and that a long-range ICBM is not far off.

For 11 days, Trump is Asia's problem, not ours

Trump also meant to visit the DMZ, the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea, but was derailed by bad weather.

One of the more notable moments during Trump's visit to China was the lack of press access. Administration officials said that the press pool was not allowed to ask questions following a joint press conference between Trump

phenomenon not the movie) nations, including the US, China, Japan, Mexico, and Australia. Doug Mills, a reporter for the *New York Times* tweeted a black box, saying that there was "no coverage by the White House Travel pool photographers" from the event.

Trump also made headlines after running into Vladimir Putin at the sidelines of the APEC summit meeting.

The leaders shook hands and spoke briefly. When asked about the content of their conversation, Trump stated that he had asked Putin once again if Russia had colluded in the 2016 election, and that Putin said that he hadn't. Trump then went on to call several prominent members of the US intelligence committee, including the former and current directors of the CIA, all of whom agree on the fact of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, "political hacks."

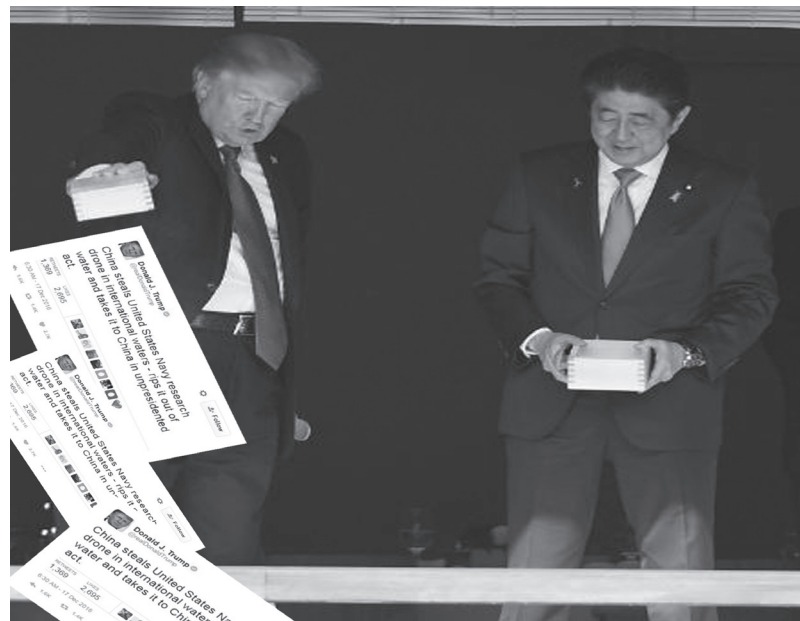
Also, there was that thing with Shinzo Abe and

the fish food at a koi pond in Japan that became news for absolutely no reason.

While under normal circumstances a trip like this would likely consume the international news cycle for several days, Trump's visit to Asia has struggled to break through. So, while Trump has made repeated promises during his trip that he will refuse any more multilateral trade agreements, these words have largely fallen on deaf ears back home.

The consequence of this is that Trump's outright rejection of multilateral trade agreements signals the biggest change in the US' economic strategy to date. During his APEC speech, Trump has made a point of showily dismissing what he described as "chronic trade abuses" by Asian trade partners. In the past, the US has promoted multilateral trade agreements as a key part of its international strategy, most notably via the signing of NAFTA in 1994. Trump's choice to reject these agreements could upend nearly three decades of US trade policy.

And, really, how did the fish food thing become news?



Paradise Papers Show Illuminati Probably Exist

by Michael Jack O'Brien
Digital Editor

There's a common saying that goes something along the lines of the following: "Tis impossible to be sure of anything but Death and Taxes". Now, while the secret to immortality is a way off, it is no secret that among the ranks of the super wealthy elite, taxes are anything but a guarantee. In the second biggest data leak in history, second only to the Panama Papers leak of 2015, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released over a terabyte of data, or over 13.4 million documents outlining the business dealings of offshore law firms, who, among other services, specialize in the multi-billion dollar industry of tax-avoidance. The biggest of these companies, the Bermuda based law firm Appleby, has an extensive list of big name corporate clients including Uber, Apple, Nike, and Wells Fargo. Appleby provides many services: from drafting wills to establishing trusts. However, one of the most important services they provide is the establishment of shell companies (companies or corporations which serve as vehicles for financial transactions). It is important to realize that because the country of Bermuda is a tax-haven, meaning that it features minimal tax regulation or oversight, Appleby and its clients are capable of "sheltering" enormous amounts of revenue and profits from the prying eyes of tax agencies such as the IRS.

In addition to its sheer size, the Paradise Papers is astonishing for laying out the sheer scope of these operations, including its extensive list of clients. This includes multinational corporations like Nike and Apple, private estates including the estates of Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth, Madonna, Bono, and countless politicians and businessmen. As it stands, it doesn't

There's Trouble in Paradise (Papers)

appear to matter who it is or what they do—if a client has money, these offshore firms are happy to offer their services (shocking, I know).

Some of the more insidious discoveries listed in the documents pertain to the inner cabinet of the Trump administration. While Trump claims to stand by an "America First" economic policy, the same cannot



be said of his commerce secretary Wilbur Ross, who, according to the leaked files, holds a sizable stake in the Navigator shipping company, owned by Vladimir Putin's son-in-law. This discovery is the latest in several findings that establish a clear link between Ross's personal business dealings and Russian finance, which was scrutinized before Ross took office. Also named in the Paradise Papers is Trump's chief economic advisor Gary Cohn, who in a span of eight years was the president or vice president of twenty-two different Bermuda based entities; it is revealed that Cohn held these positions in service of Goldman Sachs, after which he stepped down from the positions to become the president of the multinational finance company. Rex Tillerson, former CEO of ExxonMobil is also named in the files.

Businessmen, politicians, celebrities and royalty; just who else was caught in this dragnet? The answer

might not surprise you. Only a week after the release of the documents, it was revealed that over 104 American universities have been named in Appleby's files. It is inferred that these universities have become big investors in the offshore investment industries, utilizing a variety of hedge funds and private equity firms to amass massive sums of money, paying little or no tax on their profits. Accord-

ing to the documents, four of ten universities with the largest endowments in America have been listed, including Princeton, Columbia, Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, and Stanford. Some schools such as Northeastern University, Alabama, and Syracuse have used these offshore funds for secret investment into carbon-emitting industries; most notably, it was discovered that dozens of schools have contributed to a hedge fund managed

by EnCap investments, a Texas based investment firm that prides itself on being the premier provider of capital for oil and gas companies. According to The Guardian, since 1988 EnCap has invested over \$20bn into exploration for oil and natural gas in states such as Pennsylvania, Texas, Louisiana. These revelations came as a surprise for student environmental organizations such as DivestNU in Northeastern University, who for years had been fighting to persuade their university administration to reveal its investments into carbon emitting industries.

As of now, it is unclear how the students of these universities will react to these findings, or how said investments effect the students. As more and more universities are named in the documents, it could be predicted that calls for greater regulation of university endowment money will get louder. It is unknown as to whether Fordham University has been named in the documents. Only time will tell as more information is revealed to the public.

Reader Than Fact

by Declan Murphy

Giant Evil Crabs Are Here to Murder All of Us

Listen, there are a lot of ways the world could end. Donald Trump could start a nuclear war. Climate change could make the Earth inhospitable. An asteroid could crash land, or a supervolcano could go off, or...

There could be giant crabs.

These giant crabs—called coconut crabs—have been documented since Darwin's voyages to the islands they inhabit. But much was still unknown about these creatures. They take the name from the fact that they are able to crack open and eat coconuts.

However, this week it was revealed that coconut crabs can kill and eat birds. Scientists obtained video of a coconut crab destroying a seagull and beginning to eat it. In the aftermath of the killing, apparently a swarm of other cocounut crabs came together to devour the bird. That's right. These are not just giant crabs. These are giant MURDER crabs.

Here are some more terrifying facts: coconut crabs can grow to the size of small dogs, and they can CLIMB TREES.

Here are some less real (but more terrifying) opinions: they are scary big. We may not be able to hide to from them. They will rule the world.

As a poet once said: "So this is how the world ends. Not with a bang, but with GIANT EVIL CRABS."

COINTELPRO and the FBI's Secret History of Racism

by Robin Happel

Staff Freedom Fighter

Half a century ago, the FBI called Martin Luther King, Jr. “a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that.” To J. Edgar’s men, Dr. King was “a slow thinker,” and they ironically sent him many typo-riddled letters telling him this, as well as urging him to give up, to surrender to Jim Crow, even to kill himself. The FBI later attempted to blackmail him into refusing the Nobel Peace Prize, using threats that, characteristic of the Bureau’s best and brightest, arrived in King’s mailbox after he had already accepted the award. The FBI’s initiative was brutal, belligerent, and often banal. Between breathlessly accusing Dr. King of “hidious [sic] abnormalities” and attempting to blackmail him using warrantless wiretaps, they barely had time to combat the Klan, if indeed they chose to at all. In one famous case, Viola Liuzzo, an activist in Selma, was fatally shot by one of the FBI’s own informants. The FBI launched a smear campaign against her even as her young children grieved.

Admittedly, the line between fact and fiction in the early years of the FBI smear campaign COINTELPRO is necessarily blurred, as the FBI began to bury their blackmail once they saw King gaining ground, blacking out blocks of Liuzzo’s case files. The FBI slipped their libel against King anywhere they hoped it would never see the light of day, including the recently released JFK files. Some allegations, such as the King v. Jowers case argu-

New FBI classifications reinforce patterns of racial suppression

ing FBI involvement in King’s assassination, seem far-fetched, although Coretta Scott King firmly believed Hoover had her husband killed. Other lesser known stories, such as the FBI’s virulent homophobia in attacking civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, have sadly since been confirmed. Rustin organized the March on Washington and

skin. Rustin called this his “time on two crosses.” Such a struggle is often erased by simplistic portrayals of the civil rights movement, which show the state as sympathetic, rather than deeply afraid of anything besides stasis. This sugarcoating not only serves to erase men like Rustin, but also supports the view that the law is somehow always just, and thus always to be obeyed. The FBI,

such a designation may seem far from the March on Washington, it is important to remember that our halcyon vision of Dr. King is far from how he appeared at the time, and polemics against groups like Black Lives Matter parallel polemics against King himself. In the 1960s, polls showed that over 60 percent of white Americans disapproved of the Freedom Riders, and the majority thought lunch counter sit-ins were actually counterproductive to the cause of integration. 55 percent of readers of the Ladies’ Home Journal thought Viola Liuzzo deserved to die. Cartoons in prominent papers showed Dr. King as looting and violent, and many white Americans believed he was taking things too far, and that civil rights had been adequately resolved during Reconstruction, much as some now see King himself as ending discrimination in America.

While many arguments against Black Lives Matter are simply tied to the same tired claims, perhaps the problem is also partly how history is taught. When we first learn about Dr. King, he seems to many of us somehow separate from ourselves, cut out in black and white, part of another age, although he might be alive today had he not been assassinated. We place ourselves almost outside of history when we erase the work of men like Rustin, who saw the burgeoning gay rights movement towards the end of his life as equivalent to the civil rights movement. We see ourselves as having moved past struggles we are still very much a part of, and too often white Americans refuse to see the ways in which we are complicit in allowing men like Hoover free rein to restrict free speech. We like to imagine ourselves as heroes in history, but we forgot that someday we too will have to answer to the future.



J. Edgar Hoover abused the FBI's power to smear King and other civil rights leaders

taught Dr. King how to protest peacefully. Yet he was largely erased from history by the efforts of the Bureau and social conservatives like Strom Thurmond, who pressured King to distance himself from Rustin, or risk being accused of a relationship with him.

Like Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, and other activists, Rustin was often silenced by his government, sidelined by a society that could not accept both his sexuality and the color of his

in short, has for decades attempted to suppress stories such as Rustin’s in order to uphold its own vision of social order, preferring instead to paint a picture of activists as aggressors, as un-American, anathema to peace and patriotism.

Such stories are relevant not only because some of the FBI’s more salacious allegations were recently unearthed as noted, but also because the Bureau is once again targeting those it deems “black identity extremists.” While

JUST SAY NO TO

Capitalism





Cutting the Line: Fordham's Not-So-Underground Drug Problem

By Anonymous

Staff Narc

I've seen people hunched over white powder strewn on countertops and cut up with razor blades into fine lines. Then, they fucking danced, drank, and trembled ecstatically in the wake of hipster electro-punk dirges, like Quakers at some incestuous pseudo-sermon. How odd. It is bizarre, being accosted by the reality of hard drugs while transitioning to a city college, myself previously only being used to the ominously potent pot plants of the rednecks of rurality. Additionally, Adderall is a veritable right of passage in college. It seems so playfully hysterical to see somebody suspiciously wide-eyed and spitting fire into their keyboard at 2:00 a.m. on a Sunday night in the lib. Cocaine, however, threw me off.

The first thing I learned about cocaine at Fordham was that the nervous fellow I bought weed from the first week of school sold it, presumably as overpriced as his other product. Upon learning this, my mother's permeating maxim echoed in my head: "Cocaine es no bueno." That being said, I was fascinated.

I started to do my research with respect to information pertinent to Fordham, and dug up several anecdotes, which lead me to believe that not only was this polite, charming young entrepreneur not an anomaly, but that in fact he set a subcultural standard. People told me of times at bars or at parties where they drunkenly sniffed out this subculture in small doses, taking an impulsive bump and consequently crossing the deed off their bucket list. And of course, with

these encounters, my curiosity grew.

Eventually I came into contact with accounts of a higher intensity. Imagine: you're standing, drunk and disheveled, swishing around the eclectic aftertaste in your mouth from all the liquor that brought you to a late-night gathering at an acquaintance's apartment, when suddenly, you witness a disturbing amount of cocaine and cash exchanged between two young men. These men

COCAINE IS BAD, KIDDOS

were almost definitely affiliated with the sale of cocaine at Fordham.

Cocaine is systematically distributed to this area. This is evident both in purchases akin to that of the large-quantity drug deal and in the prevalence of individual dealers accessible to students. Twice, in interacting with mere friends of acquaintances, I have received a short but enthusiastic invitation to buy coke. Here it is important to remember that not only is cocaine distributed, but it is also purchased. I feel that people outside of Fordham's cocaine culture don't

recognize the systematic nature of its distribution to Fordham, as well as the fact that the systematic distribution is due to Fordham students actually purchasing the stuff.

Furthermore, I feel there is a mentality of the act of doing cocaine as being highly stylish, sexy, and liberatingly deviant. This might even be grounded in how the experience feels, but nevertheless, I think it's

especially malicious to aestheticize cocaine. When cocaine is painted in this way, it is in pursuit of a particular aesthetic. For example, over this summer, I went to an underground Brooklyn EDM dance party. I remember seeing a topless girl with black tape on her nipples mesmerizingly

gyrating her torso and slowly raising her buoyant arms above her head. She was surreal and purple in the cool lights. Stylish. Sexy. Liberating and deviant. Then, she dipped into the bathroom with a friend, shut the canvas-covered door behind them, and cast a silhouette of a figure with its nose pressed ravenously against the corner of the bathroom sink.

Upon reflection, this actually seems and, I would assume, *was* extremely fun. However, I think there are two stipulations to this fun. One: most of the time one is not in a context that

would yield this amount of fun with the drug, but rather the aesthetic of this type of scenario is imposed on the much more common and, in comparison, lackluster settings in which college kids do cocaine. Two: however enormously fun doing cocaine would be, particularly in a scenario that lends itself to the drug, the loss of control and the consequences of this loss are too large and realistic possible outcomes of partaking in this fun. Though all this is tough to consider when we are already in an altered state of mind.

Truly, then, I feel submitting to cocaine is submitting to fatalism. To shove poison—special, world-ending poison—into one's body should be a decision only to be expected of the drunk or the stoned. Most, or at least many of us have done weird or crazy shit while intoxicated. Making good decisions isn't the specialty of the intoxicated. However, when one plans while sober to do coke (at Fordham), one is giving in to circumstantial availability. Also, and more importantly, one is ignoring one's self-worth. It may be lame, cliché, or corny to shit on drug culture, but I feel like it is overwhelmingly pertinent given cocaine, as I have seen it, is the most accessible hard drug to a college student in New York. In addition, no matter the enormous ecstasy it could bring us, doing cocaine in a setting where it's "worth it," so to speak, means risking the loss of self-control. But then again...it would probably be pretty amazing to have my cake and eat it too.

NaNoWriMo Is a Death Sentence But I Will Not Give Up

By Jan-Carl Resurreccion
Staff Novelist-in-Training

Maintaining daily writing goals has never been so important

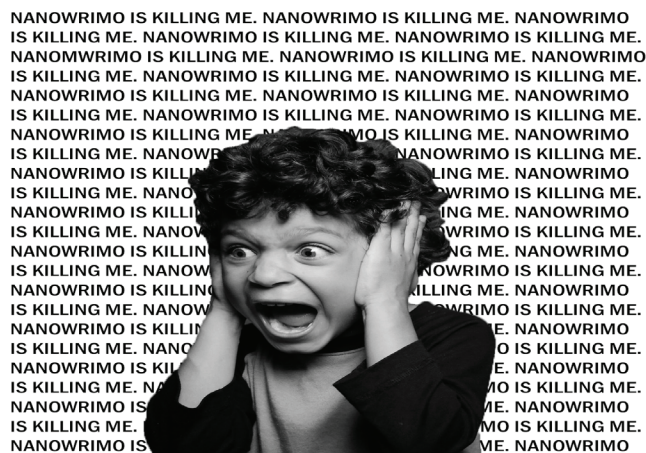
I am four-thousand three-hundred words behind my NaNoWriMo schedule at time of starting this article. Naturally, I chose to write a nine-hundred word article about it.

For the uninitiated, National Novel Writers' Month (NaNoWriMo) is an event that takes place during the month of November. Writers are given a lofty goal – fifty-thousand words in only thirty days. That works out to almost seventeen-hundred words a day. Even speedy writers often need a couple hours to hit their daily goal.

For the numerically uninitiated, allow me to impress on you how many words that is. Most articles in this publication run from six hundred to a thousand words, and the majority run upwards of eight hundred. The October issue ran nineteen articles over eight hundred words. The whole publication ran roughly sixteen-thousand words. NaNoWriMo asks you to write over three copies of *the paper* in one month. Go grab three copies of *the paper*. I'll wait. That's a lot of words, isn't it? (Don't forget to put those copies of *the paper* back, unless you plan on sharing them. As much as it looks good to pad our consumption numbers, it really is inefficient.) To put it another way, NaNoWriMo asks you to write two long articles for *the paper* every day.

And words on a page don't appear in a vacuum. One cannot forget the amount of time spent planning out the story, the characters, which professor you want to impugn by secretly giving the villain of your novel

the same name. Things like these are huge time sinks, and while some (if not most) of the planning should be done prior to November, inevitably one is going to have to spend time thinking about what to write during NaNoWriMo itself. Indeed, the time



commitment is so huge that many participants suggest abandoning all editing work until after NaNoWriMo is over. (In fact, one should wait a couple weeks to let the novel stew before you go back to edit it.) You have enough on your plate getting words down; making sure those words are good words will triple your time commitment.

The fact I am forty-three hundred words in the hole shows I am not speedy enough or devoting enough time to finishing my goal. Unfortunately, life has decided November to be the month where everything comes due, and my time to write has basically vanished in the face of midterms, projects, and even

essays. (That last category really upsets me.)

One is tempted, quite frankly, to abandon some of these engagements in favor of just getting more words down for NaNoWriMo. Alas, these things are too important to me to give

up so easily, and so my novel lies languishing.

To add insult to injury, it's not as if I am usually a slow writer. In the mood, I can turn out eight-hundred to a thousand words in an hour, and even on a slow day I can put out five- or six-hundred. But the sheer volume of work I have has

consumed all of my writing time.

My other complaint with NaNoWriMo lies in its focus. One is supposed to pour all of their writing effort into one singular work, so as to finish it. Now, this is an admirable goal, and one I actively choose. Not all who participate in NaNoWriMo follow this so strictly. But I am the kind of soul who has many ideas, and I have a bad habit of jumping from project to project on my whim, slowly working on many things but never committing to one. It is a useful tool for combatting burnout, but it also tends to leave a lot of projects by the wayside unfinished, should I never regain interest in them. This is why I chose to focus on one project

for NaNoWriMo. But the ideas don't stop coming just because you choose to not work on them, and every time my progress stalls on my novel, some other idea or project comes knocking on my proverbial door, asking for its share of my time.

The big problem with holes is that they have a bad habit of compounding. Each day's commitment does not decrease just because you need to catch up, and so the gap between where you are and par grows and grows. Really, a week off of progress is a death sentence without a herculean effort to recover, and I can only hope next week will give me the respite I need to put it in. Unfortunately, there are only bad options from here on out. It is simply impractical to close the gap in a few days. There is no way I will be able to write five- or six-thousand words in one day to catch me up to par. Writing so much in one day will burn a soul out, which is why progress has to be gradual. This is why maintaining a daily writing goal and meeting it is so important. When one stops writing daily, one loses the groove, and it takes a few days to get back into it.

Alas, gradual progress is a door also closed to me. I will almost assuredly need to more than double my daily word goal for the rest of November if I wish to hit the fifty-thousand before the end of the month. Such an amount will probably lead to burnout anyway. Nevertheless, my bed was made, and I need to lie in it.

But I've put enough words into here. I have a novel to get back to writing.

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And we'll take care of all of your obscure gift needs
So you can win that awkward holiday dinner with your family!**

I Have Seen All Ten Seasons of *F.R.I.E.N.D.S.*, and I Think It Is Evil

By David Kennedy
Staff Not My Lobster

I've watched every single episode of *Friends*, many of them multiple times, over roughly a three year span. So it's far too late for me to pretend I'm better than it, but I'm going try anyway.

I sat watching this show for hours at a time in high school. Now, after three years of consistent viewing, I still couldn't recite very many of its jokes. Right now, I couldn't give you a detailed plot synopsis of any of the episodes without watching them again. I remember the basic overview. I know that Ross is supposed to get with Rachel. I remember Chandler being self-deprecating and witty. I remember Joey being a slob who eats cake off the floor and that Monica is a neat-freak. I watched the show, but somehow it has not really stayed with me.

A big part of this is probably that, even while I was watching it, I never thought of *Friends* as a great show or even as a show that I loved or felt connected to. I thought it was low art, just a crappy sitcom. To watch it, you just turn your brain off and passively absorb sounds and images from your TV. I have since learned that this opinion is more controversial than I thought. *Friends* is a surprisingly big deal.

At least, I was surprised it was. When I was watching it, I never would have thought *Friends* was ahead of its time. Again, I thought it was just a dumb TV show, but apparently it predicted some things. So I have to appreciate that it was the first sitcom to really blow up that was about a group of charming, clumsy twenty-some-

This is the preachiest thing you will read all day

things struggling to find their way in life, which is really its own genre now. This kind of group dynamic had not really been explored on television in this way before. When it first came out, people really connected with it. So, strange as it is, *Friends* became a cultural force, the ripples of which can still be felt in the kinds of things we see on TV today.



It is not just that *Friends* was revolutionary for its time though. What really surprised me was when I found out that people my age really like *Friends*. I came out of whatever hole I spent most of high school hiding in and met people with sincere, sentimental attachments to this bad sitcom I watched. And I thought it was weird. I think it is weird that people my age claim to have learned things from this show. I think it is weird that people

strongly identify with these characters, enough that they get offended when you question the show's quality. I was especially weirded out when I actually met real people who, upon arriving at college, expressed joking excitement over the idea that their life was going to be like a sitcom now. I don't know about you, but life with a laugh track sounds pretty horrifying to me.

Seeing how excited my peers were by the show made me start to think about all the latent issues I had with it. When I thought nobody but me and my brother were watching it, I kind of just dismissed any criticisms I had of the characters or the storytelling because it was just a dumb TV show; it's harmless. Now I see people

half-jokingly referencing *Friends* as a template for how they want to live their lives. Then I'll re-watch an episode and ask the question: why would I want to be friends with these people?

Because the friends from *Friends* are all pretty shitty people. There are way too many examples of this to list here, but I'll try to come up with a few consistent ones. Everyone always makes fun of Ross because of his job.

He's dedicated his life to paleontology and whenever he tries to talk about it, his friends call him a nerd and boo him offstage. Everyone is constantly lying to each other. For example, nobody will tell Phoebe that she's a bad singer, which may be sparing her feelings in the short run, but it shows how content they are to just allow her to continue embarrassing herself and to perpetuate their friend's naiveté. Not to mention that all the male characters on the show represent the most juvenile kind of masculinity. There's actually a line where Joey, in reference to a bunch of female dancers, says to Ross, "They're not objects. Just kidding, let's go!"

But it's not just that the characters are bad people. It's not even that they're especially bad people. They're all pretty average bad people, but I find it kind of weird how easygoing the show is about their bad behavior. This wouldn't be a problem if they were more cartoonishly bad, but these characters are supposed to be relatable. They are your friends. *Seinfeld* and *George* aren't your friends. They're assholes, and it's obvious, and that's the joke.

I think the laugh track might be the worst part because it seems to be there to convince the audience that what's going on is fine, and not a big deal. Someone makes fun of Ross, laugh track. Chandler hates himself, laugh track. Phoebe lacks self-awareness while Joey says something shitty about women, laugh track. I don't understand why people want friends like this.

Wanna have a good time AND help a good cause?
Come to CSA's Thanks-Give-Away!
When: November 16th, 5:30-8:00 in McGinley 2nd.
Admission: \$5 or 5 canned goods
Proceeds go to Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief and Part of the Solution
There will be food, live music, raffles, and a mechanical bull! Be there!

RamTown Tuition Prize Shows Fordham's Disconnect with Students

By Kyle Zarif

Staff Fordham Critic

Taking into account room and board, Fordham's current tuition is \$67,457. That makes the total cost of a 4 year degree from Fordham \$269,828, assuming you don't have financial aid, live on campus all four years, and that the tuition doesn't rise. RamTown offered a prize of one year of free tuition, still an unattainable amount for a college-aged student, for making a half-court shot. The extreme stupidity and insensitivity of an astronomically expensive private university offering one of the most unattainable things in America (debt free education) as a completely unfeasible prize at a pep rally should be enough to convince Fordham students that this university does not see them as anything but giant anthropomorphic piggy banks, if they haven't realized this already.

The degree to which Fordham financially exploits its students is not unique, as tuition increases around

Debt free tuition is a right not an impossible trick shot

the nation have driven 71 percent of all college students to graduate with some form of student loan debt. When we focus exclusively on private institutions like Fordham, the percentage rises to 75 percent, with the average debt somewhere around \$32,000. With these percentages in mind, the idea that Fordham would give away tuition as some sort of unattainable prize is actually kind of fitting. As the majority of college students will graduate with debt anyway, the idea that free tuition is a kind of carnival prize at a rigged game doesn't seem too far off from reality.

But this idea was met with almost total enthusiasm from most Fordham students I talked to. Almost everyone, when I asked them what they thought about the RamTown half-court shot, was excited at the opportunity to win free tuition, even though the odds were clearly stacked against them. But before seeing this as some act of gener-

osity, we should all wonder where this money is coming from, and where it will now go since nobody won the prize. Fordham has repeatedly cited its finances as a reason for cutting all sorts of corners. The most relevant example being Fordham's claim that any rise in adjunct faculty salary would have to correlate with yet another rise in tuition. This is coming from a school that pays its basketball coach more than its tenured faculty and that spends millions of dollars on endless additions to the Lincoln Center campus. If they apparently don't have the money to pay contingent faculty above poverty wages, it's hard to imagine where the nearly \$40,000-60,000 in prize money came from in the first place.

This entire debacle has made me really think about the priorities of both the Fordham administration and its student body. Why are so many students so trusting of this University? Why are so many getting excited over

the possibility of one student winning free tuition in a fucking contest at a pep rally, when the vast majority of students are graduating in debt and the University has been steadily increasing its tuition? For students, there doesn't seem to be much to gain in this situation.

Debt free college shouldn't be some carnival prize withheld from us from some sicko carnay with missing teeth working the ring toss. It is an achievable political goal that has been posited even by mainstream politicians. In this vein, RamTown can serve as a perfect example of the apathy infecting many college campuses, including our own. The willingness of so many to dance for something we should all be entitled to shows a complete unwillingness to look critically at the institution we are funding with our tuition dollars. Debt free college should be a right for all, not some prize to be offered by a school that derives its profits from our

Chris Christie Should Be Emperor of New Jersey Forever.

By Katelynn Browne

Staff Henry VIII

For as long as I can remember, Chris Christie has been governor of New Jersey. It feels to me as if he's always been governor, no one before him, and no one after him. So recently, I asked people from New Jersey when his term was going to end - and oddly enough, no one I spoke to seemed to know the answer. So, naturally, I went to Google, and discovered, much to my horror, that Christie would be out of term this coming January, which I disagree with completely. I disagree so much so that I think Chris Christie should be emperor of New Jersey and New Jersey should secede from the Union, because who is better suited to run Jersey than him? Some people think just anyone can run New Jersey, yet I argue that Christie is best suited for the job, due to his innate qualities and special talents that make him the ideal candidate for emperorship.

Chris Christie would be well suited to be emperor for several reasons. First of all, he takes no one's shit. He is infamous for yelling at reporters, time after time, for their stupid questions. A hilarious Vine shows several clips of Christie pieced together

And you people think I'm joking...

where he says "no off-topic questions; no; you have been stopped." Here, his no-bullshit, sassy attitude is extremely apparent. In another video



from 2012, he asks a reporter, exasperatedly, "Are you stupid??" (which CNN went to town with). This shows the aggressive side of Christie and that he doesn't have time for stupid off-topic questions.

Secondly, Christie is one of the pettiest politicians I've ever heard of. Re-

call BridgeGate, back in 2013 - Chris Christie closed the George Washington Bridge the day school resumed from summer vacation during rush hour to spite the Democrat mayor of Fort Lee (the town you enter when you cross the GWB into Jersey) who didn't vote for Christie in his reelection campaign. Or how about when he closed all of the beaches on the Jersey shore on Memorial Day due to a government shutdown he was partially responsible for and proceeded to enjoy Memorial Day weekend on the shore with his family? Classic. His pettiness mimics that of old European monarchs as well as my pettiness towards a girl who told me I had the wrong uniform socks in first grade which I never really got over (she was wrong). That's some petty shit.

Although I am unqualified to speak on this, I feel Christie really reflects the New Jersey spirit - just the whole not caring, saying what's on your mind, cut the crap kind of spirit, is really quite admirable. As the embodiment of this spirit, he would be ideal to rule the new nation-state of New New Jersey. His aggressive tempera-

ment would facilitate him in bossing people around to do what he wants for the betterment of the Jersey Empire, and his embodiment of the spirit would make him an icon of admiration and aspiration for the citizens of New New Jersey.

Now that Jersey has an emperor, it can secede from the Union. Jersey has a large enough population to be a country - it would be 2x the size of Ireland and have roughly the same population as Austria. New Jersey has a lot of great resources: it has about 720,000 acres of farmland and a 141 mile-long coast, making it optimal for trade and tourism. In addition, New Jersey, while its highways make no sense, does have a pretty good highway system and thus has a sophisticated internal communications network. It has tons of valuable infrastructure - a great public school system, hospitals, etc.

So my question to the people of New Jersey is: what are you waiting for? You can create your own nation-state in which Trump is not your president, and Chris Christie could be your emperor. Think about it.

the paper's view

Justice League Doesn't Need to Happen.

We have a week until Justice League comes out. I am not excited. I in fact am a little disgusted by the concept. Mostly because Batman V Superman was an actual insult to cinema. There are a lot of problem I could list for this upcoming garbage fire of a movie and so I will list them.

- 1.) Cyborg looks like Davie Crockett started wearing toasters instead of Raccoons.
- 2.) Joss Whedom made Age of Ultron.
- 3.) We all know Superman is coming back. He's been on JL posters since before BvS why kill him?
- 4.) It just looks bad.
- 5.) No Martian Manhunter, or honestly just one good CGI character. Cyborg you're ugly.
- 6.) Stop trying to make Aquaman happen.
- 7.) Suicide Squad won an Oscar so honestly art is dead anyway.
- 8.) I just don't understand Zach Snyder's vision and I have never understood Joss Whedon's.
- 9.) It appears to be mostly just the color red.

10.) MARTHAAA

- 11.) The DCEU is a late to the game rushed mess and any attempted emotional connection to these characters doesn't feel earned in the slightest.
- 12.) YOU COULD SEE THOR INSTEAD.
- 13.) YOU COULD WATCH THE PUNISHER INSTEAD.
- 14.) YOU COULD SEE THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBINGS MISSOURI INSTEAD.
- 15.) This is going to rebooted in 5 years starring younger British actors.
- 16.) Just love yourself.

ANGRILY,
JOHN & LUIS

Sporns with Scott

This Week in Kneeball:

Ladies and gents, if you haven't been watching kneeball for the past couple of weeks, I honestly don't know how you're going to be able to live with yourselves. As last noted, both the Waning and Waxing Division Championship Series came to Game 49s.

In the Waning Division, we went a full 357 wickets before Yarnell's right center chief, Todd Flagstaff, scored a kneetouch just before the Cerberi's full groom, Bobbee Ramon, could mark a shinstrike. It was down to the wire, as time was at 0:00:00.000005 as Flagstaff's right knee crossed the wicket line. Fans were on their feet as the Blobfish carried Coach Roberto Otrebor off the pitch.

In the Waxing Division, the Corkboards and the Toadstools went into the 256th wicket at Z shinstrikes apiece but the end result was not as close as sporps fans might have predicted. By the 300th wicket, Paw Paw pulled ahead by 500 kneetouches and left Roach Branch in the dust – final score: 1545-B to 912-R. Unfortunately for Paw Paw, their star mid-tier blacksmith, Marcus "Genghis Khan" Aurelius, suffered a dislocated skull and may not be available for the Roderick Heffley Memorial Cup.

And with that, kneeball fanatics, we enter the nine-month period of preparations for the 135th RHM Cup. The Yarnell Blobfish will return to Arizona for their patented "desert deprivation" training cycle. The Corkboards venture back to West Virginia to train with the mountain people in logging and fishing. We eagerly await to see both teams back on August 12, 2018. Early betting odds have Yarnell as a serious front-runner. That desert deprivation has worked wonders in the past and this reporter is certain that we'll see the Blobfish motivated and at their physical peak.

Patriotic Sporns Facts:

Before President Abraham Lincoln gave the Confederacy a springboard satellite DDT, he was wrangling opponents as the heat-magnet heel champion, "The Lincoln Logger" Big Abe, in his Illinois county wrestling alliance.

Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Elihu Phinney's cow pasture in Cooperstown, NY in 1839.

The United States Men's National Skeet Shooting team once trained a bald eagle to catch broken clay targets mid-air. That lasted about fifteen minutes.

Sporns Ahead:

New Japan Pro Wrestling's Power Struggle was a 2017 highlight as it happened. Marty Scurll stole the IWGP Jr. Heavyweight Championship from rival Will Ospreay via Boston Crab in just under 18 minutes. Kenny Omega defended his IWGP United States title against Trent? Berretta via One Winged Angel. After the match, WWE's Chris Jericho challenged Omega to a match at January's WrestleKingdom 12. Winnipeg's favorite sons will square off for the first time ever, this being Jericho's first match outside the WWE since 1999. In the main event, our high-flying ace Hiroshi Tanahashi retained his IWGP Intercontinental title in his match against world-famous free agent Kota Ibushi via High Fly Flow in just under a half-hour. Post-match, the mysterious Switchblade revealed himself to be none other than former Young Lion, Jay White. World Tag League 2017 will begin next Saturday. Road to Tokyo Dome kicks off Sunday, December 17.

An Analysis of Violence and Justice in an Age of Mass Shootings

By William Timothy O'Brien III
Staff Armchair Philosopher

At approximately 11:20 a.m. central standard time, Devin Patrick Kelley exited his Ford Explore at a gas station across the street from Sutherland Springs Church. Dressed in black tactical gear, and wearing a black face mask with a white skull in the center (something akin to the Punisher), he opened fire on the church during an active service. He proceeded to walk up and down the pews firing his semi-automatic, AR-15 pattern rifle point blank at the churchgoers. With purpose he fired approximately 450 rounds, 15 magazines of ammunition, all semi-automatic (with individual trigger pulls). As he exited the church he himself was besieged by fire from an armed bystander, Stephen Willeford. Spotting Kelley, Willeford traded shots with him before escaping in his car. Willeford then hitched a ride with a second bystander, chasing Kelley until he crashed on the side of the highway. Before the police arrived, Kelley shot himself.

"The only thing to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," commented Wayne LaPierre, NRA CEO and Executive Vice President. That quote was used in a speech given one week after the Sandy Hook massacre. The proposal was armed security in schools across the country. There is something to be said about the comfort in this phrase. The media rightfully took it as a sign of the NRA's childish mindset of arguing for less gun regulation in the face of a devastating disaster. But what does it say about the public, or even a subset of the American public, if these words resonated with them?

The legislative debate over gun control has steadily continued following the Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs shootings. However, the Texas shooting should have been prevented by current laws anyway. Kelley had been charged with child and spousal abuse in the Air Force, and his right to purchase firearms was supposed to be revoked. The current public story is someone messed up the paperwork between the military and the FBI, most likely on the Air Force end. This seems likely enough, but leads to the strange thought that a simple misfil-

How do you quantify the value of the mundane?

ing is partially to blame. It's an odd thought that these deaths could be credited to something so mundane as paperwork. How can you quantify the value of something so mundane?

Following the Sutherland Springs shooting, many parties have taken to calling Stephen Willeford a hero for his brave actions. And his actions are brave; personally, I can't imagine the fear of the events. At the same time I feel very divorced from the concept of these actions as strictly necessary. In an interview with a local news station, Willeford trembling says, "I'm no hero, I'm not, I think my Lord gave me the skills to do what needed to be done." What led this man to be so sure that



the undeniably correct course of action was arming himself and shooting at the gunman? My gut reaction is an aversion to violence even when reasonable. I don't think Stephen Willeford did anything wrong, but I feel incredibly uncomfortable with the popular concept that he was a hero.

What comes to mind when we think of heroes? I think it's a safe assumption most minds jump to superheroes. Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman: all of these share the commonality of achieving justice with violence. The same goes for almost every superhero; superheroes fight crime, and that's how problems are solved. I don't think there's any causation between Superman and the media's reaction to Stephen Willeford, but I do think that they all seem connected and represent something fundamental in how Americans interpret actions as just or heroic. A large portion of the public seemed very dismissive of

Bernie Sanders' proposal of national free public college, and health care. The large cost of the plans lead to the backlash, yet exponentially higher amounts of money are put into bombing the Middle East. In 2015 598.5 billion dollars were spent on the military with seemingly little reason being as we weren't deeply entrenched in war anywhere. Even still, a year later when then nominee Donald Trump announced his desire to expand the military funding further and start more actions that would most likely have no concrete resolve, Trump was met with praise by the public.

Time after time, war as a concept is a pill America has been willing and

eager to swallow even after it's practicality as a job grower has long since died. Why is it Americans are so critical of ideas that make logical sense when high costs are involved, yet in the individual case of military spending seem to have endless generosity? When a basically logical (may not be dynamically, practically, or pragmatically logical) action involves violence,

Americans naturally have an easier time justifying it. Since before the time of America it was a concept that violence was wrong, but simultaneously it has always seemed as though justified violence is in turn more just. The idea of a good guy stopping a bad guy with a gun is outwardly absurd but makes sense if you assume that justified violence is extra just -- and furthermore a key component of the American hero.

In this way Stephen Williford's actions are entirely reasonable and even necessary. America was founded on justified violence, whether it be the revolution or the stealing of land we decided we have the right to. Americans have been historically conditioned to respect such actions and because of this have allowed certain unreasonable trains of thought to exist justifying downright unreasonable decisions. Americans respect above

all other things in the view of justice, a hero drenched in blood. A person or larger entity that commits justified acts of violence is viewed as noble and respected.

Devin Kelley viewed himself as a disenfranchised outsider, an individual against the larger whole of religious, closed minded (as he viewed them) people. When he donned that tactical gear, he knew they would see a villain, but he saw an anti-hero. The general American public does not realize the amount of violence inherently connected with concepts of heroism in a war-ridden society. If this dichotomy did not exist, would shooters like Devin Kelley have the ability to justify their inhumane actions before committing the crime? In turn, would other potential shooters still glorify Kelley's actions and follow his lead the way Kelley followed previous shooters' actions?

One afternoon in October I came home, and as I walked in the door my dad said hello and then asked me plainly, "Have you heard about the shooting?" "What shooting?" I responded. It was all so mundane, no fear or loss of comfort or sadness. It was just a conversation, one I've had before actually. I sat down, and the news was on, covering the events in Las Vegas. One of the musicians who was playing at the concert came on and gave his account of the night. He talked about leading a group of people to find an exit, finding his way to a fence blocking off the airfield from the concert and them from sanctuary. He could easily jump it, but most of them couldn't, and in that moment he decided to work with them, stay there in danger, and take down the fence so everyone could get to safety. I'm sure many people did things like that that night, but I never heard about anything else, and if I hadn't seen this right when it was on I never would. Some good deeds go forgotten, and some necessary ones go overlooked. Teachers matter, charity matters, putting people above yourself in a simple way matters, and properly doing paperwork fucking matters.



Walking the Pathway to Paris into a Carnegie Hall Performance

by Annie Muscat
Staff Enviromusicalist

I have yet to experience anything cooler than belting the lyrics to Patti Smith's 1988 rock hit, "People Have the Power," with the artist herself while folk legend and activist Joan Baez gets down in the grandiose Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, all in the name of combating climate change. Have I peaked? Probably. Will I replay this awesome memory over and over in my head until the day I die? Obviously.

That night at Carnegie Hall, in an effort to expose and counteract climate change, environmental non-profit Pathway to Paris partnered with the United Nations Development Programme and 350.org to demonstrate the unifying force of music.

Founded in 2014 by Jesse Paris Smith (Patti Smith's daughter) and Rebecca Foon, Pathway to Paris spreads awareness about environmental issues and proposes solutions. Since its founding, the organization has hosted similar events with artists, innovators, and activists from across the world.

On November 5th, Pathway to Paris launched their new initiative called 1000 Cities which invites global cities to divest from fossil fuels and convert to 100% renewable energy by 2040, fulfilling the Paris Agreement. All proceeds generated were donated to the UNDP and 350.org.

There were a dozen musical artists and speakers present including Patti Smith, Joan Baez, Bill McKibben, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Michael Stipe, Red Hot Chili Pepper's Flea, and Cat Power.

"Music is our universal language,"

Blazing a trail towards a green future for the Earth

Jesse Paris Smith insisted at the start of the evening. She took to the piano and was joined by her mother, who recited Emily Dickinson's poem, "Nature is what we see" as Foon played cello. This beautiful rendition set the tone of the night, one of hopefulness, urgency, and solidarity.

Passion rang strong as Patti Smith covered Cat Stevens' "Where Do the Children Play" accompanied by piano and acoustic guitar. Authenticity and raw emotion carried on throughout the nearly three-hour show with each unveiled song centering around nature.

Visual artist and R.E.M. frontman Michael Stipe took the stage next, covering Ringo Starr, Velvet Underground, and Nat King Cole. The brilliant and accomplished Dr. Vandana Shiva then spoke with eloquence and conviction, discussing harmful food production and reversing carbon emission.

Between musical sets, speakers encouraged the audience to draft letters urging NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer to allocate the city's pension funds away from coal, oil, gas and pipeline

corporations. I found it difficult to focus on writing my letter, as the experimental Tanya Tagaq demanded attention through what can only be described as "throat singing". Her intense performance was as unusual as it was captivating.

Red Hot Chili Pepper's Flea played some sick bass riffs and was joined by Patti Smith reading "Mother's Prayer."

Tibetan cultural ambassador and musician Tenzin Choegeyal channeled his ancestral traditions in a heartfelt set as Tibetan elders swayed around

him. Jesse Paris Smith supported the indigenous group on piano, reciting lyrical poetry about peace, the natural elements, and Buddha.

Performance artist Olafur Eliasson directed the audience to retrieve a box from under their seats. Inside was a solar lamp resembling a sun. He orchestrated a collective effort in which the entire hall was filmed gradually turning on and waving the dazzling lights in unison so to mimic a "solar-powered sunrise". This was part of Eliasson's 2017 project, Little Sun Foundation,

which strives to bring light to vulnerable communities. After we finished, the lamps were collected and were to be donated to Puerto Rico, to alleviate their struggles following the devastating hurricane.

The intimacy of the evening culminated as 90's indie rock icon Cat Power sat to the piano under the soft glow of red lights. Finally, the legendary Joan Baez sauntered onto the stage. She was undoubtedly the most anticipated performer that night. Not only did Baez pioneer the folk music genre in the 60s and 70s, but she also serves as a fervent and prominent activist for social justice, having marched in anti-war and civil rights protests.

Baez opened with a cover of Antony and the Johnsons' "Another World". She made a few not-so-subtle jabs at Donald Trump between songs to which the audience responded with delight. I may or may not have died a little when Patti Smith embraced Joan Baez after her set. Two fearless and unapologetic female icons thriving as they do what they love for a just cause.

The night came to an impactful end as all performers gathered on stage behind Patti Smith, enthusiastically engaging the auditorium in singing "People Have the Power." Joan Baez's impromptu dance moves contributed to the cheerful atmosphere and as hordes of people filed out of the venue, there was a lingering optimism. We can do something and we must. Patti Smith was right in 1988 and she is right in 2017. People do have the power.



Is oil "fuel's gold"? KEK



EVENTS

What: Open Mic

Where: Rodrigues Coffee House

When: Tues. Nov 14th @8 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Come support your fellow Fordham students show off their talents!

What: WAC December Bingo

Where: Keating 1st

When: Sun. Dec. 3rd @9 PM to 10 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Bingo and have a great time!

Social Innovation Collaboratory Builds Empathy With 'Our Story'

by Anna Passero-Koennecke Fordham students tell their stories in TED Talk-like event and Michael Jack O'Brien Copy Chief and Digital Editor

the paper interviewed Amanda Vopat and Max Lynch, members of the Social Innovation Collaboratory about an event being hosted this Wednesday called 'Our Story.' This interview was edited for clarity and length. You can read the full conversation on our website.

How 'Our Story' came to Fordham:

Amanda Vopat: I started in the Social Innovation Collaboratory as a newsletter editor. And because of that I was pushing out a lot of different opportunities that we had to the broader community. So, because of that, I had the opportunity to attend the AshokaU conference in Miami last year in March. Fordham is one of about 40 AshokaU campuses in the world recognized by the Ashoka foundation for our work in social innovation. At the conference there was a panel from the University of San Diego and two students there had an initiative called My Story, which is a story telling event like a TED Talk. They brought it to their campus. During the event the two girls who had started it, Charlotte and Lauren, were talking about their process, and they have three story tellers tell personal stories of things that had happened to them in their lives. Then we sat back and wrote down one word of how we had felt in the moment listening to people be so vulnerable and it was a really moving experience. Then they talked us through the process of how they did it at the University of San Diego. They have five story tellers and five story mentors who sit down and build the stories with the students and the community members who are speaking. They started out with only students and then they brought in faculty and staff from the university, they also had community members from outside of the university talk at some of these events. And so after three and a half years they

had this whole program down of how they were doing it. During the event, before it was over, I texted the director of the Collaboratory and said, 'We need this at Fordham.'

Why 'Our Story' needs to be face-to-face:

AV: I think the really tangible part of the experience is the listening to the story, because when you're in a room with a lot of people it creates a safe space for the story teller and for the listener, because you're feeling that vulnerability, and the empathy, and all the positive feelings in the room, and you can sit with that...Because they are such personal stories it becomes less trivial if you're sitting down and intently listening, rather than kind of hearing it and taking it in but not processing it at the same time.



The types of stories that 'Our Story' has received:

AV: We have stories about people's personal health, people who have experienced sickness or death in their family, we have stories of a veteran, we have stories about mental health... these stories reflect the lives of people in our community, and they're not the only people who have stories like these."

Mike Lynch "I think also that in politics when you see people speaking out on behalf of their specific agenda, whether it's for race, gender, sexual identity, or whatever cause that they're promoting, while it benefits other people it's kind of in a way the mission is aligned with self-interest. Whereas when you look at Our Story, when you look at the mission of what we're trying to do, it's about listening and giving other people an opportu-

nity to listen and understand other people's experiences. And so I think it's a very selfless, while it's it's Our Story and I may be telling the story of what I've gone through, it's for the purpose of serving others, which I think is unique and kind of getting the political agenda."

What 'Our Story' wants to do in the future:

AV: Our mission statement is 'Empowering individuals to share the deeply personal stories of their lives and find solidarity among others. Encouraging our community to embrace empathy by story-listening.' So, the words that really stick out to us are 'empathy,' 'inclusion,' 'community,' 'vulnerability' - in a positive way, to build towards something greater. And the reason that we called it Our Story is because, while these are multiple individual stories, when you leave them together it is our community as a whole and the Fordham experience, and we really want this to, I think bring people together is a very broad desire, but make people realize that they are not alone. I personally had a really long journey through Fordham feeling that I didn't belong, and kind of feeling guilty about that, and thinking that I was all alone and the only one going through what I was going through, and this has helped me to realize that that not true, and hopefully if there's one other student that feels that same way and comes to this event or tells a story at this event and feels included by that, I think that we achieved our goal."

ML: And to just add to that, at the base of it we're hoping to have an event like this every year, maybe twice a year, and then the effects of that will be a more wholesome Fordham community.

'Our Story' will take place Wednesday, November 15th from 6-8pm in Bepler Commons.

Larry Curbs Your Enthusiasm for the New *Curb Your Enthusiasm* Season

by Jack Archambault
Staff *Curb* Enthusiast

J-bault is enthusiastic for this show *SPOILERS*

Any fan of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* is surely thrilled that it is back for a ninth season after being on hiatus since 2011, and while it is not quite at peak form, Larry and Co. are still pretty...pretty good. We are six episodes deep in this new season, and what better time for a review of a series than two-thirds-ish of the way through it? I'm going to break down the season episode-by-episode and spoil every one, so keep that in mind if you're the kind of person who cares about that stuff.

Episode 1: "Foisted!"

I'll be honest, I didn't think this episode was that funny. In it, Larry tries to get rid of his assistant, disgraces himself to a lesbian couple, and gets into trouble over his new play, *Fatwa*. In the end, Larry makes such an ass of himself that he is actually issued a fatwa by the Ayatollah.

Episode MVP (besides Larry): Leon, who has presumably spent the last six years lampin' in Larry's guest house. Best Line: lampin'

Episode 2: "The Pickle Gambit"

Three people make this episode: 1. Funkhouser, 2. Funkhouser's teenage nephew, Kenny, and 3. The prostitute Larry meets and then hires to have sex with Kenny after he hurts his right arm and can't masturbate. Throw in some classic Larry moments (Seriously, who uses tongs to pick up a cookie?) and you've got yourself a real winner. Episode MVP: Kenny, Marty's god-child nephew who's an all-state baseball player and is going to Stanford. Best Line: "Nobody can go lefty."

Episode 3: "A Disturbance in the Kitchen"

The season really starts to click here. This episode begins with a disturbance in the kitchen, the details of which are never disclosed, and sees Larry's friend/foil Ted Danson start dating Larry's ex-wife, Cheryl. Upon

discovering that the two of them have nicknames for each other, Larry wonders why Cheryl never gave him a nickname. When Larry starts seeing a new woman (Elizabeth Banks) later in the episode, he requests that she call him L-vid, a truly horrible nickname, to which she obliges. Episode MVP: The waiter who can provide no further comment than "There has been a disturbance in the kitchen." Best Line: "No one is above the beep."



Top 10 Anime Heroes *Curb your memethusiasm*

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Episode 4: "Running with the Bulls"

Remember Kenny? Well he dies. Turns out he formed a bond with the prostitute Larry set him up with and he followed her to Spain where they were both killed running with the bulls. Brian Cranston has a guest spot in this one as Larry's therapist, and he is concerned when Larry starts telling people he is his therapist in a breach of "patient-doctor confidentiality." Episode MVP: Old pal Richard Lewis, whose foray into the art scene and obscenely early arrival at lunch drive Larry nuts. Best Line: From Leon: "Why would they make a little fly in a country with big-ass dicks?"

Episode 5: "Thank You for Your Service"

Here, Larry refuses to thank a war veteran for his service, gets into an argument with the gate attendant at his country club, then gets kicked out of that same club for saying that a baby "looks a little Asian." In true *Curb* fashion, all of these plot lines end up tying back together at the end, making this one of my favorite episodes of the season. Episode MVP: Sal, the long-winded gate attendant who then literally tries to kill Larry. Best Line: "I knew that baby looked a little Asian."

Episode 6: "The Accidental Text on Purpose"

This is the rare episode where Larry is right about everything. From a doctor who refuses to answer the call when a man is convulsing on a plane, a woman with a made-up medical condition, to his ingenious ploys to help his friends out of their pickles, Larry really steps up his game in this one. Episode MVP: I'm going to have to break my own rule here and give it to Larry. He just makes too many right calls. Best Line: "It was like I took a straw and put it in a frog's ass."

As the season has progressed, the episodes have gotten better and the jokes funnier. If I have any complaint, it would be this: I get the sense that Larry David may have begun to feel himself a little bit during his time off. One of *Curb's* best traits is that Larry can remark on a situation and make the viewer feel like he or she knows exactly what he means (chat and cut, anybody?). But at points this season, that dynamic has felt forced. Still, some stellar recent episodes and the end of the fatwa nonsense have lifted this season, and that only looks like it will continue. Also, is there any chance of me being called J-bault?

SHOWS

What:

Cinevents: *Spiderman: Homecoming*

Where: Keating 1st

When: Mon. Nov 27th and Wed.

Nov 29th @9 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Parker! Get me pictures of Spiderman!

What: b-Sides Fall Concert

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Sun. Dec. 3rd @7:30 PM to 9 PM

How Much: TBA

Why: Come support the b-Sides, your ears will thank you!

Nintendo Gives Players the Right to Bear *ARMS* on the Nintendo Switch

by Matthew Whitaker

Arts Co-Editor

On June 16th, Nintendo released a new intellectual property titled *ARMS* for the Nintendo Switch. Why am I reviewing it in November? Well, Nintendo is following *Splatoon*'s model of releasing free DLC updates after launch, thus *ARMS* has grown much since its launch in the summer. *ARMS* is a three-dimensional fighting game where you play as a colorful cast of characters who all can shoot their extendable arms at each other. The game can be played with either the Joy Cons' motion controls or the Nintendo Switch Pro Controller. Overall, the game is a very fun multiplayer experience, as its unique take on the fighting game genre and large amount of customization options make it engaging to play. It is very accessible to new players, especially players who have never played a fighting game. Despite its accessibility, *ARMS* is a competitive game with much depth and several layers of play. While mashing buttons will work at a begin-

Arm your Switch with *ARMS*, a quirky four-player fighting game

ner level, seasoned players will have to utilize many techniques and must truly understand the game's mechanics to defeat their opponents. *ARMS* is an excellent new intellectual property by Nintendo, and it is a must-have for Nintendo Switch.

The gameplay in *ARMS* is a very unique take on the fighting game genre, as the camera mainly stays behind the player and the game promotes long-distance combat. As opposed to most fighting games, which require the player to be close to the opponent to deal damage, *ARMS* encourages the player to keep his or her distance. As the characters' arms can extend across most of the stage, keeping your opponent at a distance is necessary. Characters shoot their arms, extending them towards their opponent, and can curve the path of their arms during the extension. Curving your characters' arms correctly is crucial to hitting your opponent, as your opponent has plenty of time to maneuver while your arms

extend. Characters may also dash in any direction, jump, and shield, creating a plethora of movement options to avoid incoming punches. A different arm can be used on either of a character's hands, allowing for an endless series of combinations and strategies. Arms come with different weights, speeds, and elemental effects which can be used to gain an advantage on opponents. In addition to the many different types of arms, the game currently features twelve characters, each with their own special abilities. For example, Spring Man's arms become permanently charged when his health drops below 25%, and Ribbon Girl is able to jump four times in the air. The varied cast of characters and massive amount of arms allow for a new experience during every play session.

The game truly shines in its visual display and character design. Each character is incredibly unique, with designs ranging from a burly mummy to a robot cop and dog pair. Their colorful and

playful designs along with their expressive animations make each character very fun to play. With each character comes a stage to fight on, all of which are greatly detailed and varied. From a classic fighting ring to an eerie laboratory, all the stages offer new game mechanics and plenty of beautiful scenery. Spring Stadium has springboards for characters to bounce on, while DNA lab has destructible stage objects to hide behind. The abundance of characters, stages, and arms keeps the *ARMS* experience fresh with every new play session.

ARMS is a great addition to the Nintendo Switch's library, and offers a fun multiplayer experience for up to four friends. If you have a Nintendo Switch, this game is definitely worth picking up. The game is also receiving free DLC updates, including new characters, stages, and game modes. Overall, *ARMS* is a blast to play, and is a great start to a new Nintendo franchise.

The Women of *Stranger Things* Are A Rare Breed: Full of Depth and Realistic

By Rachel Poe

Opinions Co-Editor

Yeah, I was one of those people that watched the second season of *Stranger Things* within the first day of its release and I'm not ashamed of it. The first season set a high bar that the second season easily lived up to. The writing is fantastic, the aesthetic is everything I strive to be, and the show is just a super fun television program about a shadow demon tormenting a sleepy town in Indiana. But if I'm going to pick my favorite thing about *Stranger Things*, it might have to be the women. Unique, well rounded, and badass in their own ways, the women of *Stranger Things* are forces to be reckoned with. They surpass their archetypes to something fresh and unexpected, much like the rest of *Stranger Things*.

Let's start with Joyce Byers. Joyce is a woman on a mission, a single mom trying her best to give her two sons the as good a life as she can. As someone who has grown up with a single mom, Joyce deserves all the credit in the world. She loves her boys, Will's disappearance almost destroys her and

Hey, hey you, Joyce Byers is a fantastic mom, pass it on

when she gets him back, she tries to make sure that he gets the best care he can. And she always supports her boys; I can't stress how important this is. She never asks her boys to be something they're not, and that's what makes her such a great mom and an even better character.

Then there's Nancy Wheeler. She's probably my favorite character in the show. Her transformation from being that girl who tries to please everyone to a gun-slinging badass seems natural, based in her fierce determination to find her best friend Barbara. Nancy, like all the women of *Stranger Things*, still maintains her emotional depth besides her status as a badass. In season 2, we see her trying to reconcile with her immense guilt for Barb's death as her perfect façade starts to crumble down. It's her motivation that really makes Nancy stand out amidst the sea of goody-two-shoes on a rebellious streak.



Season 2 introduces the new character Max or Mad Max. Max comes in to, again, push against age-old tropes. She's definitely a tomboy, one who likes to skateboard and has the high score on the boy's favorite game at the arcade, but she's intriguingly mysterious and I found myself almost desperate to know more about her backstory. Luckily, throughout the season, you

learn that her snarky bravado is a coping mechanism against her abusive step-brother. I won't spoil too much, but she gets her just deserts and it might be the most satisfying arc conclusion this season. Still, from a surface level perspective, Max looks like Eleven's replacement, a necessary addition to the boy's party for gender diversity. But the beauty of Max is that she is in no way replacing Eleven, despite Mike's hesitations. She brings her own abilities to the table as the party's Zoomer. In all actuality, she wants to know more about Eleven and when she

finally meets her, Max is super excited. It's cute.

It wouldn't be an article about *Stranger Things* if I didn't talk about Eleven. She's the glue of the show and her absence from Hawkins is noticeable. At this point, it's almost redundant to point out how groundbreaking Eleven's character is but this season we dive more into her psyche as we learn more about her past. Then there's her relationship with Hopper. Both are lonely and lost and a little pathetic, but their relationship grows into a reluctant father/daughter dynamic that they're both deserving of.

The women of *Stranger Things* are badasses who don't shy away from their emotions, a concept that most of Hollywood can't seem to understand. They're setting a new standard for female characters, especially destroying the idea that being emotional and being a badass are two exclusive traits. All that's left to do is to bring in some more racial diversity and *Stranger Things* will be good to go.

Editor Writes Monstrous Article about Godzilla Movies

by Nick Peters
News Co-Editor

I adore Godzilla. He was a huge aspect of my childhood, next to Thomas the Tank Engine and Spiderman. I ate up EVERY movie that existed. I remember my parents bringing home whatever Godzilla movie they could find at our local library for me. I had a bunch of action figures of various giant monsters that I would have fight each other in whatever mock battle I wanted to imitate that day. Even the really bad old American movie was my fucking shit. My parents would tell a funny story about how I was scared of going to my cousin's wedding because it was in New York City, where Godzilla attacked.

However, I fell off. I grew up and found something else to obsess over. It wasn't a couple of years ago when the 2014 Godzilla movie came out, that the joy that I once had would return full force. I will talk about that more when I discuss that specific movie, because I love that movie.

A couple of weeks ago, I noticed that Hulu had added a lot of Godzilla movies to its streaming service. They do not have any from the Shōwa era (the first era of Godzilla movies, from the 50s to the 70s), however they have most of the Heisei era (this era was from the 80s to the early 90s), and the Millennium era (the late 90s to 2000s movies). I was so fucking happy that they added some of these movies. I decided to start watching these movies in chronological order of release, and write an article about them. For now I am only covering the first four, as well as the original 1954 movie and the 2014 movie.

I hope you enjoy this ride as much as I did:

Godzilla (2014)

This movie reinvigorated my love of Godzilla. I saw this movie with my dad a couple of weeks after it came out in an empty theater. My dad said that he saw 7 year old me return during this movie. He was right. The final battle alone was just a shot to the nostalgia. If you watch any movie on this list, please watch this one. It is thoroughly entertaining, and you know what, yes the human parts are weak, but that's in keeping with every other Godzilla movie. Between this

The Godzilla of articles demolishes fake ad & inspires Steven Spielberg

and the recently released *Kong: Skull Island*, I am very excited for the MonsterVerse.

Godzilla (1954)

This is it. The classic. The OG. This movie started it all. This movie launched a franchise. I hadn't actually seen this movie until recently, and I was SHOCKED to see how well this movie still stands up. The writing is great. The cinematography is beautiful. The music is amazing, adding a grandeur to the story. Godzilla's theme is fucking iconic. The special effects are amazing in the context of the fact it is a 50s movie. This movie is visually impressive. The production group understood their technical limitations at the time, and played to their strengths. Now, 50 years later, this movie still stands out. Just don't watch the American version, watch the Japanese version. The American version is not just a dub, but a whole new edit with an added American character and oh boy is this version kinda bad. Worse if you watch it right after the Japanese version, trust me, I kinda regret it.

Godzilla vs King Ghidora (1991)

Oh boy. This is the first available movie on Hulu, and it's from the Heisei era. These movies, while separate from each other, are connected and sprawling. This movie is just madness, but also boring. There are time travelers. Godzilla dies and gets rebirthed. Everyone travels back to the 40s. It just goes places. King Ghidora is created because Godzilla dies, and then is resurrected by the heroes to take out the reborn Godzilla. It goes and goes and goes. The writing is nonsensical. Also according to this movie, Stephen Spielberg's father as a marine saw the time travelers and a young Godzilla, which in turn gave his son inspiration to make his movies. JUST SAYING THAT GODZILLA INSPIRED *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A THIRD KIND*. DOES THIS MAKE SENSE TO YOU MAJOR SPIELBERG. However, regardless of the story, the fights are also boring, and just bad, and not in an amazing B movie way. It was a boring monster movie, and that is a travesty.

Godzilla vs Mothra (1992)

You want to talk about an even more nonsensical mess. OH BOY. This movie was strange, but also great. It's painfully obvious that the writers wrote a movie about Mothra, and added Godzilla in at the last second. Mothra has 2 little fairies that talk to the main characters. They also break out in song, and despite being magical fairies can easily get captured in a box. It's great. I totally did not question if someone had slipped me some sort of drug. Not at all. Mothra is basically a giant moth with mystical powers that wants to protect Earth (hilariously, giant caterpillar Mothra wrecks an entire city and kills tens of thousands, but shhhhh it wants to protect Earth). But you know what, despite its weirdness, I highly recommend this movie. This movie was just giant monster action from the beginning. Godzilla appears at the half hour mark, and it just GOES. I ended this movie being thoroughly entertained, and I would say, if you want to watch an old school Godzilla movie and do not know which to watch, try this one.

Godzilla vs MechaGodzilla II (1993)

Despite being the first vs MechaGodzilla movie in this era, the American production company decided to slap a big fat 2 on its name. But hey, while the last two movies were adventures in nonsense, this one actually has a good plot, that could honestly be used in a new Godzilla movie. The plot makes sense and is pretty basic. The designs for each of the monsters in this movie is great. MechaGodzilla especially looks badass. The three-way throwdown between Godzilla, MechaGodzilla, and Rodan is fucking great. Further, this movie introduces Baby Godzilla, (or Godzilla II), who is ADORABLE. So yeah, highly recommend this movie. It's action packed. And also the amazing line "Sayonara Baby Godzilla" is said, so like Academy Award for best screenplay, anyone?

Godzilla vs SpaceGodzilla (1994)

SpaceGodzilla's design is fucking rad looking. That's probably my only compliment for this snooze-fest of a

movie. It just doesn't work. Mothra and her fairies return to I guess lend a hand? They don't really do shit honestly. There's a new anti-Godzilla robot, called Mogera, which is cool I guess. Like it's not all bad, and while the fairies make me kinda sigh, it's fine. It's just that nothing happens. The final fight reeks of either poor planning or budget cuts, as Godzilla, SpaceGodzilla, and Mogera stand in a circle and shoot lasers at each other. The ending is also the most drawn out shit in the world. Godzilla walks into the ocean for what feels like 10 minutes. Baby Godzilla is back though, and this time HE'S EVEN MORE ADORABLE. Honestly, I'd have preferred a 2 hour film of Baby Godzilla just living his life, because Baby Godzilla is too pure for this world.

So that's it. I hope you enjoyed this look at some Godzilla movies. It was a real treat to re-watch these movies and go down a nostalgia trip. There are still plenty more movies available on Hulu, which I will continue to watch. (For instance, I have *Godzilla vs. Destroyah* on my queue, and I heard it's one of the best of the Heisei era, and a fitting end to that story - so I'm hype). They are fun adventures, here you get to watch giant monsters pummel each other to smithereens as cities hilariously crumble like Legos under them. It's honestly pure entertainment. Yes, in watching all these movies, the human elements are significantly lacking, and drag things down, but they are not the point, they are just there to fill up time and give the monsters more levity. In fact, the movies I enjoyed were the ones where the humans were reacting to Godzilla, not driving the plot. I hope you take the time to watch a couple of these movies too.



Baby Gozilla (2019)



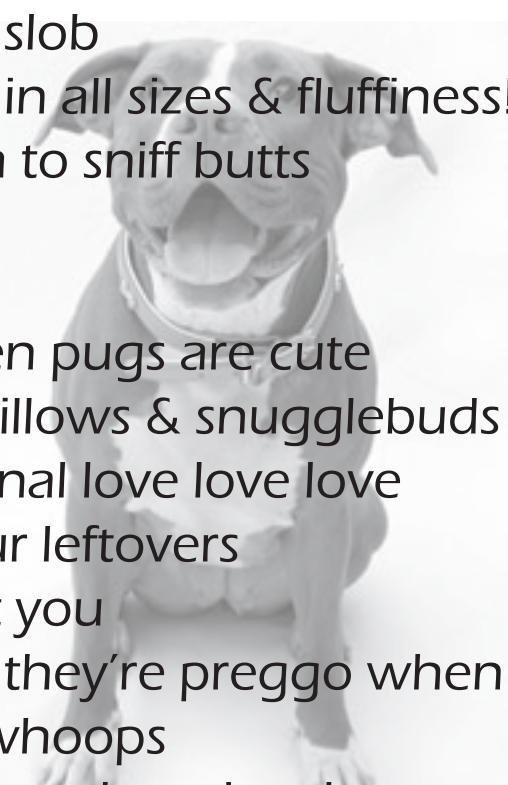
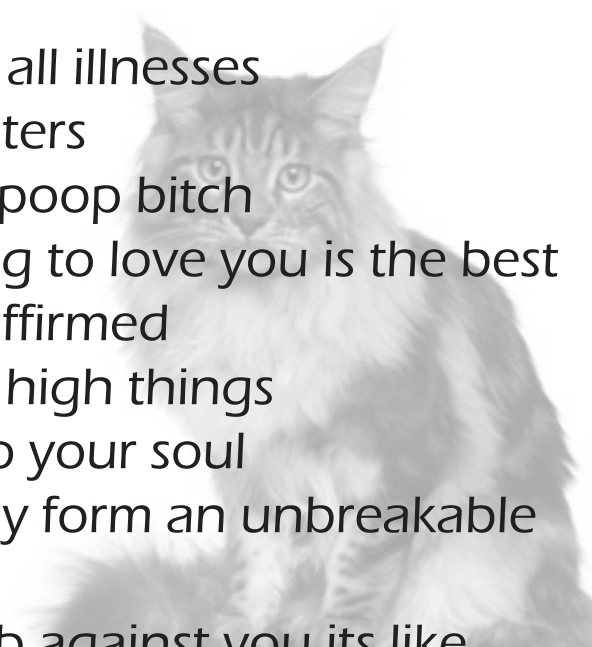
Cats vs Dogs

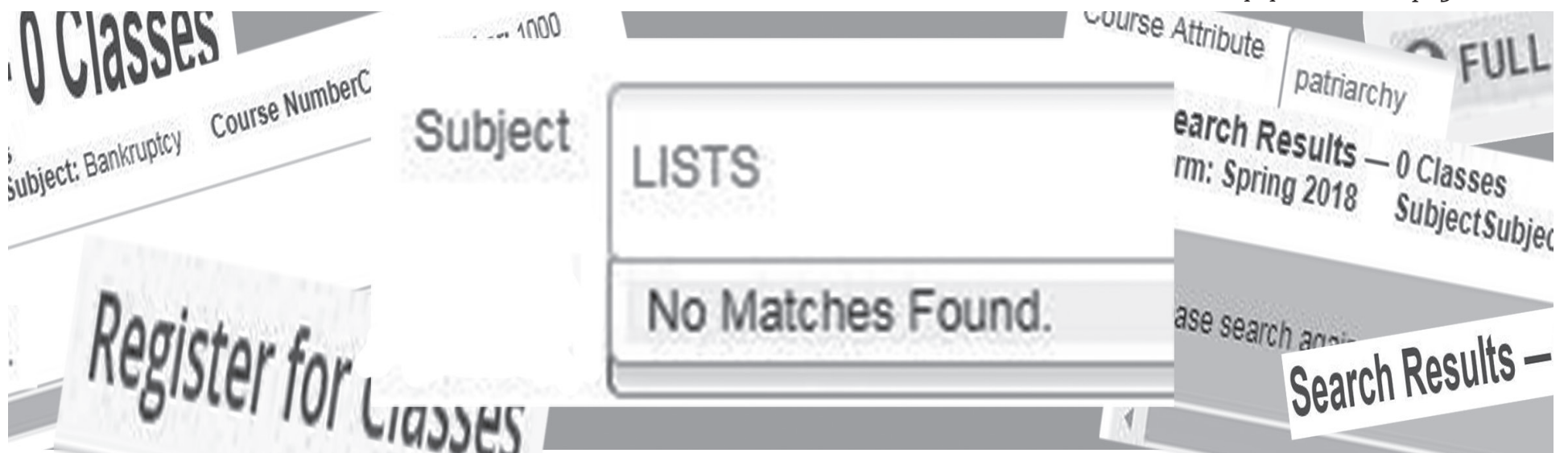
In light of a recent email asking students not to pet the cats on campus (lol k), we decided to see if maybe cats aren't the best after all... or are they...or are they not...look okay that's the point of the page you figure it out jeez



- Small and fuzzy
- Lick themselves to be clean?
- Assholes with claws
- Won't let you touch their tummies
- TOE BEANS
- Purring cures all illnesses
- Excellent hunters
- You are their poop bitch
- A cat choosing to love you is the best feeling ever #affirmed
- Can climb on high things
- They look into your soul
- You eventually form an unbreakable soul bond
- When they rub against you its like you've inherited the world

- Will love any person EVER
- Like to run and chase their tail
- Occasional slob
- They come in all sizes & fluffiness!!
- Social norm to sniff butts
- Mo butts
- FETCH
- All cute even pugs are cute
- Are great pillows & snugglebuds
- Unconditional love love love
- Will eat your leftovers
- Will protect you
- Might think they're preggo when they're not whoops
- Dog hugs are when they lean against your legs





The process of signing up for classes here is basically self-torture. Every course listed that looks interesting is without fail always an empty husk that has no classes offered next semester, or like any semester. With this harrowing season upon us, some of the editors are finding themselves dreaming of classes in a better world...

**Study Abroad Dreams
by Staff Hermione Granger**

Let's be real, next semester I'm going to be a second-semester senior and my schedule is full of classes I want to be taking, classes that I'm excited for. But as my academic career (possibly) comes to a close, there's one thing that I'm sad I never experienced and that's Hogwarts. Why Hogwarts you ask? The fictional boarding school of my childhood? Because, like, magic duh. And I never studied abroad so like that would be pretty cool but MAGIC. I could learn to fly and cast a Patronus and play Quidditch and turn a rat into a teacup and learn about magical history and troll rebellions!!! How does that not sound like the ideal academic experience?

**Bar Behavior Studies
by Staff Mugz Anthropologist**

If I could take any class at Fordham, I would definitely take an anthropology class about the culture

of Mugz's Bar. It would be so interesting to analyze the various social groups and the cultural hierarchy of Fordham's favorite dive. Key projects would be identifying fuckboys, judging people based on their drink orders, and writing essays on how the modern college boy attempts to hit on girls. The class will answer questions such as: Will that girl throw up? What is that boy high on? Who is having a good time? My final paper will be on how styles of dress coincide with drink choices. Is there a correlation? Only this class will tell.

**Rick and Morty Fandom 101
By PickleRickDab420XD**

I just want to start off by saying I'm a HUUUGE Rick and Morty fan. My favorite episode is when Rick turns into a pickle XD! I'm disappointed that there's not a course at Fordham on how to be a better Rick and Morty fan. To be fair, you would need a pretty high IQ to take it. If the class existed, the first semester would be about the origins of Rick and Morty's jokes, which are very complicated actually. The midterm would require students to devise a plan to acquire Szechuan sauce from McDonald's, and the correct answer would be to jump on the counter and scream "I'm Pickle Riiiiiiick!" XDDDD. At the end of the semester, the final would have students find a way to get the criminal charges dropped.

**REAL LIFE 3001
By Staff Barely a Real Adult**

The class I most want to take is, sadly, not offered at Fordham, which is insane, because it's the only course that 100% of people need. It's called REAL LIFE 3001. (It's not an intro class, because if you're in college and can't cook ramen, I honestly can't help you.) I'm talking job interview advice, cocktail party conversation starters, how to get out of talking about Trump with relatives. You know, the REAL shit? I don't need another philosophy course, I need to know what investing is and why I'm bad at it. Look, I'm a fairly functional adult—I worked a full-time job over the summer, lived in an off-campus apartment, and regularly cook for myself. But I'm a senior and I am PANICKING. I need to cover all the things that life hasn't taught me, if only so I can stop calling my dad every time my sink leaks.

**I Would Prefer Not To
By Some Student**

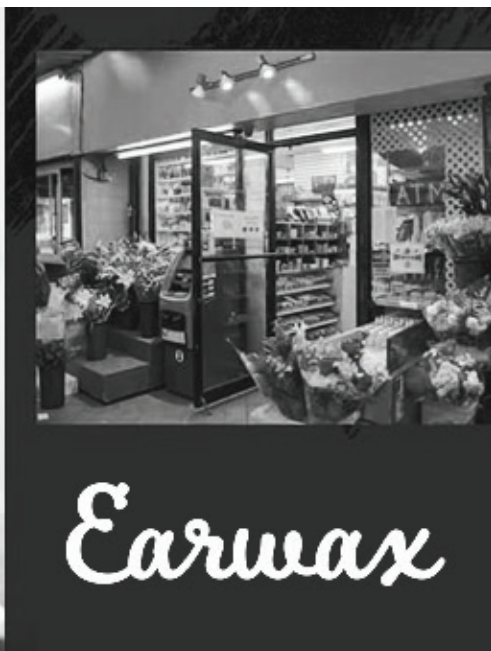
There are so many great, challenging classes at Fordham. They push you as a student and expand your mental boundaries as a person, but who gives a shit about that, I want to do absolutely nothing, so basically whatever that class would be, I guess.

Staff Winter Soldier Wannabe

I got all the classes I wanted, well except for one. To be fair you don't really "register" for this class, but I'm assuming that at some point my sleeper-agent secret abilities are going to be activated so I can save the world from destruction. Sure I have no evidence that I'm actually a highly trained assassin and acrobat who's willing to take one life to save a million. But I'm only 21! I still have a few good years left in me! I'm sure of it, anyyyyy second now I'll hear the activation code...give it a few moments...sigh...any day now.

**History of Heavy Metal 3001
By Staff Poser**

I wish they offered a heavy metal class because I'd take the shit out of that. I'm always around looking for new bands I may have not heard of and geeking out about awesome guitar work. I mean I'd honestly just take a class about our lord and savior John Petrucci. Of course, part of it might just be me calling everyone in the class a "poser" or being called a "poser" by someone else. It is also crucial for the professor to shit on everyone's favorite band and only promote the obscure terrible sounding recording quality bands that he loves and continuously listens to in the dark in candlelight while brooding and sacrificing a squirrel to Satan. If the class isn't that metal what's the point anyway.



Sam Smith
The Thrill of It All
 By Olivia Langenberg

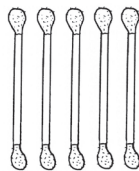
On November 3rd, Sam Smith released his sophomore album, *The Thrill of It All*, and boy am I psyched about it. I'll be honest, I really wouldn't have considered myself an avid Sam Smith fan prior to listening to this album. I listened to his first release *In The Lonely Hour* back in 2014, but only the singles stood out to me. I also couldn't even remember what the album was called, so I guess I could say that it didn't make a huge impact on me. On this new album, though, there is a whole crop of songs that stick out and have me feeling sad about relationships that I've never been in.

Whether or not you actually enjoy his music, I think we can all agree that Sam Smith is a fantastic vocalist. While I'd say that the sound of this new album isn't incredibly different from the first, I'd wager that his voice is much stronger than before. Not to mention, I think he has a better grasp on lyricism with this album. He masters the depiction of that one person we all can't get rid of in "One Last Song," which has me ugly crying when he croons "You made me sad till I loved the shade of blue." C'mon, we all love a good breakup song. Humor me.

One of the underlying themes of this album is coming to terms with sexuality. In "HIM," Smith takes ownership

of his love of men and how that won't change even if it may be disappointing. As a whole, this album conveys intimate feelings that are personal yet general enough for other young people to relate to. So, yeah, I'll admit that this album made me cry in the shower more than once. No worries, that's just the thrill of it all, folks!

Fav track: HIM



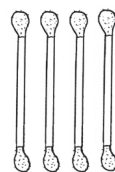
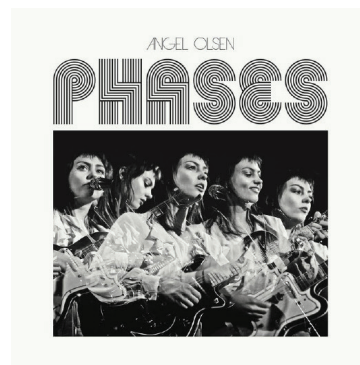
Angel Olsen
Phases
 By Kyle Zarif

Angel Olsen's new album *Phases* is a mix of "b-tracks, oddities and outtakes", though at times it flows so well it doesn't feel like anything of the sort. The album has a sort of unfinished quality that reminds you you're listening to an album of random old recordings, but many of the individual singles on the track are good enough to stand on their own or serve as singles on

a more cohesive finished product. Fittingly, the overall sound of many of the tracks on *Phases* sound a lot like the older stuff Angel Olsen has released, contrasting with the slick production

on last year's *MY WOMAN*. The album is generally folksy, with certain tracks sounding like old school country ballads. A great example of this sullen folk sound is 'Tougher Than the Rest,' which comes through with the melancholy of 60's country. Many of the songs feature simple, rough-sounding melodies and instrumentation lifted by Olsen's incredible vocals and lyrics. The best example of this for me is the track 'Sweet Dreams,' where the vocals totally transform the song's simple, surf-rock melody into something truly beautiful. Some of the tracks are a bit slow, but the strong points of the album definitely outweigh its weaknesses. Angel Olsen did some really cool vocal and lyrical work on *Phases*, and for that fact alone the whole album is worth a close listen.

Fav track: California



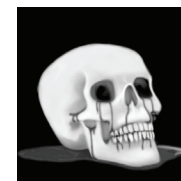
Cannibal Corpse
Red Before Black
 by Christian Decker

At last grotesque and gore-fueled Cannibal Corpse have returned with their new studio album, *Red Before Black*. Led by vocalist George "Corpseg-rinder" Fisher, Cannibal Corpse have come back swinging with a new brutal work of pure, unbridled, death metal fury. For what it's worth, it isn't too different from their other works, but that's just how I, and many of their other fans, like it. There



aren't many other bands that just invoke pure brutality and aggression. This new album is no exception. One of the singles off the album, "Code of the Slashers," is a very heavy and slower paced song that you can really head bang to, and it sets the tone for the album. With some more melodic solos in tracks like "Remained," and "Firestorm Vengeance," the album keeps you invested in the tracks and offers a nice break from the drum slamming, power chords, and tremolo picking that make up a lot of the tracks. The lyrics aren't that hard to understand on this album, so if you're into brutal subject matter about murdering people, or just really gross stuff and horror in general, then this is for sure the album for you. I got to give props to the guitar work on this album as well -- Pat O'Brien and Rob Barrett do an amazing job with their aggressive and technically proficient lead and rhythm guitar parts, respectively. Overall, this album is perfect for any fans of death metal and I would warn, for those new to the genre, that it is definitely not for the faint of heart.

Fav track: Code of the Slashers



Taylor Swift
Reputation
 By Colleen Burns

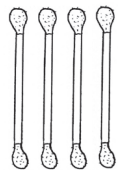
Taylor Swift is a take it or leave it artist: you're either a die-hard fan or repulsed by her existence. Her new and sixth album, *Reputation*, comes with a lot of savvy marketing strategies but also a heartfelt letter prefacing the album. She discusses the effects of social media, having her heartbreaks publicized for entertainment, and the gossip that inevitably comes with every album. This letter perfectly sums up Swift's new album: her life being constantly judged and criticized by people and the reputation (hence the title) it warrants. This album is a fierce response to those people. She builds a new

reputation and expresses the resulting pressures of her life.

With some melodies of 1989 still breaking through, the vibe of Swift's new album is for the most part different because she takes on a new identity. She adopts a bad girl persona, who is powerful and in control, calling out critics and just living her life. With this identity, we lose her emotional and vulnerable side for much of the album ("New Year's Day" is a brilliant exception). But her music isn't about heart-break anymore; it's about rebirth. Having accepted I can't be emo and jam to new breakup songs in the car, I will say she does retain her ability to write flawless lyrics. For example, she sings phrases such as, "They're burning all the witches even if you're not one, go ahead light me up," and "You should think about the consequences of your magnetic field being a little too strong."

My biggest criticism of this album is its EDM-influenced production. On some songs, such as "I Did Something Bad," it work, but on others, like "King of My Heart," it really doesn't. And some songs are a mystery: "...Ready For It?"

Fav track: Don't Blame Me



Sleigh Bells
Kid Krushchev
By Marty Gatto

Sleigh Bells just dropped a new album, and it is exceptionally mediocre. The name of the album is *Kid Krushchev*. "Kruschev" refers to the leader of the Soviet Union after Stalin, a reference that goes unexplained throughout the album. The album is a vocally

energetic combination of dark bass and EDM-style production. Personally, I had only been exposed to Sleigh Bells from "that one song" they had that was especially popular. Given the weird dissonance between flowery vocals and melodramatically dark bass, I don't think I was missing out on too much.

The best song on the album is the first: "Blue Trash Mattress Fire." In this song, everything Sleigh Bells attempted to do throughout the rest of the album is done very well. There is a beautiful build to a very harsh guitar that follows the vocalist's distressed singing, which makes for some really interesting music. "Blue Trash Mattress Fire" is, however, still inflected with the melodrama present throughout the rest of the album, detracting from its good qualities.

After the absurdly named "Blue Trash Mattress Fire," it all goes downhill. Some of the tracks have reviving electronic backgrounds and bass, like in "Show Me the Door." Unfortunately, instead of playing off of this production, the vocals often stylistically clash. On this track, as well as many others on the album, I have noticed an impressive ability to transition seamlessly from track to track. In general, the album is rather cohesive. Unfortunately, that cohesion just results in "putting all your money in one pot," so to speak. Sleigh Bells did a good job expressing their weird, contradictory style, but that style is at most times unattractive.

Fav track: Blue Trash Mattress Fire



WHAT TO LISTEN TO WHEN YOU'RE TRAPPED IN THE FORDHAM SHUTTLE FOR 8 HOURS A WEEK AND CAN'T FALL ASLEEP

by: Chillary Busch

White Flag Joseph

Angela The Lumineers

S.O.B. Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats

Excavate Macklemore

Caroline The Animal Years

Suit and Jacket Judah & the Lion

In Memoriam

