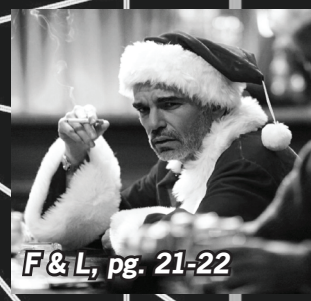
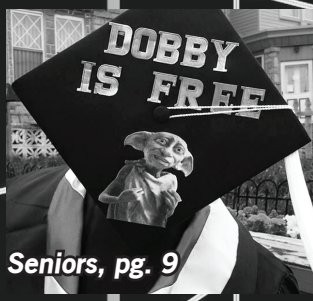
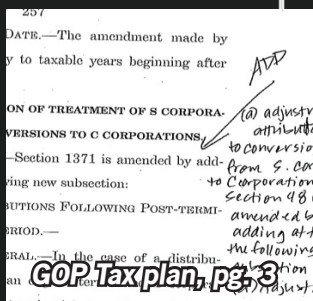


vol. L
issue 5

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the paper



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the paper

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the paper is Fordham's journal of news, analysis, comment and review. Students from all years and disciplines get together biweekly to produce a printed version of *the paper* using Adobe InDesign and publish an online version using 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.

"Favorite Vines"

Editors-in-Chief

John "Dad look, it's the good kush" Looby
Luis "Me and my boys are going to see Uncle Kracker" Gómez

News Editors

Nick "What's the number" Peters
Declan "I can't believe you've done this" Murphy

Opinions Editors

Colleen "Happy Crismns" Burns
Rachel "Welcome to bible study, we're all children of *Jesus*" Poe

Arts Editors

Matthew "Chris! Is that a weed?" Whitaker
Michael "Two shots of vodka" Sheridan

Earwax Editor

Reyna "...yes" Wang

Features and List Editors

Hillary "Watch your profanity" Bosch
Meredith "Road work ahead? Yeah, I sure hope it does" Mclaughlin

Copy Chief

Anna "I didn't get no sleep cause of y'all" Passero-Koennecke

Editor at Large

Claire "*throws umbrella* RUN *bass drop*" Nunez

Digital Editor

Michael Jack "I'm going to jail!" O'Brien

Copy Editor

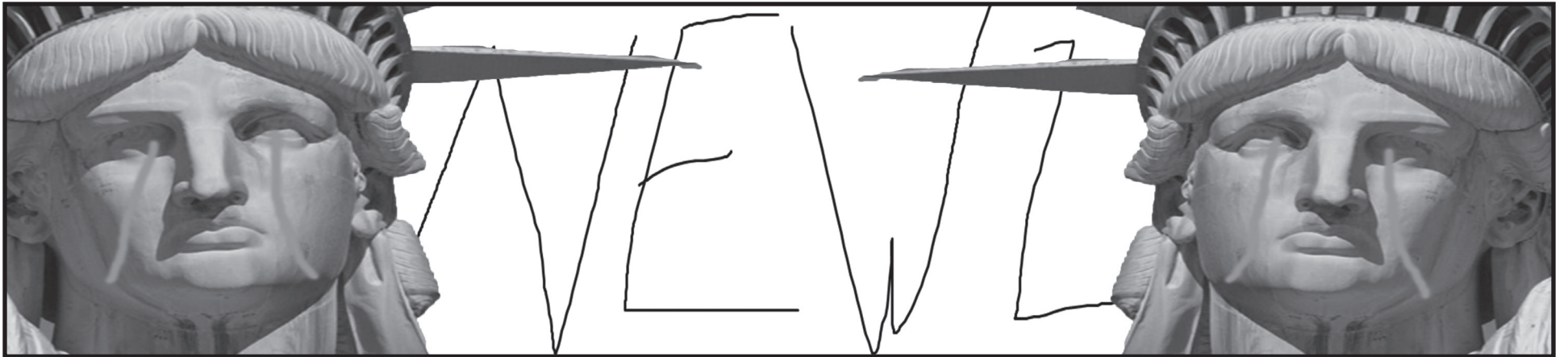
Scott "so you just gonna bring me a birthday gift on my birthday to my birthday party on my birthday with a birthday gift" Saffran

Contributors

Christian Decker, David Kennedy, Robin Happel, Marty Gatto, Auden Dykes, Jan-Carl Resurrecion, Tommy Gerity, St. Vincent, Chance the Rapper, Vine, Estrellita Poblana III, finality, McGinley cats, editors of *The Ram* leaving their trash just everywhere, hot chocolate, Patrick Rothfuss, boundless wonder, minimalism, IKEA bookshelves, a dusty record player, and you.



STOP
DISAPPOINTING
ANNIE CLARK



Senate Republicans Vote on Major Tax Code Overhaul

By Christian Decker
Staff Tax Collector

Like reverse Robin Hoods, they steal from the poor to help the rich

Over the last month, the United States and the world have been rocked by various events and tragedies. From terrorist attacks, to sexual assault allegations, insults to Native Americans, and pedophiles being frontrunners in Senate races, it's kind of hard to keep track of the shitstorm that flies at us. However, one event has gone under the radar for many people: the upcoming vote on the new Republican tax plan. President "I'm a dickhead even by my own standards" Trump has called this new tax plan "the largest tax cuts proposed in years, maybe ever".

The bill would introduce a whopping \$1.5 trillion dollars in comprehensive tax cuts according to the *New York Times*. The *Times* reports that many of these cuts are "straight out of a Republican playbook", with tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans in the hopes that it will "trickle-down" to the poorest of Americans. This was of course popularized by President Ronald "Wall Breaker" Reagan during the 1980s in the economic plan that has come to be known as "Reaganomics." Aside from the typical tax cuts, there is a removal of a ban of church activism and a bill that introduces new rights for fetuses.

With such a large plan that includes so much tax revenue cut from the government, it is concerning that programs will be beginning to get cut as a result of insufficient funding. Ironically, this will most likely not effect defense spending, as the Republicans introduced a bill to create \$700 billion dollars of military spending.

The majority of economists have agreed that the tax plan might just be a horrible idea. There is skepticism that this might not be a plan to benefit the

middle class, but rather a plan for Congressional Republicans and the President to enrich themselves and their friends. The proposed cuts in taxes would cause families making \$40,000 to \$50,000 to pay \$5.3 billion more dollars combined by 2027, according



to the *New York Times*. In contrast, by 2027 people making over \$1 million will see a tax cut of over \$5.8 million. According to a survey of thirty-eight economists asked about the tax plan, only one said that it would create significant economic growth. All of the economists surveyed said that this new tax plan would add to the already terrifying above \$20 trillion national debt that is still ever increasing, \$1.08 trillion according to Politifact.

One of the key components of the bill is the lowering of the income tax for both middle class and the upper class. The corporate tax rate goes down from 35 percent to a whopping 20 percent income tax. The middle class get a tax break as well, but due to inflation, they will eventually end up paying more

than they did before the cuts. According to Politifact the bill disproportionately benefits the rich way more so than middle to lower income families. The top 1 percent would see 2.4 percent increase in their income and the upper class a 1.9 percent increase, according to Politifact.

Politifact goes on to say that these tax cuts could make the Trump family millions of dollars. Although the President has not released his tax returns, "an independent analysis ... worked with leaked tax returns from

2005... suggest that President Donald Trump stands to benefit in the short term by somewhere in the low tens of thousands of dollars." The *New York Times* estimates that the Trump family could gain up to \$42 million in tax reductions, while NBC suggests that \$22.5 million is a more likely estimate. If the estate tax is removed, as per the House bill, the Trump family could see a net \$1.1 billion gains in savings.

This week, Republicans have began pushing the bill with fervor in order to offset their several defeats in trying to repeal and replace Obamacare. On Wednesday, "the bill cleared a procedural hurdle on a 52-48 vote", according to the Associated press. Senate Majority Leader Mitch "The Ugly Turtle" McConnell is keen and optimistic that

the bill will pass the Senate as well and quickly be signed in.

One advantage that the Republicans have with this tax bill that they didn't have on health care is the support of Senator John "I Can't Decide Which Side I'm On" McCain. Senator McCain was one of the decisive votes that ended the GOP's attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Now McCain has changed his tune and has thrown his hat with other Republicans on the tax bill. McCain is quoted by the Associated Press as saying, "It's clear this bill's net effect on our economy would be positive...This is not a perfect bill, but it is one that would deliver much-needed reform to our tax code, grow the economy, and help Americans keep more of their hard-earned money." While admitting that the bill isn't the best piece of legislation conjured up, he has agreed to support a long sought after Republican goal of tax reform. With McCain on board, it's possible that he could push other moderate Republicans to vote for the bill and help bolster Republican support despite obstruction from Senate and House Democrats.

The bill is still far away from passing with the moderate Republicans still on the fence. According to CNN, if Senator McConnell loses 3 votes, the bill dies then and there. It is also possible that Republicans who fear an increase in the national debt might switch on the party as well. Whatever the case it looks as if only time will tell if this reform goes through or not.

The Free Internet Is Under Attack...Yet Again: Two Writers Respond

by Meredith Mclaughlin & David Kennedy
Staff Interwebz Experts

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai threatens net neutrality protections

Meredith:

There's a reason why Comcast is considered one of the most hated company in America. No one likes these extra fees that telecom companies forces on us when paying for cable. Recently, however, these same companies are turning their ugly heads to look at the internet as the newest frontier to cut up and force us to pay more for. The public's major concern is that consumers will have to pay extra for "fast lanes" and website bundles, which gives way to fears of a class-based internet that only the wealthy can afford. With FCC leaders ignoring public outcry in favor for the "free market" interests of the telecom companies, many people are concerned that after December 14, their ability to access the internet will be permanently ruined.

One of the biggest threats to Net Neutrality is FCC chairman Ajit Pai. Pai used to be a Verizon lawyer, which is a glaring conflict of interest that President Obama apparently ignored when appointing him to the commission (the Trump administration later promoted him to chairman). He keeps trying to convince the public that getting rid of Obama-era Net Neutrality laws will "restore" internet freedom, saying that "Government control is the defining feature of authoritarians, including the one in North Korea." This is incredible because telecom companies exercise a ton of force over any form of government trying to take internet service providing into their own hands.

Wilson, North Carolina is one of the few towns in which the local government provides internet access for their citizens, and they have consistently en-

sured that each citizen is able to have affordable and fast connections with complete freedom to switch between plans. They tried to extend this coverage to other areas, but Time Warner Cable, AT&T, and CenturyLink lobbied heavily to make it illegal for any other town or city to receive it. It makes sense that these companies want to squash any competition that offers consumer friendly services considering their abysmal track record with customer support and extortionary pricing. The narrative of excessive government

expect them to do their job and fight telecom companies from further extorting American citizens. 2017 may have been rough but we can't let it net neutrality end with it.

David:

A lot of people are up in arms over the FCC's move to repeal net neutrality. Specifically, a lot of people are out for, FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai's blood. Over 100,000 people have already signed an online petition calling for his resignation, and the number's

he left to work for Verizon. He only stayed for two years, going back to the justice department in 2003. He was nominated to the FCC commission by Obama after getting the minority recommendation from Republican senator, Mitch McConnell. Trump designated him as FCC chairman at the beginning of 2017.

So he's highly educated, and traditionally conservative. Pai's voting preference tends to skew towards a freer, less regulated market, which in this case means letting Comcast and Verizon do more of whatever they want. Ajit Pai either trusts internet providers not to take advantage of their customers, or he thinks the antitrust division in the Justice Department will be enough to keep them in check without net neutrality. Let's remember now that he's worked for both the department of justice and Verizon.

So, given where his sympathies are its no shock that he's doing very little to reassure the American consumer. Ajit Pai doesn't speak in terms of repealing net neutrality. He talks about abolishing title II, which was put into law as part of the telecommunications act in 1934 in order to regulate early telephone companies. So Pai sees himself as someone who is trying to repeal an outdated law which is preventing economic growth. One of his central claims is that repealing these Title II regulations will allow broadband internet to spread to more rural states where it isn't currently accessible like Alaska and West Virginia. Fundamentally, our current FCC chair is laboring under the idea that whatever is good for the market is, by extension, good for the consumer. The consumers don't seem to agree.



interference in a free market doesn't apply to mega corporations who run no risk providing subpar service to their customers. Frankly, the regulation provided by Title II protection of net neutrality is a welcome change in an industry that has the power to abuse customers and bribe or bully governments to cater to their income. That's why it's so important that we continue to fight for net neutrality. Let your representatives know that you

still rising. People really hate this guy, and I didn't know he existed until a month ago. I thought some background information on our new FCC chair might be useful so here are the highlights.

The son of Indian immigrants, Ajit Pai has a BA from Harvard and a JD law degree from the University of Chicago. He worked in the department of Justice from 1998 to 2001 when



Department of Investigation Finds NYCHA Negligent on Lead Paint

by Nick Peters
News Co-Editor

In the past few weeks news has broken that reveals the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has been embroiled in controversy as reports revealed that the organization has been falsely reporting lead levels.

NYCHA is a government organization that offers cheap and affordable apartments for low income New Yorkers. NYCHA has a total of around 300 buildings dedicated to housing across all five boroughs. Around 400,000 people live in these NYCHA buildings.

Around the middle of November, the Department of Investigation revealed the results of a probe they conducted into NYCHA. In their report, they found that Shola Olatoye, the head of NYCHA, had lied to Department of Housing and Urban Development about lead paint inspections. These inspections pertained to an astronomically high amount of potentially hazardous apartments-

Roughly 55,000 apartments face possible toxic contamination

-about 55,000 apartments total. Children, who are the most vulnerable to toxic lead levels, live in around 4,000 of these NYCHA apartments. Not only did NYCHA not actually carry out inspections and repairs – which they revealed they do not have the capacity to actually do—they lied to the federal government about doing it. The DOI's report is biting toward the Housing Authority, accusing the organization of "systemic mismanagement." This issue has been going on for years.

As this story broke, more information began to be revealed to the public in the backlash surrounding it. The *Daily News* broke that the Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio, was aware of this issue since last year. The mayor said

in an official statement that they will be keeping Ms. Olatoye, announcing that they "do not believe there is any evidence that anyone intentionally made any misstatements to HUD". The mayor is standing by Ms. Olatoye, who he appointed to head up NYCHA back in 2014.

It is unknown if Ms. Olatoye will face criminal charges. An individual can be charged with up to five years for providing a false statement for the government, when one is fully cognizant that it is false. So far no criminal charges have been filed, and legal analysts are split on whether anything will arise out of this.

After this news broke, NYCHA began to frantically go apartment to apartment to make emergency visits and repairs. However, things get more controversial as NYCHA workers had the right

to enter into the residents apartments if they were not present at the time. If the workers could not get into apartments, they were allowed to break and replace the locks for each room, and residents would have to pick up new keys for the replacements. This adds another layer of controversy to an already disheartening and murky situation.

NYCHA is an organization that is meant to do good for people who are very much at need in the city of New York. This massive oversight hurts NYCHA's credibility and hurts its residents. Up to and possibly over 4,000 children were and are at risk of toxic lead levels. This is 2017, not the 1940's. This is completely unacceptable for a government organization tasked with such an important task.



Fordham Community Comes Together for ThanksGiveAway

by Rachel Poe and Declan Murphy
Opinions Co-Editor and News Co-Editor

Fordham Commuting Students Association (CSA) held their annual Thanks-Give-Away in late November, an event that combines food, entertainment, raffles, and charity.

CSA puts on this event every year as a way to raise money for the Bronx community. At the door, CSA asked for either a \$5 donation or 5 canned goods for five raffle tickets and a \$1 for each additional ticket. Typically, CSA donates all the funds to Part of the Solution (POTS), a food pantry in the Bronx. But this year, CSA decided to expand their reach. This year's donations were made to Part of the Solution's food pantry in the Bronx and hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico. In total, CSA raised \$1300, and collected 4 crates of canned goods to donate to POTS. A spokesperson for CSA said that they were inspired by Fordham's "Ignatian tradition" to broaden the scope of their service.

Commuter Students Association Holds Dinner Event for Charity

Dinner was served consisting of Thanksgiving favorites: turkey, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and, of course, some delicious caf cookies.

The night began with an invitation and prayer from Fordham's own Father Lito to kick things off. The event was then filled with performances from student groups. This included Rose Hill's four a capella groups--- the B-sides, Ramblers, Hot Notes, and Satin Dolls – as well as dance team Candela Latina.

Rita Padden, FCRH '18, from the Fordham Hot Notes expressed her

gratitude for the opportunity to participate. "Thanks-Give-Away is such an amazing performance opportunity for the Hot Notes. We were incredibly excited to receive the invitation to sing in such a supportive environment with all the amazing talent Fordham a cappella

has to offer." Padden further stressed the importance of community. "It was great to see so many people turn up, and for such a worthy cause!"

Other attractions included a photo backdrop styled to look like the Old West, a functioning mechanical bull,

and a raffle. The raffle, sponsored by Fordham alumni groups as well as Fordham administration, included guided tours, dinner with VP Gray, Fordham memorabilia, gift cards, and tech accessories.

The event is also open to Fordham alumni, and also includes a raffle specifically for Fordham alums. One alum in particular was proud to participate: Siobhan Donahue, FCRH '17, former Co-Editor in Chief at the paper and Executive President of CSA was excited to come back, saying "I enjoyed seeing CSA do such a great job on an event that means so much to me."

For two hours, students were able to de-stress and forget about the piles of work waiting for them back in their rooms. Thanks-Give-Away was a fun night dedicated to a good cause. It was great to see commuters and residents coming together for good food and the slim chance of winning one of CSA's awesome raffle prizes.



FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Nick Peters

EVERYTHING IS FINE!

As with every other week since the election, everything has been perfectly normally and nothing has happened.

Our current presidential administration is the most controversy free any presidential administration has been in the history of this country. There have been less controversies than President Obama's administration, and that was pretty controversy free.

Our government has never been more effective and bipartisan than now. Congressmen meet and in open debate mutually agree on compromises for the benefit of the country. The recent congressional tax plan has been estimated to benefit not just one sector of the nation, but every American from poor to rich. In addition, they have a comprehensive global warming plan, which should help save our dwindling planet, as both sides of the aisle agree that this crisis is an extremely serious issue and would be asinine to turn it into a political issue.

In international news, nothing of note happened. Like literally nothing. Countries trade with each other. Any disputes that arise are quickly squashed by the United Nations just having the countries talk with each other to work out their disputes.

Americans can firmly wake up in 2017 knowing that the country is safe and quiet, both domestically and internationally. No one is threatening nuclear war. Our White House and government is controversy free. People love each other and peaceful marches of love and humanity happen weekly in the streets. Everything is fine and dandy. The news may be extremely boring, but hey, America and the world are peaceful and not in a constant state of anxiety, because that would suck.

In Alabama, Voters Pit Conscience Against Party

by Michael Jack O'Brien
Digital Editor

Roy Moore is an alleged pedophile and a sex offender. The Alabama senatorial race is currently neck and neck as the state struggles with the implications of Roy Moore's sexual misconduct accusations. Five women have already accused Moore of either sexual harassment or rape when they were minors, but despite these accusations the Alabama voting body appears to be relatively split on whether or not this disqualifies Moore from serving in the senate (just a reminder, Roy Moore is an alleged pedophile and sex offender).

Currently, Moore's opponent polls at around 50 percent of the Alabama vote, with Moore polling at around 47 percent of the vote. What could have caused this massive polarization? Historically speaking, it makes sense that a Republican candidate will always poll strongly compared to their Democratic counterparts in Alabama. However, this does not explain how almost half of the Alabama population can willingly stand behind an alleged pedophile and sex offender (Roy Moore is an alleged pedophile and sex offender).

One important explanation for Moore's continuing support might be that even though Moore has lost the support of the GOP nationally, with party leaders such as Mitch McConnell imploring Moore to drop out of the race and telling media that they will not support his seat in Congress, Moore still enjoys support by the Alabama branch of the GOP. Despite the accusations against him (Roy Moore is an alleged pedophile and sex offender), the chairwoman of the Alabama GOP, Terry Lathan, has decided to stand by Roy Moore, stating that there are no plans to remove or replace Moore from the ballot. "Judge Moore has vehemently

Alleged Pedophile Roy Moore vs. Doug Jones

denied the allegations made against him. He deserves to be presumed innocent of the accusations unless proven otherwise. He will continue to take his case straight to the people of Alabama." One can only wonder if standing by an alleged sex offender is a healthy strategy for the Alabama GOP (Roy Moore is an alleged pedophile and sex offender). Innocent until proven guilty is all well and fine, however considering the extenuating circumstances this doesn't mean that the party must believe that you're innocent.

even party leaders themselves know the extent of how widespread this issue is. In any case, alongside the high-profile accusations of Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Charlie Rose, and, most recently, Matt Lauer; the option of staying silent about sexual misconduct is becoming increasingly more perilous. Does this mean that there will be concrete consequences for this type of behavior in future? That is yet to be seen; Moore is still in the race, not to mention the fact that he has the full support of our president (Oh yeah I almost forgot, Donald Trump and Roy Moore are alleged sex offenders).

Most likely, Moore and the Alabama GOP are hedging their bets on the candidacy, assuming that, despite the allegations, Doug Jones will remain an unfavorable candidate. For example, Jones is pro-choice, a hot button topic for much of the Alabama voting body. Mix this with a general distrust of Democrats, and Moore remains a competitive candidate in the race. All in all, the Roy Moore story is just



The embodiment of all evil

Nevertheless, it seems that they will toe the party line on this situation, most likely out of fear that a Democrat could win a senatorial seat in a deeply red state. However, the accusations against Moore reflect more than the actions of one man and is symptomatic of a wider problem of sexual misconduct on the state and federal level. Most recently it has come to light that several members of congress, including Senator Al-Franken and Congressman John Conyers, have been accused of sexual harassment and inappropriate touching in the workplace. These accusations have, until recently, been kept quiet by Congress, with the exact number of allegations remaining out of the public eye. According to reports, not

another symptom of a wider epidemic of sexual assault in America, and even if Moore loses the race, it won't be long before the next Roy Moore is revealed to the public. It's almost as if this problem is endemic of a larger problem of systematic oppression and rape culture; who would have thought? Regardless, the race is still neck and neck. In fact, just as this article is being written, reports are coming in that appear to indicate Moore has inched ahead of Jones in the polls. One would think that being an alleged pedophile and sex offender in the highly religious and family value oriented state of Alabama would be major disadvantage; it appears that is not the case. The race is still a tossup, and it is up to the Alabama voting body to decide where they stand.

UN Event Aims to Make Fashion More Sustainable

By Robin Happel
Staff SAVIOR

While many of us think of the fashion industry much as Andy does at the beginning of *The Devil Wears Prada*, what we wear is far from just frivolous frippery. The fashion industry, in the words of Eileen Fisher, is one of the world's most polluting industries, second only to oil. Worldwide, one in six people work in fashion, over half of whom are paid under minimum wage and often toil in sweatshops with little safety regulation or oversight.

The recent U.N. panel and designer showcase "Fashion and Sustainability: Look Good, Feel Good, Do Good" aims to directly address these issues, as well as promote fair trade fashion. The panel, moderated by Patrick Duffy, the founder of Global Fashion Exchange, began with a short

speech by U.N. Chairman of Publications Maher Nasser, followed by a discussion of the social and ecological costs of so-called 'fast fashion,' the culture of consumption that drives Americans to throw away over ten million tons of textiles annually. Panelist Andrea Reyes, Chair of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, emphasized the moral responsibility of customers to wear sustainably sourced clothes, which her organization aims to make more accessible to low-income families with flea markets and clothing swaps throughout the city. Like many of the panelists, Reyes sees the fundamental problem as psychological, a disconnect between consumers and the real cost of the clothes we wear. In her work as an adjunct professor and as founder of A. Bernadette, a brand that works directly with artists in Uganda, Reyes hopes to connect the often insular world of Madison Avenue with the men and women who toil in workshops worldwide, supporting the over two trillion dollar industry.

Ashia Dearwester, an executive at nonprofit artisan network Nest, simi-

NGOs and Designers Aim to Reduce Waste

larly stresses the importance of fair trade fashion for women especially. She notes that homework and craft is the second largest employer of women in the developing world after agriculture. Slow fashion, as a foil to fast fashion, puts more power in the hands of local artisans and empowers women economically, as well as ensuring better working conditions,



and education for children who might otherwise be shunted into sweatshops.

Panelist Shivam Punjya, founder of clothing brand behno, was similarly inspired to tackle unsafe working conditions by the infamous Rana Plaza factory collapse, a tragedy some have compared to the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire as a watershed moment for worker's rights. Punjya emphasizes the importance of trust building with local supply chains, arguing poignantly that transparency is only possible once suppliers see an alternative to past exploitive practices. His brand name 'behno' means 'sisters' in Hindi, and it is this ethos of equality that dominates business practices, from behno's pledge to pay workers fairly to their efforts at reducing ecological footprint.

Amanda Carr, founder of consulting firm Canopy, is especially concerned by fashion's environmental impact. By her estimates, over 70 million trees per year are cut down to make viscose, rayon, and other fabrics commonly thought to be synthetic. Their

advocacy work stretches from the Great Bear Rainforest in Canada to palm oil plantations in Indonesia. Canopy claims credit for alerting major brands to environmental violations in the Amazon and elsewhere that would otherwise be ignored.

The panel discussion is followed by a fashion showcase from five fair trade brands. Designers span the globe, from Callina Style, which partners with Peruvian artisans and uses only ethically-sourced alpaca wool, to Indian couture brand Chirag Nainani. Artist Mariama Camara is based in New York City, but many of her hand-crafted designs reflect her West African heritage, and her cross-continent inspirations reflect her own globe-trotting life. As co-founder of the There Is No Limit Foundation, she is also deeply committed to child welfare and gender equality in her home country of Guinea, as well as elsewhere around

the globe. Noorism, another New York brand, upcycles denim and donates a percentage of its proceeds to clean water charities. Previously featured on Project Runway, designer Nathalia JMag is similarly committed to social equality, donating a portion of her recent profits to hurricane relief.

As models float between the narrow rows of the the NGO briefing room, the mood is effervescent, echoing the optimism of many of the panelists. The pulse of dance music muffles the murmuring of the crowd, and many seem to see such collections as an advent of what is to come, an end to a culture of casual consumption, and a return to truly valuing what we wear. Someday, perhaps, fast fashion retailers will give way to those who value elegance over ephemerality, and place people over profit. Until then, it will be up to us to more carefully consider our choice of clothing, and count the true cost of what we wear.

Reader Than Fact

By Declan Murphy

The Legal System Has a New (Unlikely) Champion for Justice: Kim Kardashian

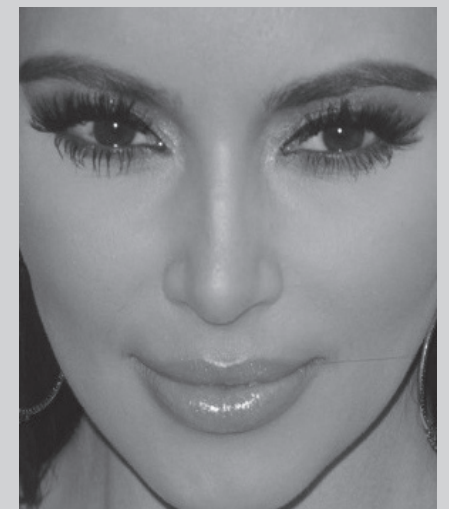
Kim Kardashian is known for many things: her reality show, marriage to Kanye West, controversial magazine covers...But now she can add "champion of righteousness" to her resume.

Kardashian has offered legal support and resources to two women who are facing disproportionate retribution from the legal system.

The first is Cyntoia Brown, facing a life sentence. Brown was sex trafficked as a young girl. At 12 years old, she shot and killed a child predator who was assaulting her. However, for her bravery she was tried as an adult and sentenced to life in prison. As the details of the case have gained media attention, celebrities are spreading the word to get Brown freed. But only Kim K has pledged legal support.

The other case is Alice Johnson, a 62-year-old woman who has been serving 21 years of a life sentence for a nonviolent drug possession charge, her first offence.

Say what you will about Kim K-she doesn't just talk the talk. Her pledge to offer legal support will hopefully expedite the restoration of justice for these two women.



Fordham Brings Honesty and Storytelling to Emotional Event

By Anna Passero-Koen-
necke

Copy Chief

Our Story started their first ever program with a full house. They had to pull out more chairs so many people arrived. They provided cookies and hot chocolate for the milling crowd beforehand, which overall had a very positive vibe. The event opened with Charlotte Vitak, the founder of My Story at the University of San Diego, telling her story and what inspired her to start the program. She went from a small all girls high school where she felt safe and seen as a person, to a large college where she felt invisible for most of her freshman year. In her sophomore year she started going to more clubs and realized many other people felt like she did. Charlotte wanted to find a way to bring people closer together, and thus idea for My Story was formed.

The idea is to have members of a community come together and tell their stories of a deeply moving or difficult time in their life when they had to face adversity and were changed by it. It could be a one-time event or an ongoing struggle. For this flagship event at Fordham only students spoke, but at the University of San Diego they now have, in addition to the students, faculty, staff, and even people who live near the college speak as well, bringing all facets of the community together for great understanding and empathy.

Next came Amanda Vopat and Julia Gagliardi up to speak and tell why they brought the concept of My Story, redubbed Our Story for Fordham. Vopat told of how she first heard of My Story when she was attending an AshokaU conference for Fordham's Social Innovation Collaboratory. She went to a My Story event hosted by Vitak in or-

New club, Our Story, gives students a space to speak openly

der to support a fellow Fordham student who was participating, and told us how she was so moved by the event that she knew she had to bring it to Fordham. Like Charlotte, Amanda had also been feeling isolated and alone at college, and thought this would be a great way to bring people together. When she told Julia about her idea, Aman-

"The idea is to have members of a community come together and tell their stories of a deeply moving or difficult time in their life".

da learned that Julia too had suffered from feeling isolated, and the resolve to bring My Story, now Our Story, to Fordham was strengthened.



Before the storytellers for the night came out the audience was told about mental health and emotional support resources available to them in case anyone felt emotionally triggered by any of the stories told that night

event was to bring students together and foster greater empathy in the community, and it was under no conditions to be reduced to gossip. In addition to this, they very important point was made by Charlotte that "No one can tell a story like the owner." There were five students from different campuses telling us their stories,

and needed to reach out to someone. These resources included the health center and campus ministry. They also requested that students not talk about and spread the stories outside of the event, as all were very personal and for several students this was the first time they were telling anyone of their story. It was made clear that this

and the event lasted about an hour and a half all together. The stories were accompanied by slide shows containing important pictures and quotes that the students felt would help enhance their storytelling, making the event a much more visually involved experience than I first expected. Overall it felt somewhat like a mixture of a TED Talk and a slam poetry event, yet more personal than either. Some of the storytellers used poetic motifs to pull the story together, such as a phrase repeated throughout their story, but none of them felt as stylized as poetic readings often do. Some of the stories were told in a very straightforward fashion. The variety of ways the stories were told made it very clear that we were hearing each tellers individual voice. The audience was very respectful throughout. At the end Charlotte came back to the front to close out the tellings.

Afterward the storytelling was over, we as an audience were encouraged to meditate on our feeling and then to turn to our neighbor, who in my case was someone I had never met before, and share how we felt. We then each wrote down a word on a sticky note summing up the main emotion from what our partner told us and to put it on the wall in the back. Our words were "Embrace" and "Empathy." Attendees were told they could take any word they felt they needed off the wall. There were also empty book for each of the storytellers that the audience could write notes to them in.

Overall Fordham's first Our Story was a huge success, and they hope to do one every year, possibly every semester. From what I observed the event was successful in their goal of fostering empathy and closeness in all that attended. As it continues and grows, I predict Our Story will make the Fordham community a better place.





OPINIONS

I Swear I Will Have Fun Senior Year or I Will Die in the Attempt

By John Looby
Editor-in-Chief

Hey, at least one of us is enjoying ourselves

Senior Year of college, what a time to be alive and by alive I mean bouncing between the pure stress of entering adulthood and the joy of entering into a new phase of my life. I'm quickly being made to come to terms with the fact that I am either (A) "sooo fucked man how do I even do all this and be happy?" or (B) "on the way to a successful and fulfilling adulthood." In my mind there is absolutely no in between and yet honestly I'm having the most fun I've had throughout my entire time here at college. Something about being so close to graduation feels like I can give myself permission to do all the fun things I once considered myself too busy to put the effort into when I was an underclassmen. At this point I will confess that I already do have a job lined up after graduation so that of course does have a huge impact in reducing all that stress some of my other jobless peers may be experiencing, but even with that in mind I think senior year is a great time to finally let yourself cut loose.

I'm burning through my bucket list as fast as possible. I'm almost to the point where I'm stressed by all the fun I need to have.

As an underclassmen I constantly thought to myself I don't have time to go into the city or I don't have the money. I was to say the very least superbly naive. I deprived myself of so many great experiences just because going to the subway seemed like too much of a hassle compared to just



Actual photo from the future

staying on this to be honest stunningly beautiful campus. Once I had a pretty great reason to go into the city (dates) I realized I could do so much more with my college experience. Since then I've been a fucking roll of adventure folks.

I've seen more concerts in this single past semester than I had in all previous years combined. I've seen bands I've dreamed of seeing for years and I've had great company at all of them. Yes, that is indeed my sly way of admitting

to being in a relationship. Moving on. Going to school in New York City is one of the greatest opportunities for experiences that any of us will have in our life times and it's a shame that we squander so much of it just going to the same three bars every weekend until you can recognize where your

friends are based on the lighting of their snapchat stories. College for all the stress that we place on ourselves is a relatively low risk environment compared to the doom and gloom of the adult life that us seniors are approaching at an alarming rate. I won't be able to just abscond from responsibilities and spend my day at the MoMA and movies on a whim when I'm at Fort Leonard Wood for five months.

I would recommend to everyone that you grab up every last glimmer of fun before the fun police come, rain on your parade and make you understand taxes and disposable income. For me this year is all about doing those things that senior in high school John said he was going to when he got accepted to schools in the city. I'm burning through my bucket list as fast as possible. I'm

almost to the point where I'm stressed by all the fun I need to have.

Of course with all this fun there are some low points. The biggest of course being the fact that my time here at the paper is coming to an end. Being trapped as an editor down here in the basement of McGinley has been an honor and a privilege. Having a place for hours long rants about niche pop culture has been a much appreciated refuge. I'll save the true outpouring of emotions about the paper for another time though. I think the only other really key low point is knowing that I'll be saying goodbye to an environment that allows me to do nothing besides dedicate years of my life to studying literature. The hours I spent in the classroom with professors I admired aren't something I'm quite ready to give up.

Even with all that I'm giving up here, All I can say is that senior year here at Fordham so far has been a gift. I've been having a blast and I can't wait to see what next semester has to offer me. Without the paper or really many classes at all I think I'll finally get to finish all that I need to do in the city before the I let the army ship me off and send me onto my next big adventure.



bye y'all

Fordham's Unknown History: Russian Marxists and Extinct Birds

By Anonymous
Staff Indiana Jones

Anonymous contributor tells all, including the bit with Gorbachev

As its students know, Fordham's Rose Hill campus boasts a multitude of landmarks and significant locations. From the courtyard next to Queen's Court where Lana Del Ray was said to have composed some of her most famous songs to the tunnels beneath Eddie's Parade, there is a great deal of history to be found on our 85-acre share of the Bronx.

Unfortunately, many of these historical sites have gone unnoticed. Because of a lack of funding sometime in the 80s, Fordham was forced to de-fund its historical preservation efforts. Years of subsequent neglect have led the sites to ruin; some were bulldozed to make room for new buildings, while others simply withered away.

The loss of these sites is tragic. Dozens of marvelous statues, landmarks, and historical places that gave the students a fascination and respect for the history of Fordham have been swept away, lost to the inevitability of progress. It is highly disappointing to see students walk right past places where great monuments once stood, unaware of their existence.

Thankfully, Fordham kept detailed records on the construction and deconstruction of each of these sites. During my time as an intern at the prestigious Fordham Archaeological Finding and Searching Association, the institution responsible for the preservation of the sites while they still existed, I was able to uncover these once-proud places and their

past glory. In fact, the only reason that I knew about these sites and was able to write this piece was that I had access to those records. For reasons beyond my knowledge, Fordham, in recent years, has taken extreme action to destroy these records and cover up the fact that certain historical landmarks on this campus ever existed. This is why I will remain anonymous; Fordham's current political regime does not take kindly to leakers.

All fears of assassination aside, I am here to inform my readers about the forgotten history of Fordham's Rose Hill campus. I do this with the hope that my readers will become more aware of their surroundings and the history that surrounds them. Let this be a re-birth, a Renaissance, of the knowledge of our collective history and the important traditions that make us whole. We, the students, must be united in heart and mind in learning about our past and deciding what to do with our present. I now humbly present to you the first installation in a series of articles about Fordham's unknown historical landmarks.

1) The Tomb of the Unknown Dodo

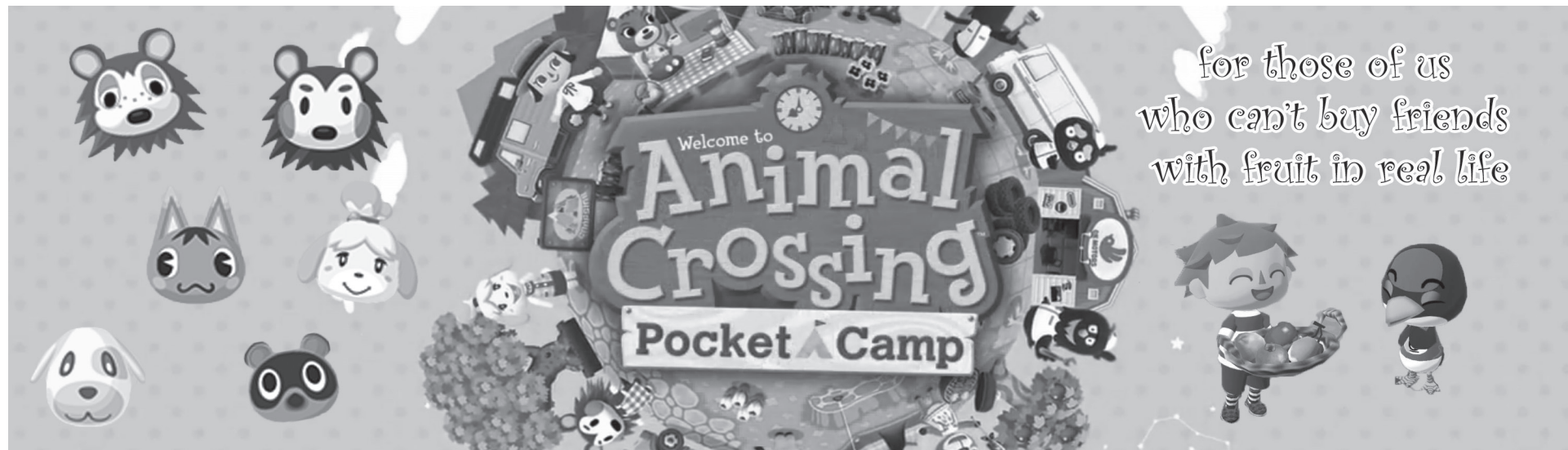
This grand memorial to a member of one of the most famous extinct species was located in the basement of the building now known as Duane Library. Interred within the magnificent grave was one of the last known Dodos to ever walk this cruel earth. Father Patches O'Hoolihan found this particular Dodo on the platform of the Fordham 4 train in

the midst of the devastating 1968 cocaine storms. It was weak and malnourished, apparently due to a lack of water and an excess of cocaine. Sadly, despite all attempts to nurse this Dodo back to health, it passed away on January 16th, 1969. Because of its debilitated state, it was never able to tell any of the medical staff its name; according to Chief Surgeon Dr. Zong, the Dodo managed to muster a noise that "...was similar in frequency to a brain-melting gamma laser" and "forced [Dr. Zong] to come to terms with the fact that he didn't love his wife anymore." When Fordham's administration announced the plans to raze the tomb and build a library on that space, the feeble and wheelchair-bound Father O'Hoolihan protested. However, after leading a hunger strike to show resistance to the demolition of the tomb, the already weakened O'Hoolihan passed away, thus ending his resistance and allowing Fordham to continue with the construction. The entrance to the tomb was sealed off, and the remains of the Dodo were taken to an undisclosed location.

2) Trotsky's Bathtub

It's a little known fact that Russian Revolutionary Leon Trotsky, upon leaving Norway in 1937, stopped by New York City for a quick sightseeing tour before heading to Mexico. An even littler known fact is that Trotsky secretly stayed for a few nights on Fordham's campus, smuggled in by Russian spies who had cleverly disguised themselves as Jesuit priests. Unbeknownst to Fordham,

Trotsky was hidden in the basement of the Fordham Clandestine Operations Base, which also served as the "pleasure quarters" of Kim Jong-Un's great great great grandfather. Because of his proximity to the luxurious lifestyle of Un's ancestor, Trotsky was able to enjoy the full amenities of a proletarian establishment: mattresses made out of cotton from 100% collectivized farms, soap that smelled like class struggle, and, most importantly, bathtubs that filled with the blood of the bourgeoisie. Trotsky seemed to favor one bathtub in particular; he wrote in a letter to his comrades back in Russia that he "had a great affection for this one bathtub... and [he] couldn't explain why." When the pleasure quarters were discovered in 1954, Fordham destroyed everything except that bathtub, because a mysterious public safety officer known as M.G. successfully petitioned for its preservation. M.G. enshrined this bathtub on top of the Public Safety office, where it stood until 2006, when the Fordham Administration realized that the officer known as M.G. was actually Mikhail Gorbachev with a really good disguise (Jesuits were much easier to fool back then). Even though the bathtub is gone and all legal documentation of the event have been quarantined to the darkest depths of Fordham's archives, Trotsky still lives on in the \$1,000,000,000,000 water bill that Fordham is still paying back to this day.



Attention Abroad Students: TripAdvisor is Your New Best Friend

By Claire Nunez & Michael Sheridan
 Editor-at-Large & Arts Editor

Reviewing on TripAdvisor is super therapeutic and helpful

To be completely honest, Yelp and Google Reviews cannot even compare to TripAdvisor. This review site is just so honest and true, and really elicits the best results for travel. The two of us bonded more over the fact that our abroad experiences can be read online. We decided that we should write a review about our time on TripAdvisor because it holds such a dear place in our hearts.

Michael Sheridan:

I remember my very first trip when I went abroad. It was to Paris with 4 other people I barely knew. Although I had a basic knowledge of the sights in Paris (Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Arc du Triomphe, Notre Dame, etc.), the trip was still a disaster. We had no idea where anything was or where to get dinner, and beyond these top sights we were at a loss of what to do. Vowing never to again waste a weekend walking aimlessly through a European city, I made sure to plan every trip to the minute going forward. TripAdvisor made this possible. It introduced me to amazing places and activities that I had never heard of. It helped me figure out which cities had the most things to do in them. I even began to use it to discover hidden gems in Rome, which was the city I was studying in. However, I never set up an account or even considered writing reviews of my own.

Fast forward to the end of the semester when a friend was able to sign me up for this amazing VR tour

of some of Rome's ancient sights. We walked around the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Palatine Hill learning about the ruins. The fun part began when we attached our VR headsets. Suddenly, the space came alive with reconstructed ruins as they would have originally appeared. It was simply stunning for a history and art guy such as myself. And this entire experience was free of charge—barring

a new place, I was already drafting my TripAdvisor review in my head. It felt good to know that I was helping other travelers, providing them with unique and off-the-beaten-path sites, alert them to scams, and just generally share my thoughts about places.

Upon my return, I still reviewed places on the site; however, I will say the frequency has diminished. There's just something about being abroad and reviewing unique and exotic places that is addicting in a way that America has failed to capture for me. For me, TripAdvisor and study abroad will forever remain intertwined in my memory.

smooth criminal personality persuaded me. Let's just say, this was a mistake on his part. His restaurant was not that good, and I am not shy when I don't like something. I left a rather scathing review with a few sprinkles of niceness, and I fell in love. I fell so deeply in love with writing reviews. I was up all night writing about all of the places I've visited.

My reviews became a personal journal for me that other people could base their travel decisions on—I would rather people not make decisions based on my actual journal. Because TripAdvisor forces you to say what context you visited the place under, I can look back and remember who I visited Budapest with, who was with me when we saw that fight in the Red Light District, and what I ate at a specific time. I would say that this stuff doesn't really matter, but to be honest, I have forgotten so much about my trip already. There are so many things going on. Each day just blends into the next. Before I know it, I'll be home.

Time goes by so quickly. I want to remember everything about my time in Amsterdam—the good and the bad. TripAdvisor is my new favorite hobby. I have fallen so deeply in love with keeping track of everything, and because it is like a job, I have to do it. I hope that one day, I can read my reviews with great fondness and maybe go back to those places to review them again.

Claire Nunez:

If you have read anything that I have written in the past few months, you'll know that I currently live in Amsterdam. I feel like I have done so much while I've been here, but I have recently been struggling to remember exactly what and when and with whom. Living abroad is a whirlwind experience. It goes by so quickly and it is tough to remember everything that has happened. This is why I am constantly reviewing on TripAdvisor.

My love affair with TripAdvisor began when a rather attractive waiter told me to review his restaurant. I was hesitant, but his dapper smile and



that I was required to write a glowing review of the company on TripAdvisor. A good deal in my opinion.

Later that night, true to my word, I created my account and wrote a review of the tour company. As I was sitting there, I realized I had a few extra minutes and might as well review some other businesses in Rome I frequented to help out those places as well. Suddenly, I found myself reviewing places almost every night. It started with businesses, then I moved on to sights and museums around Rome. Then I began to review places I'd been during my travels. Before I knew it, I couldn't stop and whenever I visited



Attention: All Mistle-Hoes

Report to Santa's Workshop
 Tuesday, December 26th for some
 Jingle Bells and Peppermint Sticks



The End of an Era: Fordham Says Goodbye to Beloved Auntie Anne's

By Christian Decker

Staff Pretzel Enthusiast

As a freshman at Fordham, it has taken me a little while to get used to all the sites, sounds, and nuances of living on campus and taking classes. My first week wasn't exactly what you'd call fantastic. Sure, my orientation group was really nice, but I lost my room key on the second day of orientation. Not fun at all. One of my biggest concerns however, was what in the Lord's name was I going to be eating.

After a couple months on campus, I kind of got the lay of the land in terms of what's good. Cusi, A Crust Above, and Urban Kitchen are nice, and the caf is there to get you through—you get the gist. But one thing that has always remained a constant favorite is the Auntie Anne's pretzel place below Queen's Court. Whenever I felt a little overwhelmed with work, or I just needed to eat my feelings with salty or cin-

Why must they take away my pretzels??

namon pretzel goodness, that's where I would go. It was the first place I went to that I made me say, "Damn, this is really good".

Now Fordham wants to take that away from me. I'm genuinely upset about this. I didn't really have a pretzel place like this back home, and it's nice to have a place to try some new things. The plan is to replace the pretzel job with an extension of the convenience store set up they have going on right next to it. They sell various over-the-counter medicines and various hygiene supplies at a convenient location (because, you know, convenience store). The university want to expand on it due to the success and popularity of this little cabinet of health-related products the administration. Now I would say that makes a lot of sense, it would be good to give a place for students to get supplies really close to home. Of course,

it would be a good idea if we were not in one of the most central, store-filled places in the freaking Bronx.

There are stores that sell everything

Nothing this store could possibly offer me would bring me as much joy as pretzels.

out there. It is a 5-minute walk from here to stores that sell the same type of goods. There is literally a Walgreens across the street from the library gate. I just don't get why we must close the Auntie Anne's to get stuff that is so easily accessible near campus. I mean, I don't know of any other pretzel places close to here. Why must you rip the joy out of my overworked and tired fingers?

I honestly can't think of something

better you can put in place of that pretzel joint. I mean, sure, there are a lot of food options but how often do you run into pretzels? Sure, there are street vendors or mall food courts, but let's be real, do you really trust those? Nothing this store could possibly offer me would bring me as much joy as pretzels. I don't think anything really brings me as much joy as soft pretzels. Yes, there's family, friends, my girlfriend, shredding guitar solos and all that jazz but who am I kidding here, soft pretzels are the best. They provide a bonding experience for you and all your fun college friends. I'm sure it's probably good stoner food as well. They aren't incredibly expensive so you could theoretically shovel a lot into your stomach.

Fordham, please don't close Auntie Anne's. I would really appreciate it. Sincerely, an impressionable freshman.

Dogs: the Evil on the Other End of the Leash

By Marty Gatto

Staff Feline Fanatic

Dogs are evil. Yes, dear sinner, they may deceive you with their looks. Yes! Dear sinner! They have pinch-able cheeks, they have fluff, they have the works. Evil. Just looking at the face of a Pomeranian fills me with visceral rage. For I, dear sinner, have not fallen victim to their works of deception—nay, I have discovered them. Though it has taken lots of thinking and lots of time to gather my evidence, I am finally able to, within my capabilities, aptly delineate the devil that is in the dog.

"Every animal that parts the hoof but is not cloven-footed or does not chew the cud is unclean to you. Everyone who touches them shall be unclean" Leviticus 11:26. Anyone know where that's from? Uuum, only a book you might have heard of called THE BIBLE! Dog's hooves are split into not one, not two, not three, not four, but five divisions (four claws and one palm). Five: the same number of points in a pentagram. That doesn't sound cloven-footed to me. And I'm sure they don't chew the cud; just look at them—they eat kibbles and bits! Can dog-food be made into cud? I do not think so.

Editor's note: this article does not reflect the views of the paper

Furthermore, dogs, as Leviticus very astutely points out, are unclean. Not only are they unclean, but they also make you unclean. Upon touching a dog you are contaminated with their wretched stench. Whenever they get wet, it is proven, the sin seeps out.

Additionally, dogs are wildcards. They're unpredictable, mutinous rebels. One's pet should be servile (like a good cat<3), not rebellious! With cats, you can orchestrate when and where they eat, when they play, and even where they void themselves. With dogs, however, it is not so simple. The average dog is inclined to, upon identifying the food of their master, beg. In doing so they invoke inter-species warfare. Additionally, the average dog has too much bite-force for its own good. They often chew and destroy items, such as shoes. And it is well known that dogs fetishize the shoe, much like the sinning man. The dog can very easily instigate play with any number of objects not intended for this activity and, in doing so, invokes more inter-species warfare. Primary out of these three grievances, though, is the gastrointestinal habits of the dog. They either demand to be lead to

their fecal destination by the human, or simply release themselves upon one's beautiful carpet. This, more than anything else, invokes inter-species warfare.

Finally, I must very briefly touch



Editor's note pt 2: Seriously! How can you not love this face??

most importantly on the outrageous indulgences humans have granted themselves in regards to caving to the canine demon. First and foremost—clothes. Humans cover the dogs' sin and grant the demon more luxury than it requires. They unwittingly cover the five divisions of their paws with one dog-shoe. And they hide the devil's fur with luxurious dog-sweaters. They even pamper the dogs to the extent that they remove their sinful stench upon bathing, effectively destroying any mark of their evil. All this, dear sinner, is truly the sign of the devil.

These reasons are what I have found to be the evil on the other end of the leash. If we think dogs are so harmless now, why not unyoke them? The answer is because we are, deep down, afraid. We are afraid of what they are capable of. We are afraid of what they can do. This, dear sinner, is why I resign myself to the most conservative of cats or even, I must confess, fish of the most ostentatious colors.

the paper's view

This year was...just, ugh

I think I can honestly speak for literally everyone ever when I say that this year was an unmitigated shitshow that we are all thankful is on its way out. Because, let's face it, this year was garbage. Hot garbage. Calling this year a garbage fire seems insulting to garbage, fires, garbage fires, and several thousand years of human history in which we burned our garbage for stupid things like warmth or whatever.

But hey, at least *The Last Jedi* comes out in a week.

Honestly, I think that it's the little things like movie premieres and concerts and lunch dates that keep us going when everything around us is falling apart. It gives us something to hold on to when the wind kicks up. I think that, especially in a time when press freedom is constantly under attack, I'm grateful that I had *the paper* around in my life. Without *the paper*, I never would have looked at journalism as an option in my life, never met the amazing people I have, whose work is so difficult and time consuming but also so important. I have nothing but praise for this dinky little publication I've called home for the last four years, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for it.

In closing. There are two quotes I've been thinking about a lot. One is from a song, the other is from a comedian.

The chorus to The Mountain Goats' "This Year" says what I think a lot of us have been saying:

I am gonna make it through this year if it kills me.

Patton Oswalt's late wife Michelle used to have a saying, which was:

It's chaos; be kind.

Thanks,
Luis

Well Umm I guess This Part of My Life Just Ended

I have been an editor here at *the paper* since I was a freshmen. I can't even remember what it was like before I surrendered whole weekends to this crazy mess we call a publication. I'd be lying if I didn't admit that without *the paper* I'm going to be a little lost. For the last few years this has been my favorite place to burn away a whole weekend.

It has been a genuine honor to serve as co-Editor-In-Chief of this monstrosity. Where else could I have published hundreds of words of vulgarity and criticism toward an unsuspecting world.

In all seriousness I will miss everything and everyone that *the paper* brought into my life. I have no idea what comes next, but I do know that I can trust in *the paper* to keep on producing the same let's describe it as "diverse" level of content.

the paper is love

the paper is life

I'm sad to go,
John

Sporps With Scott

This Week in Kneeball:

Hey sporpsfans! As we are only a few weeks into the nine-month pre-Roderick Heffley Memorial Cup break, we won't have much to cover in the wild world of kneeball in this column. We wish Yarnell the best of luck in completing their "desert deprivation" training. We've already gotten word that three of their chiefs have been stricken with dehydration and heat stroke. Hopefully, the Blobfish will be able to finish off the rest of their nine months with all (or most) of their squad. Reports from West Virginia tell us that Paw Paw has been excelling in logging with the mountainfolk. Rumor has it that a pair of grooms may have even been recruited full-time to the mountain lumber jack team. This could be a bargaining tactic as contract renewals come up, but we hope the Corkboards will be able to fill out their ranks come August.

Chilly Sporps Facts:

Fordham has a hockey team. No, I'm not joking. It's a club team, but it's still real. This is not a joke. I cannot emphasize enough how much this isn't a joke. They play at the Ice Hutch in Mount Vernon.

Originally, the biathlon was termed a "square-athlon" and consisted not only of skiing and shooting a gun, but also setting a table and putting a star on top of a thirty foot Christmas tree with no ladder.

Frosty the Snowman has now happily retired as a ski jumping slope. He is very much enjoying not having to feign interest in a new group of obnoxious white kids every year.

After autopsy on the corpses of every Soviet hockey player from 1964 to 1980, doctors have determined that they were all genetically engineered super-men. For some unknown reason, this is where they chose to employ their scientific advancement.

Sporps Abroad:

New Japan's 2017 World Tag League is in full swing, featuring the official New Japan debuts of Sami Callihan, Jeff Cobb, and "The Kentucky Gentleman" Chuckie T. Block A currently stands with five teams tied at six points: Suzukigun (Minoru and Takashi Iizuka), Death Juice (Sami Callihan and Juice Robinson), LIJ (Evil and Sanada), Bullet Club (Hangman and Yujiro), and CHAOS (Goto and Yoshi-Hashi). Two teams tied at four points: Bullet Club (Bad Luck Fale and Chase Owens), Tenzan and Kojima. Manabu Nakaniishi and Yuji Nagata are in last with two points. Block B currently stands with two teams tied at eight points: The Best Friends (Beretta and Chuckie T.) and Guerrillas of Destiny (Tama Tonga and Tanga Loa). Four teams are tied at six points: CHAOS (Ishii and Yano Toru), WarMachine (Hanson and Rowe), Killer Elite Squad (Davey Boy Smith Jr. and Lance Archer), and Jeff Cobb and Michael Elgin. Finally, two teams are tied with zero points: Henare and Togi Makabe and Young Lions David Finlay and Katsuya Kitamura.

An Open Letter to the Man Who Raped Me

By Anonymous

CW: rape, sexual assault

Some things are easier to look at by not looking at them directly both literally and metaphorically. That is how I feel about you. I don't want to think about you. I don't want to see you. I don't want to see your work. I don't want to hear other people talking about you.

It's not so much this thing that happened, this thing that you did to me, made me feel dirty or tainted. You did not traumatize me. I did not become depressed. I am not haunted by memories or frightened of other people because of you. For that, I am thankful. But you did something to me beyond the obvious and it has taken almost a year for me to be able to even think about it long enough to begin considering the ramifications of what happened.

For a long time I was just angry. Angry at you yes, but more angry at myself. Formless anger. The kind of anger that has no outlet, no place to go. The kind of anger that just sits and consumes and infects everything about this life I know to be mine and this person I know to be myself. With the anger also came confusion. How could I be so stupid? How could I have let this happen, not once but twice? Why didn't I say anything? I knew better. I, of all people; I, who never backs down from a fight to defend women's rights; I, who defines myself proudly and unapologetically as a radical feminist, should have known better.

The thoughts come and so does the guilt and embarrassment and the self-blame. They come unbidden and unwanted and without real conclusion.

Why didn't I say no. It's not like it's difficult. Why was I so naïve. I knew better. I should have known better. Why did I go back. Why am I blaming

A contemplation on how to move forward

myself. I know it's not my fault. It's never the girls fault. But it was my fault. I did this to myself. No I didn't. Yes I did. No. Yes. No. But also kind of yes. Yes.

The thoughts come and so does the guilt and embarrassment and the self-blame. They come unbidden and unwanted and without real conclusion.

I used to think I had the answer, or at least an answer. A question of rape (a word it has taken me months to own and one I still don't entirely feel entitled to) has a simple answer. It is not the economy, where there are multiple solutions and no one really quite knows the best way to fix it. Rape is simple right? There is the rapist and the person who has been raped. The person who has been raped is not, under any circumstances, responsible for what happened to them. The rapist is entirely at fault and, in a just world (of which I have no delusions we are currently living) will get outed and tried and punished with a sentence that matches their crime (not any of this three months nonsense, looking at you Brock Turner). This is what is right. Make men accountable for their behavior. Make rapists afraid forever. How simple it all is in the abstract. How simple it should all be in practice.

There is nothing like real experiences to make one question one's beliefs, and you sure made me question mine. There is something very invigorating about being able to stand up with sweeping statements of moral fervor and declare right from wrong. There is something equally crippling about having those ideas internally challenged. Maybe that is part of "growing up"; one learns the world is more complicated than one thought. Maybe that is "truncated emotional/moral development"; one has great discrepancies between what one believes and what one does. Either way, it is a challenge to one's worldview without recourse to a better alternative.

Because what does one do when one of the central pillars around which one has created ones identity is the kind of radical feminism that believes in challenging misogyny and patriarchal oppression at all costs

without concern for the comfortable and security of male egos, and yet one cannot bring oneself to out one's own rapist?

There is something very invigorating about being able to stand up with sweeping statements of moral fervor and declare right from wrong. There is something equally crippling about having those ideas internally challenged.

I know all the reasons I should. In not outing you, I am allowing you to do this again to other people. I am being complicit with you preying on other girls. I am letting you think your behavior is okay, or at least letting you know there are no consequences for what you do.

I know all of that. It hurts me. And I still can't.

Not yet. Maybe not ever.

Hopefully not not ever.

The problem is you scare me. Not physically. But the idea of you scares me. I could make up some rationalization as to why this is but I'm not sure there is a reason. Like the anger, the fear is formless.

Fear of not being believed. Fear of what this means for my own future. Fear of what it would mean in terms of publicity to out an internationally-published photographer. Fear of nothing but also of everything.

That too feels so incongruous with the person I thought I knew myself to be that I don't know who I am. I cannot be this person, but I also cannot be anyone else.

This destruction of self-identity and self-trust more than anything is the true damage you inflicted on me. I feel ripped between the person who

stands up against rapists and the person who has been raped. And I don't know how to reconcile these two halves of myself anymore. I don't know how to move forward from here.

You did this. You did this to me. I don't even know if you know how big of an impact you had on my life. I wonder if you ever think of me and what you did. I hope you do. I hope it haunts you. I hope it eats you up inside.

But it is unlikely. Most likely I am just a blip in your life. Your life of photographing dancers and models, safe behind their praise and, judging by Instagram captions, admiration of you. I hate that. I hate you. I hate myself for being so stuck here; thoroughly unable to leave you behind either by letting it go or by letting everyone know what you did.

So what now? Where do I go from here? I'm out of simple solutions. I guess all I can do is fight for the things I believe in and trust that my own inability to follow through does not diminish the message of equality and demands for male accountability that I espouse. What else can I do except treat kindly and compassionately my sisters who have been harmed by social misogyny, work towards creating a world where this does not happen, and hope that one day I will have enough fortitude to come forth myself?

Editor's note:

If you need to speak to someone anonymously, you can reach the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673

You can also send a message to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741



Dubious Leonardo Da Vinci Painting Sells for \$450 Million

by Michael Sheridan
Arts Co-Editor

It is ironic that a painting of Jesus Christ, who preached always to help the poor and less fortunate, recently sold for the unbelievably large sum of 450 million dollars at Christie's Auction House on November 15 at the Post-War and Contemporary Evening Sale. This immediately threw the entire art world into a frenzy. The biggest question on everyone's mind continues to be who could have bought the work, and what will he or she do with it?

Long before the sale even began, Christie's had been priming the art market to spend money on the piece. The painting went on a multi-city tour, attracting huge crowds everywhere it went, as the auction house put it on public display. The marketing team continuously pushed the falsehood that it was the last Leonardo painting in private hands, even dubbing it "The Last Leonardo," despite the fact that there is at least one other painting by the old master in private hands. The auction house also referred to the work as by "da Vinci" as opposed to the correct, scholarly "Leonardo," when discussing the work in order to attract more general audiences and increase the public hype of the work. Furthermore, the auction house made the odd decision to include the piece in its Post-War and Contemporary sale alongside works by Warhol and Twombly, citing that Leonardo is the most influential artist of all time and continues to be relevant to this day. While this claim is highly doubtful, most analysts believe it was included to further drive the price up,

Likely bought by world-famous art collector, Monty P. Moneybags

as Contemporary sales attract buyers willing to spend a lot more as opposed to the more conservative buyers that typically attend Old Masters auctions.

What is even more remarkable is that among art historians, the jury is still out on whether Leonardo even created the piece to begin with. The work was only recently "re-discovered" to be by Leonardo, however several prominent members of the art community doubt its authenticity, citing the odd way that the light passes through and the orb that Jesus holds. Scholars believe that someone with the scientific knowledge of Leonardo would have been more apt at depicting the light. What everyone agrees on is that the painting itself has been painted over and sloppily restored several times through its centuries-long history, leaving the painting dingy and not all that great. Had the painting been by any other artist, it would likely only sell for a few thousand at most, as it is not particularly good, especially compared to other Leonardo's and Re-

naissance paintings.

Tickets to the actual auction were nearly impossible to get. The event was invite only, and several important journalists and collectors reported being turned away. Only the very top collectors that already had an established relationship with Christies were allowed to attend. While the exact list of guests is not public, Leonardo di Caprio was allegedly in attendance. Thousands more watched the live stream of the event. The painting had a guarantee to sell for 100 million and most estimates placed the sale around 130-140 million. Yet as soon as the floor opened to bids, it was clear that this initial estimate would be blown out of the water. Bidding remained extremely competitive until an anonymous phone bidder raised the price from \$380 million to \$400 million, an alarmingly huge jump for auctions, which was the final selling price of the work. The remaining \$50 million are the buyer's fees which Christies gets to collect (the other \$400 mil-

lion goes to the Russian Oligarch who sold the work).

The previous auction record for any work of art pales in comparison at \$179.4 million (a Picasso), and the sale even beat the most expensive price ever paid for a work of art at \$300 million, which was sold in a private sale. It is clear to anyone familiar with the art market that the buyer did not buy the work as an investment. No one will ever be able to pay more for the painting if the buyer tries to resell it. And no amount of tickets to a museum could ever pay back the price of the work. The buyer simply bought the piece so that he could hold the distinction of having paid the most for any work of art in history, and to ensure that this record would not be beaten for quite some time.

Many feel that this sale has forever changed the auction market, as houses will now focus on selling big blockbuster pieces to reach their sales goals as opposed to trying to sell many pieces for less. Of course, the question still remains of who bought the work and what will happen to the Leonardo. It is likely that someone in either Asia or Russia purchased the work, as the wealthy sheiks of the Middle East would not spend this much on a painting of Jesus, and American and European collectors simply don't have the money to buy such a work. Only time will tell as to what will happen with the painting and to whom it was sold, if he or she ever decides to be revealed publicly.



EVENTS

What: Gamers United Meeting

Where: Hughes C04A

When: Wed. Dec. 6th @4 PM to 6 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: It's the last meeting of the semester! Smash Bros. and Mario Kart will be available.

What: American Age: Candy Gram Delivery

Where: McGinley Lobby

When: Thurs. Dec. 7th

How Much: FREE

Why: This event is sure to be sweet!

What: Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Where: McGinley Student Lounge

When: Thurs. Dec. 7th @6 PM to 7:30 PM

How Much: TBA

Why: What a great opportunity to compEAT!

Rachel's Rad *Justice League* Review

by Rachel Poe
Opinions Co-Editor

Honestly, I think I'm lucky regarding the fact that I didn't grow up with any Marvel content. With each movie that comes out, my only expectations are rooted in the trailers and the previous movies. The problem with *Justice League* is that I have too many eggs in my basket. I grew up watching DC shows and movies and just being obsessed with this universe of superheroes. *Batman: The Animated Series*, *Teen Titans*, *Justice League* and *Justice League Unlimited*, *Young Justice*- each of these shows send me spiraling back to different points of my childhood with a smack of nostalgia. So far, though, the DC cinematic universe has not been living up to the expectations of my childhood. Well, expect for *Wonder Woman*, but who doesn't like *Wonder Woman*? *Man of Steel* was okay, *Batman v Superman* was a large pile of nothing until those electric cello riffs signaled the glorious return of Diana, Princess of Themyscira, and, oh God, don't even get

me started on the Academy Award Winning *Suicide Squad*. *Justice League* was a make or break for the DCEU.

For what it's worth, I enjoyed the movie. After dealing with constant poor reviews and "*Justice League* is going to be terrible" from my friends, I wasn't the most optimistic fan in the theater. But I tried to keep an open mind and yeah, I liked it. It's not going to be nominated for an Oscar anytime soon or go down as the greatest superhero movie, but it was a much-needed step in the right direction for the DCEU. Truthfully, it highlighted one of the glaring flaws of the DCEU -- that it's trying to do in one movie what Marvel did in six. If the DCEU continues to try and keep pace with Marvel, they're just going to face-plant time and time again. They just

Editor may like Gal Gadot...a lot

need to do their thing, build their universe then bring it together.

Okay, let's discuss the plot. It was... okay. It could have used some better writing and another 45 minutes of content. Steppenwolf as a villain was kinda lame not gonna lie and the Mother Boxes could have used more development too. Unfortunately, there's two cut scenes from *Batman v Superman* and *Wonder Woman* that would have set up *Justice League*. Especially since not every viewer knows the grander context of the Mother Boxes and Darkseid. It was definitely a movie for cliché fanboys, especially considering how many times I saw Gal Gadot's butt! There's literally a scene that just pans down her back and up her butt, like what the fuck guys? That's ridiculously unnecessary.



Wonder Poe

if he could pull it off. The CW's *The Flash*, is campy and a little pathetic at best, but this Barry Allen was awkward, funny, and naïve in the best ways. What's important about the Flash's character is that lack of experience doesn't take away from his ability to be a superhero and it didn't in the movie. Plus, some of my favorite moments were when he trips at high speeds because same, bro.

Aquaman and Cyborg were good too. Not as developed as I would have liked, especially Aquaman. Cyborg at least had a side-plot that involved his father so that added to his depth, but Aquaman pretty much goes from "I work alone" asshole to "reluctant team player" asshole. Not to say that Jason Momoa's Aquaman wasn't great, it's just that the writers could have tried a little

harder. But that could be said for most of the movie, let's be real.

(And yes, I'm specifically ignoring Bat-Fleck. It's not worth my time *hairflip*)

But there's actually a lot of good that happens in this movie. Wonder Woman, Diana Prince, Gal Gadot- whatever you want to call her, she was fantastic regardless of the blatant sexualization. In the aftermath of her stand-alone, Diana is grappling with reclaiming a leadership role because it went so well the first time. It's a classic moral dilemma for superheroes and it works here. Diana usually plays the role of the "heart" in various *Justice League* continuities, so it was nice to see her step into that role again. And, like, realistically, she's the only one who should be leading the team anyways. She's the one with extensive military training.

The Flash, played by Ezra Miller, was actually really hilarious. I had my reservations about Ezra Miller, I didn't know

of the day, *Justice League* isn't perfect but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the movie. The biggest issues with the movie came down to pacing and conflicting director visions. Despite my intense dislike for Joss Whedon and his fake-ass feminism, he was the saving grace for *Justice League*. These things can be overlooked easily when you reprioritize what you want out of this movie. If you haven't seen it, try to stay optimistic. The dynamics are enjoyable, the fight scenes are mostly kickass, and there's a couple surprises that I think most people can get behind.

I Sat Through Every Marvel Movie At Once and I'm At Peace

by John Looby
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Can't wait for *Avengers 12* to drop in 2049

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is by far my favorite film franchise. I've seen every single entry at least twice and then I made a drastic decision about a week and a half ago. I would watch every single entry in the franchise in chronological order in the binge to end all binges. I'm here to tell you all that it was worth it. I say 'worth it,' and by that I mean 'literally only do this if you're completely obsessed.' Halfway through *Thor: The Dark World* I realized that this was not a thing that a rational human being should be doing and then I kept going because *Guardians* and *Winter Soldier* were next and that is my

this year. *Justice League* was meant to be the tentpole film of DC's franchise, and for its whole duration I couldn't help but think why did this happen this way? I'm a human being and so I love Batman, but when my brother asked

I will binge watch them on my death bed.

"is there something after the credits?" I answered "I don't care we're leaving." While rewatching the Marvel movies I elected to sit through the entire credits of each one because I'm a purist, and

universe. Cranking through all of these movies really does feel like exploring one single cinematic world.

When I hit *Avengers: Age of Ultron* I took a moment to ask myself "John, should you keep doing this to yourself?" I paused watched an episode of *Parks and Rec* and regained my strength. Then I knew I had to keep going. Nothing was going to stop me from watching *Spiderman Homecoming* again. When I caught back up to the films released this year, I felt old. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has been raising me since I was 11.

Watching 15 straight Marvel movies over the course of roughly a week and a half was at first a great patch of shameless nostalgia and then towards the end a haunting reminder that time never stops moving forward. Around the time that I was finishing up these movies Kevin Feige announced that after *Avengers 4* Marvel has another 20 films in the pipeline. Twenty movies, I can't even wrap my mind around the idea of what these 20 films are



crack. I finished this binge and some small part of me has died.

The films began almost a decade ago, when I was a smaller, just as nerdy human being. I remember freaking out at the idea of seeing *Iron Man* in theaters. Also at this time, I thought that *Ghost Rider* was a good movie. So my standards were definitely not the best, and yet, I still agree with 11 year old me. *Iron Man* is great. Rewatching this film, it's easy to understand how from this single film a massive franchise emerged. Somehow the special effects in this ten year old movie held up incredibly well, to the extent that Iron Monger, whose special effects were done a full decade ago, looks far better than Steppenwolf from *Justice League*, a film released

I didn't want it to seem like I was ignoring my girlfriend's texts.

Marvel has perfected the art of making it feel worth it to sit through every aspect of their films. Knowing that even the credits will lead to something that advances the overall plot of the universe makes watching *Iron Man 3* butchering the Mandarin worth it (kind of). Watching all these movies felt like a Netflix binge except the budget for the tv show wasn't somewhere between whatever is in my wallet and maybe enough for like one good special effect. Some people complain that Marvel's cinematography can be bland, but when watching them all in succession this "blandness" felt essential to having the films function as a cohesive

going to be and also how it is that I am going to binge watch of all them in one week when I'm an adult with a job? I will be old and shitty and they will still be cranking out these films. I just want to say that I will of course show my children every single one of these films before they are allowed to make me go see a film starring whoever the next *Iron Man* will be. For me though it is truly alarming to ponder the idea that the Marvel films might continue well after I am dead, but they are going to at this rate. Marvel has created an unstoppable series of films and I will binge watch them on my death bed.

SHOWS

What: Jeté's Final Performance

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Fri. Dec 8th @9 PM

How Much: TBA

Why: Sounds like a good time.

What: UNICEF: Unity Concert

Where: McGinley Ballroom

When: Fri. Dec. 8th @8 PM

How Much: TBA

Why: Come support UNICEF's concert!

What: Metamorphosis

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Fri. Dec. 8th @ 9 PM, Sat. Dec. 9th @ 2PM and 8 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Because the word metamorphosis is cool.

Staying Fresh in *Splatoon*, Nintendo's Inkcredible New Series

by Matthew Whitaker
Arts Co-Editor

Splatoon, Nintendo's second-newest inklectual property, was launched in 2015 on the Wii U console, with a sequel released this year on the Nintendo Switch. The *Splatoon* games are third-person shooters where characters known as Inklings battle each other with ink-based weapons. As opposed to the stream of hyperviolent shooters like *Call of Duty* and *Halo*, the *Splatoon* series offers a family-friendly alternative which is easy to learn. Rather than focusing on killing, or in *Splatoon*'s case, "splatting" other players, the *Splatoon* series pushes other objectives. The games build a unique marine-themed world based on skateboarding culture, using this basis from the games' visual designs to their superb soundtracks. *Splatoon* also has a friendly community which produces high-quality memes, though is torn apart by every Splatfest. The series forces its players to answer the eternal question...are you a kid or a squid?

Overall, the gameplay of the *Splatoon* series is inkcredible. Players are pitted against each other in four versus four battles, and each team has its own ink color. Inklings, the playable characters, are able to shoot ink-based weapons to cover the ground and transform freely between a humanoid form and squid form. In squid form, Inklings can swim in their team's ink, allowing for stealth and fast travel throughout the map. Inklings can be splatted by opposing Inklings' ink, and are slowed down when stepping in their opponents' ink. *Splatoon 2* offers five competitive multiplayer game modes, a co-op horde mode known as Salmon Run, and a fun single-player story mode which teaches the basics of the game. The first and flagship mode is Turf War, where teams

Don't get cooked, stay Off the Hook!

compete to have more ground covered with their own ink color than the opposing team at the end of three minutes. In the other battle modes, teams earn points by completing objectives like holding a specific area in their team's ink or carrying a powerful weapon into their opponents' base.

Battle modes are inkproved through the variety of creative ink-based weapons available. Weapons include guns which look like Super Soakers, giant paint rollers and brushes, buckets, umbrellas which act like shotguns, and much more. Each weapon type has plenty of variants with different stats, as well as a completely unique playstyle. While the Aerospray RG shooter (my favorite weapon) encourages turf coverage and avoiding combat, the Tenta Brella focuses on shielding teammates and one-shotting opponents. Weapons are unlocked as the player levels up, giving the game a sense of progression, and more weapons are being released through DLC updates.

Splatoon 2 adds an inktimidating new cooperative mode known as Salmon Run. In this mode, players work together to defeat three waves of vicious Salmonid, fish-like creatures which come to retrieve their eggs. Players must collect Golden Eggs from boss Salmonids, stronger variants of Salmonids with special abilities. To continue to the next wave, players must collect the required amount of Golden

Eggs. The mode will end if players fail to collect the Golden Egg quota in one hundred seconds or are all splatted at once. This mode is very fun, as players must cooperate and use strategy to survive the Salmonid horde and collect enough Golden Eggs. It is the main new experience in *Splatoon 2*, and can be played both online and through local wireless multiplayer.

The *Splatoon* series builds a unique world and theme by combining marine life with skateboarding culture. All the inkteresting characters in the *Splatoon* series include a plethora of anthropomorphized marine life, with the squid-based Inklings taking the spotlight.

If a good meme can get one thousand likes, how many can our troops get?



Their culture reflects and often parodies modern America and Japan. Inklings have smartphones in the shape of a squid, and the hub of *Splatoon 2* is Inkopolis Square, which is a reference to Times

Square in both its design and name. The battle stages further display Inkling culture, and are cleverly designed and visually stunning. *Splatoon*'s wide variety of stages includes a skatepark, an oil rig, an art museum, and much more. The *Splatoon* series also has an interesting backstory, detailing a war between the Inklings and their rivals, the octopus-based Octarians. This is explored in the games' single-player modes, where players are tasked with exploring the Octarians' lair.

Another area where the *Splatoon* se-

ries shines is its superb soundtrack. Most of the music is inkspired by rock and pop with *Splatoon*'s squid-based touch. While most music contains vocals, all the vocals are gibberish sung by Inklings, who speak their own untranslatable language. Most songs in *Splatoon* are tied to an in-game music group, the most notable being Callie and Marie, also known as the Squid Sisters. While I think Callie is the best of the duo, this debate was settled in one of the events for which the *Splatoon* series is best known.

Splatfests are events where all players choose a team to support and engage in a twenty-four hour battle to see which team comes out on top. Players must decide upon the universe's most inkportant questions, like whether dogs or cats are better. (I went Team Dog and won.) The event receives unique battle music and special nighttime versions of stages, making it very exciting. Players engage exclusively in the Turf War mode during Splatfests, and ink colors are based on the theme. (Shooting globs of mayonnaise-colored ink was interesting.) The winner is decided from a combination of both a team's popularity and win percentage.

The *Splatoon* series has been a hit since launch, with *Splatoon* for Wii U selling nearly five million copies. The series has a growing and enthusiastic fanbase. As the Captain of my squid squad, I can say that the *Splatoon* series is a blast when you have friends to play it with. Thanks to the Nintendo Switch, *Splatoon 2* has both online and local multiplayer capabilities, and can be played anywhere, anytime. (I play a lot in McGinley 2nd.) *Splatoon* has a bright future ahead of it, and is an inkcredible experience that's definitely worth trying.

THE RAPSITTIE STREET KIDS



A timeless, beautifully animated
fjdnafnfda Christmas fdkfjadfd
special for the whole family!

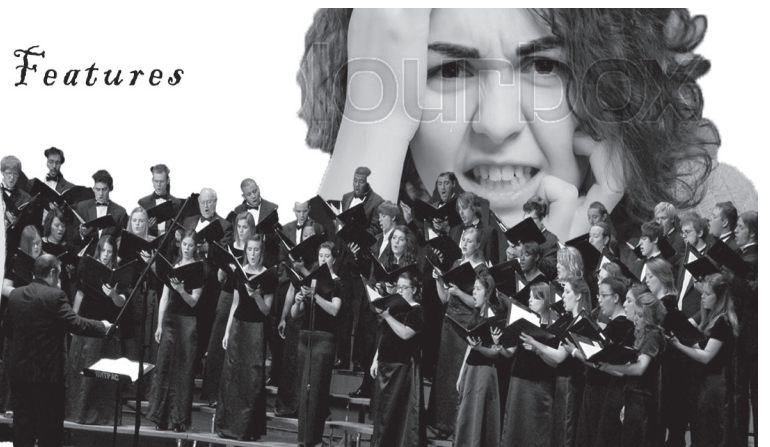
Watch on



this Holiday only!



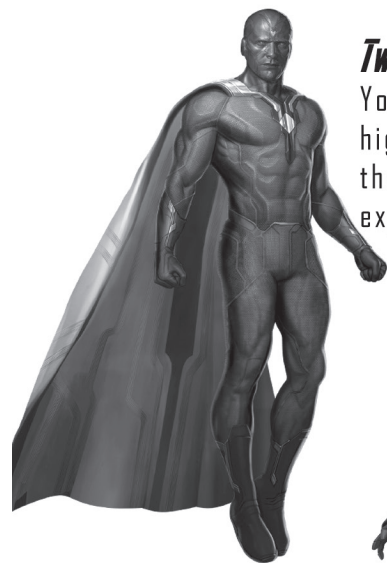
Features



WHICH SUPERHERO ARE YOU?

ARACHNID BOY

You're witty, smart and super popular, but your old friend group wouldn't let you chill with your more successful friends.



TWIZZLER MAN

You changed a lot since highschool but tbh ppl miss the old you. Everyone expects you to die.



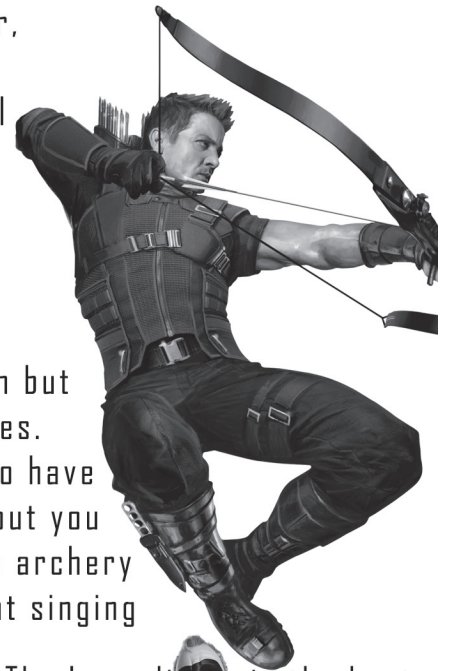
ROBERT STARK

You're basically the group leader. Outside the group everyone loves you, but you and your best friend had a falling out and made it awkward for everyone.



EAGLECORNEA

You're a fun person but no one really notices. The only people who have strong feelings about you are the guys at the archery club, and they aren't singing your praises.



GIRL

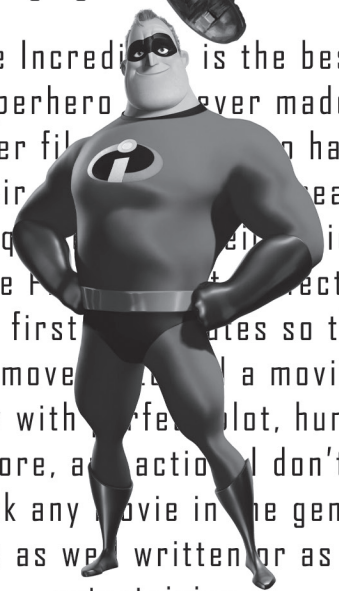


ANYONE REMEMBER THOSE WWII DONALD DUCK CARTOONS?

Robert Stark asked you to work in the group project and you've been leaving him on read ever since.

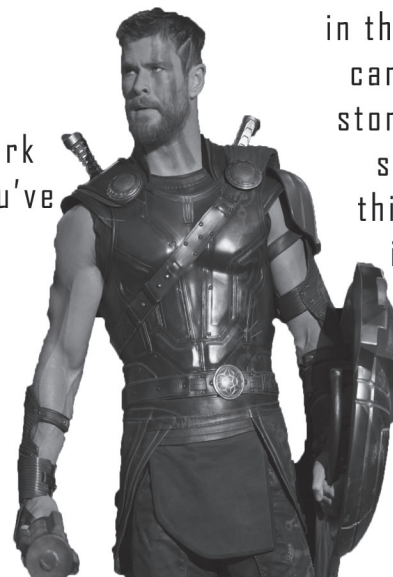


The Incredibles is the best superhero ever made. Other films have their own great concepts and ideas while Pixar perfectly executes in the first place so they can move forward a moving story with perfect plot, humor score, and action. I don't think any movie in the genre is as well written or as entertaining.



THUNDIS

You used to be in the drama club but improv changed ur life.





It's Christmas time again Ford-ham. That means family, peace, love, joy, and presents! But not all presents are filled with peace and love or what you put on your Christmas list. It's okay to say that sometimes they suck, like that alligator skin skirt or Lambchop puppet you got last year (literally we're in college why would that ever be a good idea). We asked our editorial staff what they think would be the shittiest Christmas present:

**The Worst Gift
by A Reasonably Picky Shopper**

Listen, I understand the utility of gift cards. You let the gift receiver pick out the gift, it's definitely useful, and no one ends up with something they don't want. With one exception: absurdly specific gift cards to stores you don't go to. Sorry, Aunt Shirley, I'm not shopping at Banana Republic, so this is card is USELESS. I realize it's rude to complain about what is essentially free money, but when that money only works at certain stores that I never got to, it's more of a chore than a gift.

**Coal is the Worst Christmas Present
by Bad Boi**

Um coal is obviously the worst Christmas present because it means you have been bad all year! There is absolutely nothing

worse than waking up on the most anticipated day of the year only to receive coal in your stocking and be left with the crushing realization that you are on the Naughty List. Better luck next year because Santa is watching! Literally...Santa is a product of systematic surveillance.

**Crappy Legislative Action
by Staff**

The Republican Tax Plan. Where's the gift receipt?

**Normie Noel
by Matty Whit**

There's a lot of bad Christmas gifts out there. You could get a copy of No Man's Sky. Or a basket of Neo Yokio merchandise. Maybe even a lump of coal. But the worst Christmas gift of all, worse than all the things I just listed combined, would be a normie meme. Giving someone a normie meme for Christmas is the equivalent of giving a rotten piece of ham that has been dipped in arsenic sauce. If someone gives you a normie meme for Christmas, that is code to say that he or she wishes to be your lifelong enemy. Trust me, I've seen it happen. This vile act of giving is the opposite of the true meaning of Christmas, and likely will cause the nearest puppy to cry. Santa will skip any house in which he detects normie memes, so be carefull this Christmas.

**Feline Phobia
by Canine Supremacist**

So Christmas is all about forgiveness, compassion, and love. Guess what present will literally shred all of those things and give its decapitated head: a cat. They squander affection, kill for sport, and only SOMETIMES love you like what kind of pet is that?? A cat is never an appropriate Christmas present. no. You get a dog that you can put in a super cute wrapped box and he can pop his head out and jump in your lap and jump in your heart and be your best friend forever and you go to college in state just to be around him.

Guy Who Claims to be Saint Nicholas but he Smells Really Bad

The worst present ever for Christmas. Well lets talk about how AMERICAN CORPORATIONS HAVE BASTARDIZED THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. Christmas is a holiday about me, Saint Nicholas, and how people should worship me. NOT ABOUT JESUS CHRIST YOU INSULENT FOOLS. AND NOT ABOUT PRESENTS EITHER. Look at me, look at my majestic gold beard. IS THIS WHITE! DID YOU HEAR ME MINDLESS CORPORATIOSN. SANTA CLAUS IS A BASTARDIZED ME. You see, they took my athletic body, and massive gold beard, made me a fat hunched over white haired man who wears red and white and

keeps an army of elves. THAT IS NOT TRUE. WAY TO TRANSFORM MY CHISELED GOD LIKE BODY INTO A FAT OL D MAN WITH A SUB-PAR COLOR SCHEME. YOU CAPI-TALISTIC PIGS.

Why Would You Get me Peanuts

Honestly, I think the worst thing you can get someone is something they're allergic too. It's a double, nay, triple hitter. First, it shows the person getting you the gift doesn't know you that well (that or they do and just hate you, ouch). Second, they're showing their apathy towards you as a person with something that can give you a bunch of hive or possible death in the opening process. Third, now you have this gift that you can't even pretend to appreciate reminding you of all the cool things you can't have while simultaneously forcing you to have an awkward conversation with your distant relative/coworker/best friend since childhood where you have to politely tell them what a fucking awful gift giver they are to their face.

**Aspiring Christmas Carolers
by Patiently Toofless**

All I don't want for Christmas, Is my wisdom teeth
My wisdom teeth
Just my wisdom teeth.

Do you consider yourself a top Björk stan at Fordham? Email rwang23@fordham.edu to join Bjork Stans United!



Sia
Everyday is Christmas
By Colleen Burns

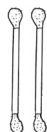
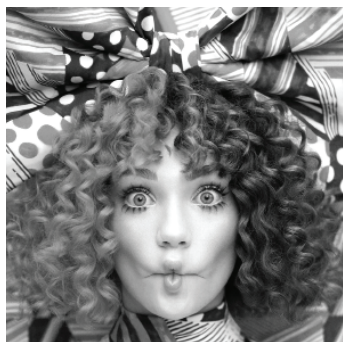
Sia dropped her first Christmas album just in time for the holiday season. She wrote the entire album in just two weeks, and honey, you can tell! I wasn't expecting to dislike this album because I love all things Christmas, but Sia proved me wrong. The album is entirely original songs, which while commendable is the reason for its ultimate demise. From "Ho Ho Ho bring a bottle of rum" (alluding to the pirate "yo ho ho" rhyme) to her mumble aesthetic, I'm pretty over this album! Honestly, Christmas deserves more.

Writing an original pop Christmas song is very hit or miss. For example, Kelly Clarkson's "My Grown Up Christmas List" and Ariana Grande's "Santa Tell Me" are total jams. However, Sia's depressing "Puppies Are Forever Not Just For Christmas" is a definite miss. This song seems like it's supposed to be happy and upbeat, but "found my best friend now at the old dog pound" just doesn't sound very uplifting. Also, you don't need two songs about snow. "Snowman" and "Snowflake" are both good songs, but come on, doesn't that seem a little repetitive?

Some of the better songs on this album are "Sunshine," "Everyday Is Christmas," and "Underneath the Christmas Lights." However, I still cannot predict if any of these will be playing on the radio come next Christmas season. I think my aversion to this Christmas album is actually Sia's voice. I love Sia's voice, I really do. But I just don't think her voice is very Christmassy, which I didn't think was a thing, but now I am sure it is definitely a

thing. Overall conclusions: I should've reviewed Gwen Stefani's new Christmas album, and that says something because Blake Shelton, the so-called "Sexiest Man Alive" (HA!), co-wrote it and is featured on it.

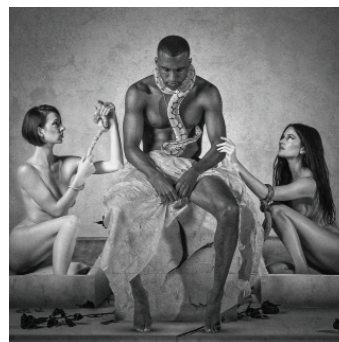
fav track: Everyday is Christmas



Hopsin
No Shame
By Michael-Jack O'Brien

Although Hopsin clearly has some modicum of talent for wordplay and a decent flow, I would be delusional to think that those things justify me listening all the way through this 17-track self-aggrandizing shitshow of an album. As is the MO for Hopsin's artistic style, the California rapper portrays himself as some sort of hip hop pariah, shunned by his peers who could never see that *he* is the true savior of the genre. People often equate Hopsin's flow and lyrical style to an Eminem reincarnation, constantly sniffing their own farts and telling themselves how great

they are. In *No Shame*, Hopsin borrows another note from the Slim Shady play-book and projects a massive persecution complex regarding a falling out with his Australian girlfriend, a violent altercation after which Hopsin was arrested and banned from Australia (although he vehemently denies that he ever got violent, even going so far as to paint himself as the victim—okay, Hopsin). This album is not good, but that doesn't even scratch the surface—the real cherry on top of this steaming pile of manure is the track oh so cleverly titled "Happy Ending," in which Hopsin describes in vivid, cringeworthy detail his exploits in an Asian massage parlor vis a vis Backpage. Hearing about Hopsin's sex life ranks somewhere between "the smell of Dick Cheney's taint" and "what does hydrochloric acid taste like" on the list of shit I don't want to know about. But more importantly, the song features Hopsin doing a blatantly racist impersonation of what I can only assume is an Asian accent, which I'm sure went over fucking great with his friends, but sounded to me like the laziest and downright tone-deaf attempt at humor since seeing Louis C.K say the N-word. Egotistical, tacky, and blatantly misogynist, this album is trash.



U2
Songs of Experience
Debate: Tommy Gerity vs. David Kennedy

Tommy's Take

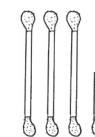
Songs of Experience, U2's follow-up to 2014's debacle *Songs of Innocence*, is possibly the band's least-anticipated album in the past three decades. Questions loom above this group of fifty-

some things: When will U2 quit? Who cares about U2? Will Bono ever take off his rose-tinted glasses? Casting doubt aside, the Irish group put forth their most honest and diverse record in years.

The record has many flaws. Without even listening, it's easy to hate an album with track names like "You're the Best Thing About Me" and "Love is Bigger Than Anything in Its Way." The band continues to rely on stomp-rock songs such as "The Blackout" and "American Soul" for masculine power-chord oomph, which has never been U2's strength. And in the case of those tunes, there are politics without poignancy (think "Refu-Je-Sus!"). There's plenty of recycled material as well: the opening of "Get Out of Your Own Way" is the combination of "Where the Streets Have No Name" and "Beautiful Day."

A good number of the songs poke holes in big egos, from Trump to Bono himself, with lines like, "You couldn't see that I was there, 'cause you were talking at me, not to me," and "The showman prays his heartache will chart/ Making a spectacle of falling apart." But while there is a lack of the palpable punk anger that has carried U2's best songs throughout their career, hope and rebirth in the face of fear are the blood in the veins of *Songs of Experience*. A line on the opening track reads, "This is no time not to be alive," and Bono sings, "I am made of all that I'm afraid of," on the post-punky "Red Flag Day." If fear is the tranquilizer of progress, then owning one's fears is the fortitude of change. It's powerful shit, and it's what people despise U2 for. As Bono puts it on "13 (There is a Light)," "I know the world is dumb, but you don't have to be/ I've got a question for the child in you before it leaves/ Are you tough enough to be kind?" Old man band or not, it's the question of 2017.

fav track: The Little Things That Give You Away



David's Take

Nobody really needs to say anything about U2's new album, *Songs of Experience*. I mean, nobody actually seems to pay attention to U2 as a band anymore. At least, not since last year when their previous album, *Songs of Innocence*, was forcefully digitally distributed to everyone on earth by iTunes.

U2's celebrity nowadays seems to be concentrated mainly around Bono's attempts at philanthropy and his general lack of self-awareness. His lyrics, both personal and political, come across as way too naïve and simple coming from a fifty-seven-year-old political activist. For someone claiming to be writing from experience, Bono comes across as pretty innocent when he's waxing lyrically over the bygone movement of rock and roll on tracks like "Summer of Love" and "American Soul."

But then again, U2's appeal was never about lyricism or songwriting. For the most part, they were beloved for the atmosphere they could create. They were an underground rock band with stadium appeal. That's what *Songs of Experience* is actually missing—it sounds too small, and not in a charming way. There is little to none of the stadium sized echo on this album that used to make U2's music somewhat believable in its grandiosity. In fact the guitar sounds like every other guitar on every mediocre indie rock song on the radio right now, guitar Dan Auerbach would be proud of.

Kendrick Lamar is here too, probably asked to return the favor after U2 performed on his last album. He doesn't rap here. Instead he does some ironic preaching as part of an intro/outro between songs, shouting things like "blessed are the liars/ for the truth can be awkward." I feel kind of embarrassed for him. This feature sums up my issue with the album—that it isn't believable. I don't believe U2 actually likes these sounds; I think they just want to seem up to date.

fav track: American Soul



Chris Stapleton
From A Room: Volume 2
 By John Looby

Chris Stapleton's *From A Room: Volume 2* is an album that practically does not exist. I'm not saying it is too short to be considered an album, although thank god it is mercifully short. What I want to say is that this album is a collection of unholy, brain-stabbing country tropes, so bland that that I as a functioning human being cannot rightfully justify that this album exists. At no point was I able to keep track of which song was which. It's like the sort of music an advertising company makes when they don't want to pay a musician for the rights to their music. Nothing about this is good. I review a lot of country music for *the paper* because apparently my suffering amuses my co-editors. This album feels like tracks cut from all the other painful albums I've had to endure during my tenure here. After this, I am freed from this prison. I will no longer have to listen to some fucking bullshit about dirt roads, trucks, and budweiser all set to the same few god-awful, shitty chords. Some factory exists out there where two fucking viciously cruel robots are going back and forth mass producing country music to finally destroy their human overlords. I object to this genre's existence and I will not miss reviewing it.

fav track: I object to the notion that I enjoyed any of this.



Indie Feels

BY DECLAN MURPHY



St. Vincent
 NEW YORK



The Wombats
 GREEK TRAGEDY



The Fratellis
 MEDUSA IN CHAINS



Coconut Records
 WEST COAST

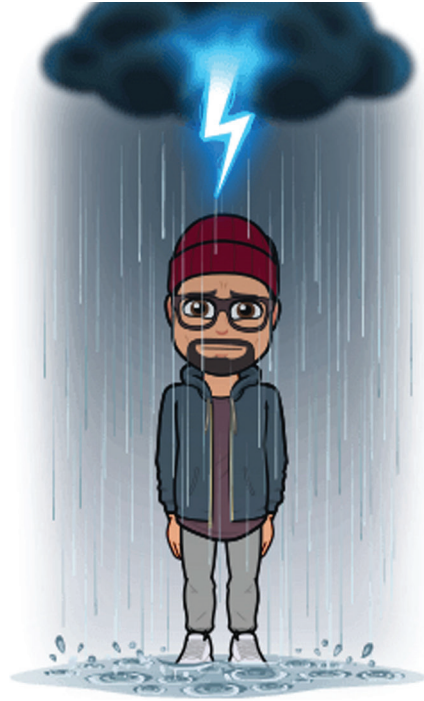


Rooney
 WHERE DID YOUR
 HEART GO MISSING



Father John Misty
 I WENT TO THE
 STORE ONE DAY





*From All of Us
A Heartfelt
Goodbye*

