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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.

"What pumpkin spice flavored thing are you?"

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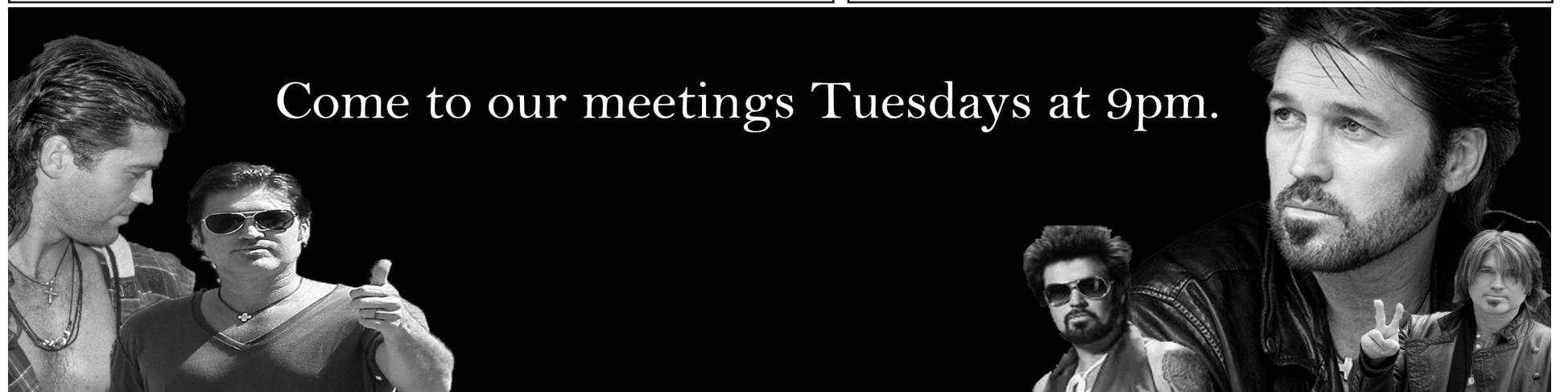
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Kavanaugh Faces the Senate Judiciary Committee

by Noah Kotlarek
Staff SCOTUS Watcher

“I like beer,” Kavanaugh insists repeatedly

Trump’s Supreme Court justice nominee—53-year-old, ultra-conservative, former Court of Appeals Judge Brett Kavanaugh—was nominated on July 10th, 2018, but his path to confirmation has been riddled with controversy and rescheduling. To become confirmed a nominee must be vetted through hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee. On September 4th, 57 days after the nomination, the hearings commenced, and on September 7th, they closed. During Chairman Grassley’s hearing introduction, Senator Kamala Harris (a possible 2020 candidate) interrupted, saying that the Committee had received 42,000 pages to review in less than fifteen hours regarding the hearing, so they could not proceed. Senator Klobuchar, Blumenthal, and fellow Democrats on the committee joined in as Kavanaugh entered and took his seat. Members of the audience began shouting about postponement. For an hour, Democrats and Republicans argued over whether it was fair to start the hearings. Eventually, the hearing began.

On Sunday September 16th, the day before the Senate Judiciary Committee was to vote on the nominee’s confirmation, things took an unfortunate turn for Kavanaugh. Christine Blasey Ford, a high school acquaintance of Kavanaugh’s, went public with her claim that, in 1982, when she was fifteen and he was seventeen, an intoxicated Kavanaugh pinned her down to a bed and “tried to disrobe [her].” Ford claims she was able to escape from Kavanaugh’s hold to a restroom. Kavanaugh maintains that the accusations are false. This

accusation gave the ten Democrats of the committee another reason, in addition to the 42,000 pages, to delay Kavanaugh’s confirmation.



The postponement was successful, and the Committee decided that the confirmation process would not continue until Kavanaugh and Ford testified at a hearing scheduled for Monday, September 24th. The committee rescheduled the confirmation vote for Thursday, September 27th.

Before Kavanaugh and Ford could testify in the hearing on the 24th, Ford’s attorneys said would not be able to attend the Monday hearing as “she ha[d] received death threats... and she and her family ha[d] been forced out of their home.” Ford later announced that she could be present at a Thursday hearing on September 27th. So, the date was set for the 27th, pushing back the confirmation vote date.

On September 23rd, another accuser spoke out. Deborah Ramirez, Kavanaugh’s Yale classmate, claims Kavanaugh exposed his penis to

her when the two were freshmen. Three days later, Michael Avenatti, esq. tweeted on behalf of his client, Julie Swetnick, saying she had seen Kavanaugh at high school parties

where he and his friends participated in inappropriate sexual acts. Kavanaugh has denied all of these allegations.

At 10:00 AM on September 27th the hearing commenced. Ford opened by giving a descriptive and emotional testament of the night she claims Kavanaugh assaulted her. Of the most memorable images in her story, “I tried to yell for help...when I did, Brett put his hand over my mouth to stop me from yelling. This is what terrified me the most and has had the most lasting impact on my life.” Ford believes her testimony was a “civic duty.”

Kavanaugh believes his path to confirmation has been unfair, pointing out that if you combined all the FBI and American Bar investigations, hours of hearings, meetings with senators, and written questions ever put against a Supreme Court nominee it would be less than that which Kavanaugh has had to face. He seemed to be asking, what more do you want?

In an attempt to undermine the accusations set against him, Kavanaugh claimed that “throughout [his] 53 years and 7 months of life on this Earth no one ever accused [him] of any kind of sexual misconduct.” Perhaps, if the accusations are false, Kavanaugh really wanted to say was that the Democratic party has used the power of the #MeToo movement in effort to thwart a Republican from filling a seat in Supreme Court.

But even if Ford has not publicly called Kavanaugh out, that does not mean the accusations are untrue. In an affidavit to the Committee, Ford’s husband relays that Ford “shared the details of the sexual assault during a couple’s therapy session in 2012,” years before Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination. Notes from a therapy session in 2012 read that Ford was assaulted by students “from an elitist boys’ school” (Kavanaugh attended Georgetown Prep) and her assaulter “was a “highly respected and high-ranking member of society in Washington.” Psychologists argue that it is not so easy to come public about sexual assault. Victims may be ashamed or afraid of repercussions.

The next day, Friday, September 28th, the Committee was to decide the confirmation, but it was rescheduled. The Committee did not vote on the confirmation, but instead voted to advance the nomination to the entire Senate. The Committee has ordered the White House to file an FBI investigation of the sexual assault cases. For Kavanaugh to be confirmed, Republicans need all but one of their senators to vote for Kavanaugh, assuming all Democrats vote against him.

Bill Cosby's sentencing in the Shadow of Kavanaugh

by Michael O'Brien
Executive Editor

Last Wednesday, a comedian and actor who had once been the embodiment of family values, trust, and laughter for millions of Americans across the country was sentenced to a prison sentence of three to ten years. 14 years ago, Bill Cosby, now 81, drugged and assaulted Andrea Constand in his home. For Mrs. Constand, and all other survivors of sexual assault, this conviction was a long time coming. While Constand's case was the only one to withstand the statute of limitations in court, it is suspected by many that Cosby was a serial predator, drugging and assaulting multiple women all across his long running career. Now, Cosby must acclimate to his new home, a state correctional institution in Phoenix, the end of a dark chapter in American History. But as one door closes, another opens, and as Cosby heads to prison, we are reminded that the specter of sexual assault is all around us, transcending race, class, and power.

While Cosby's conviction will certainly be celebrated, it is shadowed by equally sinister accusations elsewhere in American society. Cosby used his stardom and influence to prey on unsuspecting women, and in the wake of the #MeToo era much needed light has been shined on the uglier side of the entertainment industry, but with this said, even a few years ago it would be hard to believe that the same questions asked about Cosby's predatory actions would be asked of a candidate for the highest court in the country. While Cosby faced his prosecutors with an overly confident, self-assured smirk, Supreme Court candidate Brett M. Kavanaugh answered

Cosby was recently sentenced, Kavanaugh is being investigated

to his accusations with the rage of a man who had never been told he couldn't have what he wanted. Catherine Blasey Ford, now a doctor of psychology at Stanford University, described in harrowing detail an altercation she had with Kavanaugh when she was 15 in which 17 year old Kavanaugh drunkenly forced himself onto Ford alongside his friend Mark Judge. Fords account of the event is vividly detailed, with the doctor tearing up at the traumatizing

full heartedly that a political party is attempting to smear him, what does that say about his ability to be a non-partisan judge of the Constitution?). His defense was flimsy, and barely spoke of Ford or the events that allegedly occurred. Despite all of this, committee Republicans were wary of stepping out of line, with some senators, specifically Lindsey Graham, calling the hearings and by extension

for a week, pending an FBI investigation into Kavanaugh's background. No matter the results of this investigation, the fact that one need be conducted at all will undoubtedly cast a dark cloud on the candidate's nomination, even if such an investigation isn't a deal-breaker these days.

For sexual assault survivors, Ford's testimony was a symbol of strength, composure, and the will to fight for justice against an adversary which



has thwarted endless numbers of assault accusations before: belief. For predators like Bill Cosby, and those accused of similar actions, belief is both a sword and a shield; allowing onlookers to cast doubt on a survivor's account of events, and giving the accused credibility through their character rather than tangible evidence. For Cosby, the idea that "America's Dad" could be a predator was too much for many people to bear, and as such, some chose to disbelieve it in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Kavanaugh decided to take the offensive, opting to question the motives of

memory. However, Ford managed to keep her composure, no small feat when attempting to recount a horrific event in front of a committee of mostly men. Despite Fords account, Kavanaugh remained indignant, he smeared the entire exercise as nothing more than a well calculated attempt to ruin his career, he did not speak on Fords account, instead opting to accuse senate Democrats of character assassination (side note: if a Supreme Court nominee believes

the accusations "the biggest political sham in American history". It would eventually be announced that Senator Jeff Flake of Arizona, suspected to be the deciding vote, would remain in Kavanaugh's corner, and bring the confirmation to the Senate; however, after an emotional confrontation with sexual assault survivors after the hearing, it is revealed that the vote would be delayed

his accusers, allowing him to cast doubt on the charges. While the conviction of Cosby sent a message to the world that the shield of "reasonable doubt" is getting thinner and thinner, the hearings of Brett Kavanaugh serve as a stark reminder that for the thousands and millions of sexual assault survivors, belief in their stories remains as the largest hurdle on the road to justice.

President Trump speaks at UN General Assembly

by Destin Piagentini
Staff Globalist

On Tuesday September 25, Donald Trump stood before the United Nations general assembly to give a speech, reporting on topics including American domestic progress and the diplomatic role of the United States both now and in the future. Before a minute had elapsed, a confident Trump proclaimed, "In less than two years my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country." From within the chamber of the general assembly, laughter could be heard echoing throughout. President Trump paused, "So true." Trump was puzzled, thinking the room was laughing with him. Speaking through his own laughter, Trump was forced to acknowledge the sentiments of the room: "Didn't expect that reaction, but that's okay." In truth, this lighthearted (but important) moment was merely the prelude to a speech offering a dark interpretation of contemporary world affairs.

Trump's address started with a

U.S. President became a laughingstock on the world stage

focus on American domestic gains: "America's economy is booming like never before." Among the accomplishments of America, Trump specifically cited a stock market at record highs, an additional \$10 trillion in wealth since his election, and low unemployment rates - especially for minorities. Trump then shifted his focus to America's relationship with other countries: "From Warsaw, to Brussels, to Tokyo, to Singapore—it has been my highest honor to represent the United States abroad." Trump made sure to mention his recent summit (and friendship) with Kim Jong Un, and praised the United Arab Emirates for their financial support in helping the Syria crisis, a crisis which Trump denounced and gave hope for eventually taking down the al-Assad regime.

As Trump continued on, however, his vision for America's role in the future of international affairs become bleaker. Trump denounced China's trade history with the United States, stating

that the U.S. "will no longer tolerate such abuse," while reiterating his administration's controversial tariffs. In addition, Trump denounced the United Nations Human Rights Council (which the U.S. recently withdrew from), calling it a "grave embarrassment." Later on, Trump promised to reevaluate foreign financial assistance with Secretary Pompeo to ensure that only the nations with America's "best interests at heart" receive the aid they need. Even further, Trump plans to ensure that the U.S. will not lend more than 25% of the UN peacekeeping budget in an effort to hold other nations accountable. The president also mentioned illegal immigration, stating that they will not adopt the UN's global compact for migration. Among all these policies, Trump's vision for American diplomatic relations can be best summed up in just one quote: "We reject the idea of globalism and embrace the doctrine of patriotism."

While Trump focused a lot on distancing America from other

nations, some of the countries Trump praised raise questions. Most notably, Trump praised North Korea for their cooperation with America, despite still resembling a dictatorship and being suspected of committing multiple human rights violations against its citizens. Trump also praised Poland for their strides in reducing reliance on Russian energy, while also reprimanding Germany (an ally) for their overreliance on said energy.

The future of the United States' involvement in world affairs remains uncertain. Trump's claims certainly indicate that he seeks to go after a tougher approach when aiding other nations, and withholding America from globalist junctions like the UN Human Rights Council or the UN compact on migration. Only time will tell how Trump plans to implement these ideologies, but, for the time being, the U.S. appears to be moving towards a direction of increased self-reliance.

Governor Cuomo signs Medical Marijuana Bill

by Regina Sandoval
Staff Mary Jane

In an effort to minimize the growing death toll of opioid overdose, the state of New York has instituted legislation (S8987A/A 11011-B). The new bill, signed by Governor Cuomo, adds acute pain management to the list of conditions medicinal marijuana may be legally used to treat. Using cannabis to ease pain is a method aimed at reducing opioid prescriptions that too often lead to crippling addictions, and sometimes death. Opioids are derived from the Papaver Somniferum plant, or "poppy"; which is imported from Turkey, Australia, India, France, and Spain. These countries export poppy for legal, medicinal production, such as the manufacture of codeine, oxycodone, and morphine. Also called the joy plant, poppy is used to relieve severe pain, irritable bowels, and insomnia. If abused, however, opioids can damage the brain's ability to create vital hormones. Opioids enter through the bloodstream and create artificial endorphins and dopamine,

which are the chemicals responsible for happiness, pleasure, reward, and satisfaction. Once the body adjusts to a heavy intake of opium, the pituitary gland loses its natural ability to produce these neurotransmitters, and instead relies solely on higher doses of opioids to achieve positive feelings. This is why people who take a prescribed drug can quickly become addicted to the high it provides, as they are no longer capable of producing those emotions on their own. Once users develop a dependency on poppy, they resort to heroine from the street because it is cheaper and easy to find. Afghanistan has been the lead producer of opium for illicit use since 1992, and generates about \$4 billion in export-value by taking advantage of the vulnerable. Legal or illegal, opium is an addictive substance that only provides short term benefits. Medicinal marijuana relieves pain, calms nausea during chemotherapy, improves appetite in HIV/AIDS, reduces tics in Tourette's syndrome, and prevents seizures in epilepsy. The

medicinal uses of THC are vital to those who suffer from these illnesses, and its side effects are not harmful like those of opium. Governor Cuomo's intent with this bill is to promote healthier alternatives for pain management. Lieutenant Governor Hochul supports expanding the approved list of medicinal drugs, because she states it "provides New Yorkers with new options, and prevents the danger that comes from opioid addiction." This draft, rooted in intentions of providing relief and preventing drug abuse, is also a small step in the direction of the full legalization of marijuana in the state of New York. If marijuana were to be legalized, New York could add approximately 248 to 678 million dollars to its coffers. This estimate has a large range because it is unknown at what price marijuana would be sold and what taxes would be placed on its retailing. Although Cuomo has called marijuana a "gateway drug" when used recreationally, he is shifting his

position with this bill. Vermont and Massachusetts, New York's northern neighbors, have recently legalized marijuana, placing pressure on other Northern states to follow. Similarly, Cuomo has recently faced threats from opponents like Cynthia Nixon, who strongly favor legalization. As of August 2018, Cuomo has been working with an appointed team to draft legislation on the recreational usage of weed. Recent studies conducted by the Department of Health suggest that marijuana's positive impacts outweigh its negative effects. An important factor in assembling this group was realizing that marijuana laws are racist. In 2018 alone, 93% of low-level marijuana arrests have involved African Americans. The decriminalization of marijuana is essential to the progression of black communities and to the integration of social culture. Legalization will relieve physical pain from illness/addiction, as well as emotional distress from an unjust criminal justice system.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

by Christian Decker

Fordham Opens Seven New Starbucks

Fordham University has recently announced the opening of all the new Starbucks that will be opening around campus. The new “Caf-feine Craze” initiative is intended to make Fordham students more productive in their everyday studies as well in their quest to apply and be successful in internships. With kids being overly sleep deprived because of their many school and extra-curricular activities, the goal is to provide students with a health option to be able to power through their classes for the day.

The university noticed that the line was getting overly long in the Starbucks in Dealy Hall. With this long line, it makes it harder for Fordham Students to get their eight shots of espresso in the morning.. The university has taken pity on the students and decided to open a new Starbucks all across campus for better ease of access to hyperactivity drugs. The Starbucks will be opening in the basement of Keating Hall, right next to Faculty Memorial Hall, Inside of the McGinley Student Center, inside of the Walsh Family Library, for late night study sessions, inside a section of the P.O.D market, inside of the Lombardi Center, for the student athletes to power up in their daily practice, inside of O’Hare Hall, and inside of Loyola for the students participating in the Manresa program.

FDA cracking down on Juuls

by Daniel Fidanque
Staff Juuler

A Juul is a sleek device that is hard to spot, and can be discretely used in classrooms, movie theaters, and other public places, which attracts students who want to take the edge off. The company’s marketing initially began with adults, but because of its hip flavors such as Mint, Mango, Fruit Medley, Methanol, and Creme Brulee, experts believe that minors have become frequent users of this damaging device.

Juuls have become increasingly popular over the past few years and have created a vaping epidemic among minors in the U.S. Almost everyone at Fordham has a Juul or knows someone that Juul. Currently Juul controls 72 percent of the e-cigarette market in the U.S., according to CNBC. The company is on track to earn at least \$1 billion in revenue this year.

FDA Commissioner is requiring companies such as Juul to change their sales and marketing practices.

Because of this rising concern, the Food and Drug Administration has given Juul 60 days to prove that they can keep Juuls away from minors. FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb is requiring companies such as Juul to change their sales and marketing practices. The commissioner is also trying to ban flavored e-cigarette products from the market. Dr. Gottlieb and the FDA have been cracking down on e-cigarette manufacturers and sellers, including launching undercover sting operations targeting mostly Juul retailers who sell to teens.

The FDA is launching this investigation because they believe Juuling and vaping contribute to a large public health concern that has been around forever: smoking. Smoking kills about half a million people each year from related cancers and illnesses. While Juuls and other

Everyone’s favorite e-cig might be banned

e-cigarettes hold less toxic chemicals than a regular cigarette, the amount of nicotine in a Juul “pod” is enough to make a user addicted. This fact is concerning because many Juul users are minors. At this point in a human’s life the brain and body are still developing and getting addicted to nicotine can be threatening to these changes in the body. Some critics of Juuls say that many parts of the Juul and its vapor release system have not yet been studied and could create a larger problem. One Juul pod is equivalent to a pack of cigarettes, but public health experts are not aware of the long-term chemical effects on the human body. However, a Juul has always been a device aimed at

likely than not agree to give the rights of the Juul to a larger tobacco company since their company doesn’t only revolve around the Juul, but instead around a new industry, weed.

Co-founder James Monsees responded to this concern from the FDA, saying that he is willing to remove flavors, but “has not seen evidence that there’s causation necessarily for flavors being a lead-in for underage consumers. Cigarettes have been a major problem for underage consumers for some time.” This got me thinking that he does have a really good point since cigarettes have a distinct flavor and to end smoking you need to transition as far away from

that flavor as possible. Juul pod flavors were meant to lead smokers away from things that remind them of smoking. However, the product indirectly attracted new users. In reality smoking has been around for many years, but due to rising concern and investments into children’s lives, parents actually give a shit now.

Even if Juuls become extinct

because of new FDA regulations, the company has over 100 patents to its name with the ultimate goal of eliminating smoking from “the face of the earth” according to Monsees. I am really interested to see how they implement this goal and what their next step is to ending this epidemic because smoking is a cause of death that is preventable.



reducing adult nicotine addiction. If Juuls and flavored e-cigarettes are banned, there will be fewer alternatives for the initial consumer, previous cigarette users.

Besides banning flavors, Gottlieb and the FDA are also planning to stop the sale of e cigarette components online, since supposedly many kids stock up their Juul pods by buying in bulk because it is also cost efficient. In a recent interview, the founders of the Juul, who met while at Stanford University, said that they would more

Donald Trump continues to normalize the absurd

by Suresh Hanubal
Staff Trump correspondent

Trump has off-the-rails press conference

On 26th September 2018 President Donald Trump held the fourth solo press conference of his presidency. President Trump most likely held this conference in order to fight back against his administration's numerous scandals, as well as the incredibly controversial nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. The presser also took place only one day after Trump was laughed at while speaking at the United Nations General Assembly. This should have been a fairly straightforward speech by Trump. However, as with all things the President seems to be involved in, the conference quickly derailed and devolved into utter absurdity.

The 80 minute conference produced a number of memorable (yet extremely un-presidential) lines, as the President jumped from the trade war with China to his own long running "fame". One topic in which Trump spent a particularly inordinate amount of time on was Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh.

Trump said "I was accused by four or five women who got paid a lot of money to make up stories about me."

He defended Kavanaugh by comparing the accusations of sexual assault that the nominee has faced to his own. Specifically, Trump said "I was accused by four or five women who got paid a lot of money to make up stories about me." He implied

throughout the presser that the allegations against Kavanaugh were in a similar vein, aka not of merit. In the current tense and polarized political environment that the nation finds itself in, these comments can be seen as insensitive. In addition, Trump harped on the fact that Dr. Christine Blasey Ford did not bring up these accusations at an earlier time as evidence of the nominees innocence. This is a common talking point among a number of figures, but it ignores the trauma and shame that can result from being sexually assaulted.

North Korea was another major subject of discussion at President Trump's presser. He said that he didn't want to play the "time game" with the hostile East Asian power. By this it can be presumed that he meant that the United States could wait out on negotiations with North Korea until they further gave into our preconditions and demands, as we have the upper hand. However, as with most of the rest of the conference, this portion was filled with incoherent rambling. Therefore, it was often difficult to parse exactly what Trump was insinuating in each of his pronouncements. On a related note, Trump also discussed China at length during the presser. Perhaps the most widely quoted comment on China from this particular conference was that the government and people of China have much respect "for Donald Trump's very, very large brain". Again, as in the North Korean case it is very difficult to truly understand what Trump is saying here. Although it can be

presumed that he said this in order to deflect from rumors that Chinese and other global officials find Trump to be unintelligent. Another thing that Trump talked about at length during his press conference was his incredible amount of fame. Specifically, he proclaimed that he is "a very important famous person unfortunately". In a conference filled with random non-sequiturs it was a very fitting statement. As the United States is currently renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico, Trump also felt it necessary to make pronouncements on the state of the deal. He specifically attacked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his negotiation team, stating that he disliked the Canadian negotiator and was unhappy with their "mistreatment" of the United States. He further elaborated that Canada was "taking advantage of" America, through NAFTA.

On a lighter note, throughout the conference President Trump said a number of unverified and rambling statements. One of these was Trump pronouncing "You know I got 52% with women. Everyone said this couldn't happen - 52%". Trump in fact only got 41% of the Women's vote. Another amusing statement that he made was "This whole room would be filled up with hundred dollar bills." The list goes on and on, with nearly everything he said during this hearing being unintentionally funny. Although it may be great entertainment to hear the President of the United States say such ridiculous things in press conferences, it is incredibly worrying for the political health of this country that this is even happening.

Realer
Than
Fact

by Claire Nunez

Pee Drinking Mountain Goats in Washington State

So how often do you think about evil mountain goats? I have to say that I never do, but apparently there are mountain goats in Washington State that have a super odd craving for human urine. Yes, human urine. Sounds like my ex-- kidding. Olympic National Park has been airlifting the goats out because they have been attacking hikers. Human sweat and urine contain a ridiculous amount of vitamins and minerals, which the goats desperately want.

The mountain goat population is actually an invasive one that has been destroying the park's land and populations. The goats unfortunately need to be killed as they are serving as a threat to human safety. The park cannot implement any kind of birth control within the population because the animals are very ornery and difficult to catch. I feel a bit bad for the goats, as the park plans to reduce the population by 90%. At the same time, I would never want to be mauled to death by a goat for my urine. Just some thoughts.

Meet Queen Quet, an Alumni That Has Become a Head of State

by Robin Happel

Copy Editor

One of our most illustrious alumni hails from St. Helena, South Carolina. After graduating from Fordham, Queen Quet Marquette L. Goodwine became the first elected head of state of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, and has since spoken to diplomats around the world to advocate for her peoples' cultural heritage and rights. As residents of barrier islands across the American South, the Gullah/Geechee are highly vulnerable to hurricanes and other tropical storms, but remain undaunted in their fight to protect their ancestral lands. This is a glimpse of their story.

Q: What is your favorite memory as a Fordham student or alumni?

My favorite memory at Fordham was gathering with the other Black students to create "Molimo." It was our Black Student Union. The friends that I made there are still my friends now, and we were an active part of creating the "Black Latino Alumni Association (BLAA)" which I understand has now been absorbed into a multicultural alumni organization.

My favorite memory as an alumni was the fact that Fordham held a luncheon at the UNESCO building in Paris, France and right after I had finished recording the Gullah/Geechee human rights story there, I went into a UN NGO session and found out that it was being sponsored by Fordham. The moderator let us know that they had five tickets left for the private luncheon, and when I let them know that I was a Fordham Alumni and I needed two of those five tickets, it seemed that every other person in the room was proud to say that he or she had also graduated from

It Takes a Rare Ram to Literally Rule

Fordham! What a city for a Fordham reunion - Paris, France! I have told countless people about how proud that day made me to have graduated from Fordham at Lincoln Center!

Q: For our students who don't know much about the Gullah/Geechee, can you talk a little bit about your cultural heritage?

Our ancestral ties are to Africa. There are numerous countries in West Africa that Gullah/Geechees have ties to, including but not only Sierra Leone. To see a complete map and charts, obtain my book, "The Legacy of Ibo Landing: Gullah Roots of African American Culture" which can be found at www.GullahGeechee.biz and via Amazon. Gullah/Geechee settled Liberia and Freetown, Sierra Leone, but we have a much broader story with numerous countries of the Motherland from which our kidnapped ancestors were brought to the Sea Islands.

Q: Is there anything Fordham students can do to help the Gullah/Geechee people in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, in addition to supporting the Gullah/Geechee Land Legacy Fund?

Yes, they can contribute via app and various other mechanisms. Every year, March is "Gullah/Geechee Volunteer Month." We have never had any group of Fordham students come down and do community service and transformational learning, but it would be nice to have them do so. They can email GullGeeCo@aol.com and connect with the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

(www.GullahGeechee.net) to assist.

Q: As a computer science and math major, can you talk a little about why you became more politically involved?

I had always been involved in land conservation, preservation, and retention efforts even in grade school. After I graduated from Fordham, I remained in touch with what was taking place and displacing people from my home. So, the elders of my community would call on me to continue to return to South Carolina more and more frequently, and I got more engaged in the policies and laws of the county. I then founded the first organization to ever exist in the world with "Gullah/Geechee" in the name and used my education to launch the first website and list serve to ever exist with Gullah/Geechee in the name as well. I also taught the first online course on my culture via NetNoir. This brought more and more attention and support to the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition which I founded to work as an advocacy group for the rights of Gullah/Geechees worldwide.

Q: Since you've been such a driving force in the UN recognizing the Gullah/Geechee, do you have further plans for formal recognition?

The Gullah/Geechee Nation has existed since 2000. We are already recognized nationally and internationally. I am the head of state for the Gullah/Geechee Nation and we have dual citizenship in the US and the Gullah/Geechee Nation. The Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition led the charge with Congressman James Clyburn putting forth the bill to have the United States support and recognize us. The United States Congress voted in the "Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage

Act" which was signed by US President George W. Bush in 2006. So, recognition is not what is now needed. Respect of our culture and the leaders that the people elected ourselves is the issue. We are still seeing land and human rights violated and that is unacceptable! So, we will continue to stand up for our rights while also now battling the issues of climate change that we are on the front lines of as well.

Q: Since 2010, you've been fighting to stop offshore drilling. Do you see any similarities between the Gullah/Geechee and the Standing Rock Sioux or other original peoples fighting to protect their lands?

I definitely see similarities. There's the fact that our cultural heritage is being disregarded by those that seek only to make more money by causing further harm to the environment and the health of those that are in areas where oil has been drilled for, processed, and transported through. Sacred lands are at stake, but our lives are even more sacred than that! Our lives are priceless!

Q: Is there anything else you want Fordham students and faculty to know about the Gullah/Geechee?

I want my fellow Rams to know that "De Gullah/Geechee binya and we ain gwine nowhey!" Gullah/Geechee culture has existed from Jacksonville, NC to Jacksonville, FL on the Sea Islands and what is called the "Lowcountry" for hundreds of years and we will not allow it to go anywhere! When people plan to visit our coast, they should seek us out and support our businesses, events, and economic endeavors and learn the true story of our cultural heritage. The legacy that we are fighting to hold onto is the foundation of American history.



You want some loops?

Hey You!





Nerds Have a Stranglehold on Fordham

By George Kite
Staff Cool Guy

God, I hate nerds.

Ever since the traumatic incident of when I accidentally went to a chess club meeting in the 7th grade, I have held a great hatred in my heart for what society deems nerds, or as I like to refer to them, evil incarnate. Such seething words of anger cannot explain how much I detest those glasses-wearing, electric-watch checking, academically concerned, “nerdy” t-shirt displaying vermin. Nerds threaten the very existence of civil society as we know it. Simple walks in the park are disrupted by nerds LARPing in the soccer field, childishly whacking each other with cardboard. Peaceful moments in class are interrupted by SOMEONE who just HAD to answer the teacher’s question. They pollute legitimate institutions like medical schools, engineering programs, and Luxembourg with their presence.

I went to Fordham University because I thought I could finally be safe from the countless nerds in my hometown. How wrong I was.

Late this August, I visited the club fair on Eddy’s, curious to see what social organizations existed at Fordham. But what did I see? Clubs like the gaming club. The literary clubs. An astronomy club. A chess club (I italicize this because the simple thought of a club like that makes me shudder). My eyes watered with dread as I saw numerous people line up to actually associate with these people.

As the fantasy of a nerd-free Fordham dissolved around me, I put my senses back into gear and realized that I had to find out where they were coming

A football a day keeps the nerds away

from. I saw a nerd leave the area and decided to track him down to find out his location of origin. After moving from tree to tree, I saw him enter a building that I would vow to erase from existence: Queen’s Court.

dorms, a supportive community, and RAs engaged with the residents lurk inside those halls.

But I ask you, students and faculty of Fordham, will you permit such a place to continue this vicious activity of

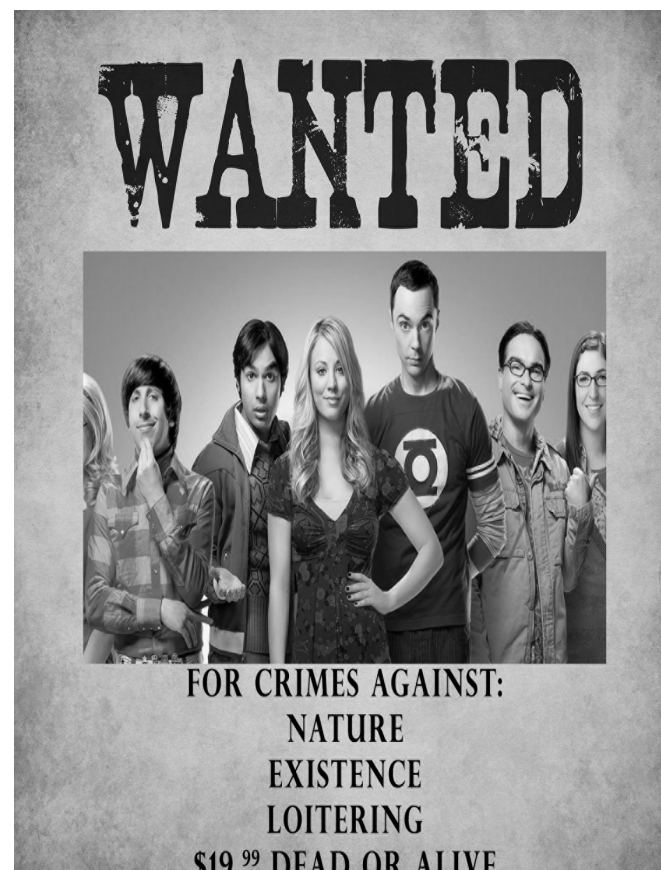
supplying nerds to our beautiful campus? No, you say, because you of all people know that the future is in our hands. However, we must have plans to prevent the denizens of Queen’s Court from spreading throughout Fordham like a plague.

My first and foremost method of containing Queen’s Court would be a simple polaron-based level 5 force field. Knowing that the exterior of Queen’s Court contains no neutronium-based alloys whatsoever, the photonic energy should maintain a threshold of about 50%, provided there are no variances in the plasma module. In

Now, we must also assume the posture that force fields cannot always be reliable. That is why we must also take into mind that a multitude of 9th-level wizards may be needed. The first and foremost reason for wizards would be summoning a Prismatic Wall abjuration spell. Assuming this wizard has the proper metamagic feats, and hopefully a Tome of Clear Thought, this should not only create a physical barrier but also a magical barrier, considering it has a AC of 20. It cannot however create a planar barrier, so some kind of planar entity or deity would be needed to disrupt the planar cohesion of Queen’s Court. In addition, having Demiplane traps, Programmed Illusions, and Time Stop casted at Queen’s Court periodically will be enough to drain the nerds, granted their Will save modifier is low.

Finally, if all else fails, and nerds do escape from Queen’s Court, we would need to target their laptop computers in order to hinder their nerdy capabilities. Simple DDoS attacks would not suffice to disabling them, as they would certainly have retroactive cell-connection failsafes. No, we would need to brazenly hack past their firewalls into their computer’s mainframes. Initiating green code theta programs and binary distrupts would ensure their software runtime would lag behind ours. Ensuring that our hackers have accelerated net code will be the final nail in the coffin for those damn nerds.

So, members of Fordham University, what will you do to combat nerds?



The freshman dorm known as Queen’s Court has been, from my scientific observation, the spawning ground of nerds at Fordham. Though all nerds do not live at Queen’s Court, they all initially come from there. I have only heard rumors of why such a place exists. Such things like spacious

addition, giving the forcefield generator metaphasic tetryon emission outbursts of .00781 Cochrane’s should prevent subspace fluctuations from tampering with the multi-adaptive deflectors. If all fails, inverting the polarity of the force field should hold the nerds off temporarily.

Reviving the Dead: Why Everyone Should Study Latin

By Sarah Cassidy
Staff Linguist

Videtur dolor erit realiter

"You're wasting your time." These are the words I hear from my roommate every Monday and Thursday as I get ready to go to my Latin class. And every time she says these words I scream, "NO, I'M NOT." While part of the reason I scream at her is that I am being defensive, the other reason for my screaming is simply because I believe that learning a dead language is useful. Yes, you read that right. Learning Latin is useful. Before all the modern language majors and minors storm at me in rage, let me explain to you why I think everyone should study Latin.

In middle and high school, I studied French. After six years of studying the language, I realized that I did not know a single thing. I could say "Hello", "Goodbye", and on a good day, "How are you?" That is truly all I learned.

While not everyone's experience is like mine, I have met many people who have come out of language classes not learning much. Part of the reason for this is that you are not going to become fluent in French or German by living in the United States. To really absorb a language, you must immerse yourself in the culture and actually be forced to speak the language. So after realizing that my dream of opening a coffee shop in Paris was down the drain, I decided to take Latin. Why? Because most English words hold a Latin root. If you know some basic Latin, you will be able to understand anything in



English. This has come in handy for all the classes I have taken so far. For example, during one of my astronomy worksheets, I had no idea what the heck vernal equinox meant. So instead of freaking out, I simply turned to Latin as a reference. I figured out that the word for spring in Latin is "ver, veris" so I knew that vernal equinox means the spring equinox. Easy and useful, right? I think so.

Another reason everyone should consider taking Latin is because it is a real brain workout. Forget about watching Jeopardy! or doing crossword puzzles and just pick up some Catullus to read. Latin is a systematic language meaning that every sentence you read in Latin has to be approached a certain way. While English is a fairly laid back and

loose language (as you can see from my improper grammar in this article), Latin is the complete opposite. Every single Latin word in a sentence has to be examined properly and thoroughly in order to understand the sentence. Latin is often compared to math; both subjects utilize a large amount of discipline, focus and structure. The difference

between Latin and math is that Latin helps with human communication, which is essential for success in today's society. By no means is learning how to communicate through Latin easy. Every time I pick up some Latin to read, I feel like a detective trying to decode some huge mystery. I can feel the sweat running down my face, my heart racing and my head pounding. In the moment, it really sucks. Especially when I translate the sentence wrong (which is most of the time). However, the feeling that I gain after so much work and dedication is amazing. It is a feeling of intellectual stamina; one that I do not find in any other activity.

Lastly, learning a dead language will make you appear smart. Just the sound of Latin has an elegant and

intelligent ring to it. Sometimes I just throw out common Latin phrases such as "Quid pro quo" or "Vita mutatur, non tollitur" in normal conversation to amp up the discussion.

Once you learn Latin, you can also walk around museums or churches and be able to read ancient inscriptions. You will appear to be a genius, especially when everyone around you stares blankly at the writing. And let's not forget that Latin will help out even the biggest Harry Potter fan. Many of the names of the characters and spells in Harry Potter contain Latin roots. Did you know that Severus translates into "severe", Lupin into "wolf" and Albus into "white"? Probably not, unless you are one of the ten kids in my Latin class. Even though many think that Latin is dead, even some of the most popular books in modern society are influenced by Latin. Don't you see how useful Latin is?!

Learning a dead language is in some ways a rebellion against society. While the rest of the world obviously wants the language to die, those who take Latin are slowly reviving the language. I am challenging you to be unique and consider taking up a dead language. Even though it is a lot of work, you will not regret it.



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Telling Lies: Uncovering the Secrets of Billion Surprise Toys

By Meredith McLaughlin
Arts Editor

Watch the videos and judge for yourself

If you're reading this article, I am sure you have some knowledge of internet trends. If so, then you're probably familiar with Billion Surprise Toys. For many, Billion Surprise Toys conjures images of off-beat 3D animation, bizarre kids' songs, and a talking pink refrigerator. However, these slightly odd childrens' videos have more to them than just nursery rhymes. Through hours of dedicated viewing, my roommate and I have been uncovering the deep lore that is at the heart of the Billion Surprise Toys Universe. Yes, much of our theories are based on conjecture, and a lot of the evidence is very "blink-and-you-miss-it". But with all the ridicule BST has been facing, I want to release my findings to the public in an attempt to help others look beyond the "Johnny Johnny" trend and appreciate these videos for the cinematic masterpieces that they are. I also urge readers who want to learn more about the lore to visit BST's website, as this provides character bios (though be aware that these tomes are incomplete.)

Before I delve into my analysis, we must first establish the ground rules to the BST universe. Something that is VITALLY important to understanding the BSTU is that magic is real and greatly affects the lives of each character. This is seen most frankly in the episode "My Dear Friend Franko", where Johnny (who is the main character of the popular Johnny Johnny vids, as well as the BSTU overall) uses a magic wand to bring a

toy gorilla to life. The gorilla, Franko, appears in later videos; showing that a.) all videos are linked and b.) magical occurrences have lasting effects, and are not just a narrative tool to use in each episode. "Magic" provides us with a possible explanation for the massive head sizes of the children characters, how their dog can talk, and why Henry's skin color changes from a dark brown to a light tan-gray between shots. This can also be



used to explain how entities like Mrs. Refrigerator and Ice Cream Man exist, since both characters have anatomy that disprove any theories that suggest they are humans wearing costumes. However, while magic can explain why these characters exist, it does not explain why they live with the Johnny family.

Johnny's family are the main players in the BST universe, but despite this they are often inconsistent, mainly concerning who actually is part of

the family. For sure Mama, Johnny, and Dolly (Johnny's twin sister) are members. However, a third child named Chiya is either portrayed as a slightly older brother to Johnny, or as a friend. He hangs out in their house, but it's never clear if he lives there or is just visiting. Johnny's "Papa" also seems to be a contested role. In most videos, including "Johnny Johnny," a mustachioed man with a round face seems to be the Papa, however,

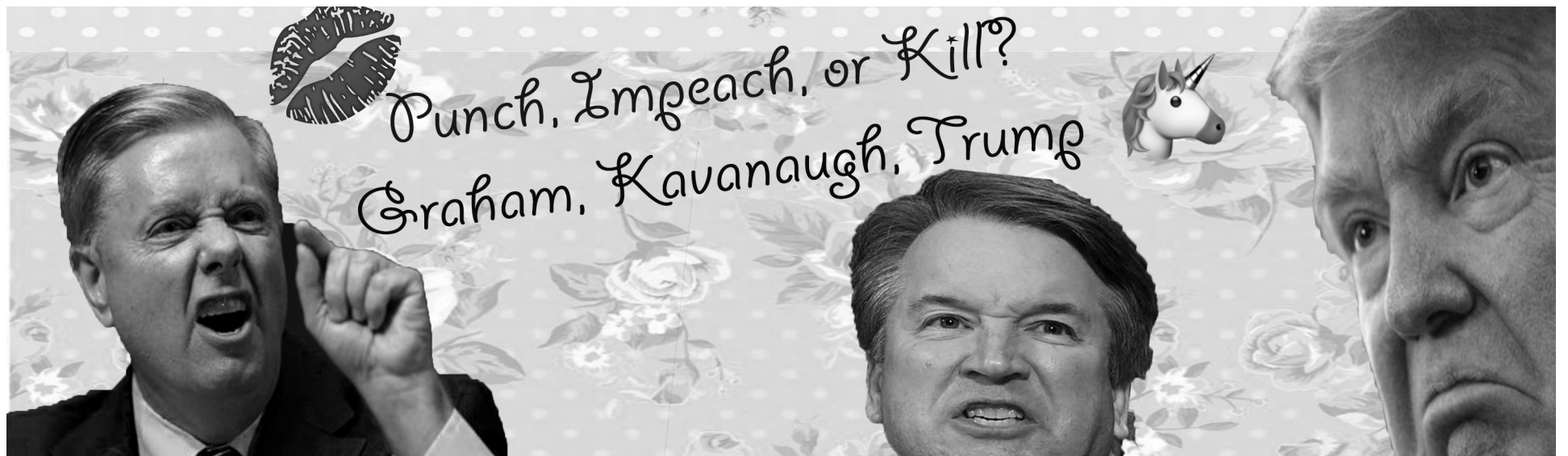
there is another man that has seemingly won the heart of Mama. in the video "Rock a Bye Baby," a different man, who me and my roommie have lovingly dubbed "Thottie Dad," is seen taking care of baby Johnny. Furthermore, in the opening frames, a sharp-eyed viewer can see a picture of Chiya on the wall.

This suggests that Thottie Dad was the original father of Chiya, Johnny, and Dolly, who Mama later divorced for a more successful man (Papa is seen to be a doctor in multiple videos). Fortunately, in the "Balloon Ballon" video, we can clearly see a family portrait featuring the mustache dad, Mama, Chiya, Johnny, Dolly... and a fourth older sister character who never appears in any of the videos featuring the family. We'll get to her later.

Often times BST videos are criticized

for portraying a police state where no one is allowed to eat a snack without being shamed by family members. Papa is a health nut, and while his obsession might be explained by his career as a nutritionist (see: 5 Little Babies), it does not justify forcing a toddler to lift weights, or preventing his wife and children from eating food.

The unknown sister is the most mysterious aspect of the BST universe: as far as I know she is in one video: "Baby Girl, ICE CREAM SONG." There are many BST videos that involve the family meeting Ice Cream Man at the park, and learning about colors and flavors through the different types of ice cream. "Baby Girl" follows this premise, but many details are off. The park is empty, excluding the girl and Ice Cream Man. The sky is an incomprehensible mix between day and night, and everything besides the girl is poorly rendered. Ice Cream Man looks significantly worse than his other incarnates. At the end of every song verse, Ice Cream Man and the girl dance what looks like a jig, but even that is off-beat. Considering both the absence of the girl in other videos and the unsettling look of the park, we have concluded that this older sister is in some form of purgatory or hell, or at least in a dimension separate from the others. While evidence beyond the one video is lacking, if you take the time to look into this matter you might uncover information to either confirm or deny this theory that we might have missed.



Arthur Avenue is Great ... Now it Just Needs an Olive Garden

By Devin D'Agostino
Staff Breadstick Boy

In the 1870s, tens of thousands of Italians seeking refuge from hunger, poverty, and violence immigrated to the United States. Facing oppression and discrimination, these immigrants formed their own neighborhoods where they could feel accepted and at home. One of those neighborhoods was a little street in the Bronx called Arthur Avenue. From these humble beginnings, Arthur Avenue has become one of New York's major tourist destinations - attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Still living in this neighborhood and calling it home are the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those original immigrants.

Last weekend, I attended Arthur Avenue's celebration of Ferragosto - the Festival of August hosted annually in September. Surrounded by some of

Real Italian cuisine for New York's real Little Italy

the greatest bakeries, butcher shops, and pizzerias this side of the Apennine Peninsula, I was astonished to see that absent from New York's "Real Little Italy" was an Olive Garden.

For a street that claims to be "the best place for bread, pasta, meat, pastries, espresso machines, and more," I find it strange that it has yet to include the restaurant where Brad R. from Toledo, Ohio proposed to his girlfriend of three years and exclaimed, "Those breadsticks were the greatest things to ever happen to me!"

People come to Arthur Avenue thinking they're getting the authentic Italian experience, but they're missing that classic shrimp scampi, braised beef Bolognese, and S'mores Layer Cake that you can only get at Olive Garden.

Some may argue that with the dozens of restaurants already lining the street,

what need is there for an Olive Garden on Arthur Avenue? The answer to that question is a simple one: community. "We're all family here," the restaurant declares, and with its familiar and comfortable food and atmosphere, that line rings clear.

The continued success of Applebee's and Chipotle shows us that members of the Fordham community are craving that intimate, personalized relationship that such restaurants provide. An Olive Garden will continue to realize this tradition.

Coming from an Italian-American family, every Sunday we would all sit down together and enjoy a dinner of seemingly endless dishes of pasta, meatballs, chicken parmigiana, ravioli, lasagna, and breadsticks - oh how I long for that fettuccini alfredo that my mom used to order.

In 2016, one hundred and sixty years

after the first Italians settled there, the American Planning Association recognized Arthur Avenue as one of the 'Great Streets of America.' With the addition of an Olive Garden, it might just become the greatest.

* * *

If my argument was not enough, here is an actual customer review of the Olive Garden in Times Square:

"Finally, it was time to FEAST! There was so much to choose from - appetizers, pastas, customizable pastas, meat, seafood and more! We decided to have an appetizer sampler, the five cheese ziti, and created a pasta... The breadsticks are A.MAZE. ING. I finally understand the hype! And the soup and salad are also amazing... more restaurants need to get on this board!"

Guess What? School Dances Don't Get Better in College

By Zahir Quader
Staff Boogiemer

Greetings, loyal fan base. It's your boy Z-Dawg, The Zim Zam... Zahir. As many of you know, homecoming happened this past weekend and like every other event I do not attend (was not invited to) it sucked. That isn't the important part though. While I am sure many people had a wonderful time with their homies and romantic associates at this flashback to high school, the rest of us experienced just that, "A FLASHBACK TO HIGH SCHOOL." The hellish social anxiety fest that was their high school dance was born again with Pres Ball, as many of us were having flashbacks to these awful moments spent in a dark, crowded gymnasium. From getting food poisoning from the deli platter to your date leaving you for the captain of the football team, many of the silent majority who detested high school have suffered from the social hell that is a high school dance.

Most people will agree that high school is a less than desirable time. These awkward years, be it physically or socially, are full of many challenges on the surface. Yet, when dance fever hits it can add a new dimension to what is already a quite difficult time.

Can't high school ever end??

At this point in many of our lives we can hardly decide if we prefer soup or salad. Trying to find someone at a time when you barely understand yourself is very unpleasant. In this vulnerable time, rejection can sting



like a sword in the pancreas leaving you with emotional scars that still haunt you to this day (#ForeverAlone) For many, the fear of rejection is so great they don't even try to shoot their shot. In an effort to save face

with your friends, you come up with many excuses ranging from, "My date is sick and can't make it tonight," to, "My date lives in Canada and their flight got delayed due to a moose on the runway." If you were smart and wanted to avoid the whole situation altogether you would have simply said "I'm not going." For the sake of this op-ed though, let's just say you were "not above the influence," and were pressured by friends, family or society at large to go. You end up going to a dance with or without a date or maybe you go with a good buddy, even. Maybe it won't be so terrible, you think. Then you arrive at the dance.

It's exactly what you feared it would be. A bunch of people dancing around like clowns, taking selfies and screaming "#BEST NIGHT EVER!" You go to the snack table and see the deli platter ("Is bologna supposed to

be green?"). You begin to retreat into your mind while standing in the corner repeating your mantra, "What am I doing here? I should've stayed home and watched *Parks and Rec* a fifth time...then again *The Office* does look pretty good." You continually mumble this to yourself, praying for the night to be over. Then, as time goes on you begin to feel a little different. The food might be a bit funky, but there are plenty of vending machines in the hall. You might feel alone but there are plenty of other people who feel the same that you can hang out with. The lame music doesn't seem as lame anymore, it actually has a good beat to it. Next thing you know you're in Funky Town, eating a bag of Fritos while completely butchering the Cupid Shuffle. By the end of the night you forget how lame you thought it was going to be and are filled with a new feeling, maybe not of complete ecstasy, but at least of satisfaction in the fact that you did something new and it wasn't completely terrible.

the paper's view

A Note on Everything Going On

As we anxiously await the results of the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation, I want you all to know that we, as a publication, vow to always believe survivors. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford showed incredible bravery, grace, and courage while she testified in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. She has nothing to gain from this, and everything to lose.

I believe her.

These hearings haunt me. I felt a range of emotions while watching them. Hope, when Dr. Ford finished her testimony. Disgust, when Kavanaugh was yelling. Fear, when I realized that he may be confirmed. The most intense emotion was anger, particularly with Senator Lindsey Graham. When Graham said that Kavanaugh is not a monster or a gang rapist, I was reminded of my own experience. Rapists are not monsters. They are humans. Humans hurt other humans. Most sexual assaults are by those close to the survivor. I was raped by someone I cared for—my boyfriend at the time, someone I LOVED. I certainly did not think he was a monster. I think that in times like this, when men, women, girls, boys, non-binary folk, trans individuals, and so many others are willing to come out and share their stories; we must remember that we need to believe each other. It takes incredible courage to share a traumatic experience like sexual assault. I believe Dr. Ford. And I believe all survivors. We can only hope that the Senate Judiciary Committee is willing to do the same here.

Claire

Please consider taking a few moments to call your state senator to oppose Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation. There are so many reasons why Kavanaugh shouldn't be a Supreme Court justice, but that's my opinion. What shouldn't be an opinion is sexual assault. **You can find all the necessary phone numbers conveniently on our back cover!**

If you believe you have experienced sexual assault or related incidents, we want you to know that you have support. Some confidential resources, people who will not report your experience, are counselors at Counseling and Psychological Services, pastoral counselors at Campus Ministry, and medical providers at Health Services. If you are interested in reporting a formal complaint through the University, you can talk to any mandated reporter which includes faculty, staff, Resident and Commuter Assistants, and Public Safety. There is also the option to make an external report to the New York Police Department. **No matter whether you report or not, there are people here to offer support.**

Colleen

Ask Bob and Judy

Giving advice to a lost generation

This week's questions come to us from Brandon in Texas

Q: Hi Bob and Judy, how do I tell my crush that I like her?

Judy: You just go up to her and tell her! Just be yourself. Fear is for wimps and Democrats.

Bob: You don't. You just act really awkward around her, never pluck up the courage to tell her how you really feel and end up settling for her friend. She's nice, sure, but every day you wish you could go back and tell the woman of your dreams that you love her. Alas, you sit here while your wife is out at orgy, answering readers' questions, giving out advice you wish you had followed when you were their age. C'est la vie.

Q: Ok, so I get the date thing, but should I tell a girl I love her on the first date?

Judy: You tell a woman you love her the **MOMENT** you **SEE HER**. She is **NERVOUS** and covered in powder and lipstick, and will turn back into a fish if you don't **KEES DA GIRL**.

Bob: Never, under any circumstances, tell a woman you love her. I still haven't told Judy I love her. Richard Nixon proposed to his wife on their first date, and that was a sign of weakness. You can't let them think they're special.

If you have questions for Bob and Judy, email *the paper* at paper.fordham@gmail.com



The Surprisingly Heartfelt Center of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*

By Gabby Curran
Copy Editor

For all its flaws, it makes an earnest attempt at an important conversation

When people our age talk about the tween TV channel that culturally raised them, the arena is usually divided between Disney and Nickelodeon. Few people seem to remember the hilarious awkwardness that was ABC Family (yes, I still refuse to call it Freeform). It produced and continues to produce some of the most comical, yet sometimes surprisingly thoughtful, teen television shows to have ever aired on the small screen, with dialogue and plot points the likes of which haven't been seen since Hallmark's made-for-TV movies. Some of their most successful shows targeted at teenagers include *Pretty Little Liars*, *Switched at Birth*, and one of my guiltiest pleasures-- *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

The Secret Life first aired in 2008 and continued on ABC Family until 2013, lasting five seasons and 121 episodes altogether. I first saw it at my cousin's house around age 11, feeling so grown up afterwards because I had just watched a TV show that explicitly said the word "sex" in it. The plot (or rather, one of the many plots because the show inexplicably churned out new episodes for five years) centers around fifteen-year-old Amy (played by Shailene Woodley--yep, the very same), who finds out that she is pregnant in the pilot episode. The first season chronicles her attempts to balance her pregnancy with her life as a teenage student. She goes through a surprising amount of character development, including contemplating abortion, switching schools, and eventually choosing to keep her baby and raise it herself; but don't get too excited. The maturity train stops there, and her character sees little to no growth in the following seasons as she raises her son with the help of her baby daddy, bad boy Ricky (played by Daren Kagasoff, who unfortunately seems to have faded into relative obscurity despite being one of the better actors on the show).

Supporting characters make their way into the main narrative and eventually branch out to add their own stories to the mix: Ricky's ex-girlfriend Adrian gets a pregnancy plot of her



own in the third season, Catholic post-er-child Grace goes through multiple boyfriends and sexcapades as she learns to strike a balance between her faith and her sexuality, and Amy's mother (played by Molly Ringwald, of all people) comes out as gay after getting a divorce from her husband. Plenty of other minor, and frankly uninteresting, storylines appear over the seasons, and therein lies one of the biggest flaws of the show.

Not only is the entirety of the show dreadfully acted (with the exception of a few erratically decent perfor-

Despite The Secret Life's gawky writing and poor acting, I have to give it credit for creating such a direct and accessible platform for teenage pregnancy and sex. At that time, I don't think any other show targeted for teenagers was quite as open about the topic, with the possible exception of Degrassi.

mances), but the many plot points it tries to stuff into one TV show is overwhelming and takes away from whatever message they were trying to send to their audience. One minute it's tackling teen pregnancy, the next teen sexuality, and the next homeschooling. Don't get me wrong--these are experiences that teenagers go through and that deserve air time, but on a show where the premise is a fifteen-year-old getting pregnant, these plot points seem hastily and unnecessarily crammed in. If it had been a show about, say, the general experiences of teenagers in America, it would make more sense. But as a show that mainly focuses on sex and its consequences for still-maturing young people, narratives including things like a supporting character jetting off to Africa to study medicine for the summer don't make much sense.

The show also makes the mistake of following some of the characters outside of high school. Whether or not you're still considered a teenager in college is up for debate, but most would agree that the experiences you have as a university student are drastically different from those you've had in high school. Having these immensely dissimilar settings in one show--especially one that spends the majority of its time in high school in its earlier seasons--just feels overly ambitious, like the creators tried to

fit too much content in too little time.

Despite *The Secret Life's* gawky writing and poor acting, I have to give it credit for creating such a direct and accessible platform for teenage pregnancy and sex. At that time, I don't think any other show targeted for teenagers was quite as open about the topic, with the possible exception of *Degrassi*. I don't remember any episodes of *Hannah Montana* or *Drake and Josh*, for instance, that discussed sex the way that *The Secret Life* did--or at all, really.

I also give *The Secret Life* immense credit for having a supporting character with Down syndrome treated like a normal human being. His disability is present but is not highlighted as an integral part of his personality, and the show has him go through experiences like getting a job, getting a girlfriend, getting his heart broken by said girlfriend, arguing with his sister, standing up for his family and friends, and rebelling against his parents. The show does this without casting him off as a token disabled character, as many other shows unfortunately do when they choose to include a handicapped person in their narrative.

All in all, I'd say this show was the equivalent of having *The Talk* with your dad as a teenage girl--strange, awkward, uncomfortably funny and clumsily executed. Yet when you take a step back and examine its intentions, you realize that it was just doing its best to start a conversation on a topic that not too many teen TV shows seemed to want to discuss in the late 2000s. In many ways, it did set the stage for other (arguably better) TV shows like *Glee*, *90210*, and *The Fosters* to prominently feature teen pregnancy as a way to raise awareness of the consequences of sex among middle- and high-schoolers. Despite *The Secret Life's* oftentimes ridiculously inept attempts at both humor and gravity, it's a heartfelt attempt on behalf of ABC Family to make a difficult subject matter more accessible to teens and their parents alike.

Arts

that's hot



“Sephro?” More Like “Oh No, This Woman Can’t Write.”

by Eric Lutts
Staff “Magick” User

Once in a generation, a book comes along that is so profound, so earth-shattering, that every book read afterward will be held to the same standard.

“Sephro,” by Kate Quinn, is not that book.

And I know what you may be thinking because I can read your mind: “Conor, did you really write a thousand words just dunking on some self-published Amazon book with only two reviews? Isn’t that just rage fodder?”

Absolutely. Which is why I can’t stop myself from talking about it. Please, send help.

Sephro, by Kate Quinn, is one of the worst books I have ever had the displeasure of reading. To summarize the book would be to tell of absolutely nothing happening for ninety percent of the book, while vague things are hinted at. When the plot rears its head in the last three chapters, it goes by so fast as to be rendered a confusing nightmare.

As I can ascertain, Sephro’s story is this: Craela, a Sephron of nine lor old, is having a nightmare about when she was raped by her uncle Jondu six lor ago. Upon waking up from said nightmare, we meet the supporting cast, Arlaw and Dureli. Arlaw and Dureli are having a secret love affair which must remain secret because of reasons never fully explained by the plot. We also learn two things: that Sephrons can teleport across the cosmos, and that Jondu (a sephron)

Trigger Warning: this book does have a rape scene

is in a maximum security prison. But moving away from that obvious plot hole, Craela then falls in love with Cryss, a male witch from Earth, whom she meets through the telepathy waves. Cryss’s sister, Lorianna, completely absent of anything, then tries to summon Jondu to Earth, but their father, Crysstian, stops her in the act. Lorianna runs away, and Crysstian shrugs it off with a ‘welp, she’s evil forever now’ at his own daughter, assuming she’ll end up in an insane asylum. Fifty pages later, Craela then

says that Cryss and his family should move to Sephro, because of reasons never fully explained by the plot but also love. We also learn that Lorianna became evil because a girl in her class spilled paint on her art project five years ago, and clearly that sent her on a downward spiral to becoming the main antagonist of this story. Craela now has to complete an obstacle course without wings or teleportation to attain adulthood, for reasons never fully explained by the plot. Then, Jondu teleports her to Earth at the last second to the cafe where Cryss is because we’ve hit the two hundred page mark, we need the plot to show up at some point, and why not now? So Cryss and Craela uses the power of love or something

not quite fully explained by the plot to defeat Jondu, and send him back to space prison or something. In the process the cafe burns down, and Cryss’s mom, Arya, dies. Crysstian, upon learning this, then gets drunk off of alcohol he hid in the pumpkin (“Not the Pumpkin!” - an actual line from the last chapter), before everyone gets teleported to Sephro.

So you may have noticed, there are about five different plots to this story, and most of them come out of left field. The whole Jondu thing, which, mind

you, is mentioned in the opening chapter, disappears for about half of the book. You may have also noticed that no one’s name is spelled remotely pronounceable. “Sephro” has a massive problem with its gratuitous fantastical language, to the point where the author includes a glossary to translate all the words that she came up with, half of which don’t make any sense. Chapter 1 introduces us to terms such as: Kaplan, Largo, Lor, kaeen, magickal (spelled like that), Kano, Head Shoki Coran, Ror Shoki Tanna, Clorkhana, Sartozhia, Pythacar, Jada, Loki, and LaGala. About half of these are explained within either the text or the glossary, and it only gets worse from there.

Some of the definitions aren’t quite

exact, or don’t make any sense. If a lor is basically a year (as the book states), that would make Craela nine years old, and Cryss, the love interest, eighteen. Meanwhile, the rape that happened six lor ago, would make Craela three when it happened. Ok, so what if a lor meant two years of Earth time? That still means that Jondu raped her when she was six. These are the only two options, no other option would make sense given these circumstances. Unless, of course, you were to state something stupid, and that to find someone’s age in earth years you had to take however old they are in lor and add ten, which Quinn found to be so obvious that she didn’t feel the need to ever explain this in her own book.

If the book was just that with no central plot to follow, characters that had no motivation, and a language that makes no sense, it would have been fine. Actually, it wouldn’t have been fine, but it would still be better than what we have now. Then you actually try to read the thing, and realize that the author has no concept of connotation, tone, sentence structure, and even how to use ellipses. The entire book is peppered with gems such as, “She could see the tree looming in front of her, a comforting sight,” and “Pure evil was there.” One chapter ends with the line, “They looked across the fields of [berries], without which, everyone would die,” and immediately follows it up with a pillow fight.

And you all should read it.



EVENTS

What: New York Coffee Festival

Where: Metropolitan Pavilion, NYC

When: Sunday, Oct 14 from 12-6pm

How Much: tix start at \$19

Why: yummy covfefe

What: Immigration Clinic Volunteer Training

Where: McMahan 109, Lincoln Center Campus

When: Thursday, Oct 18 from 12-2pm

How Much: FREE

Why: Be a compassionate human being pls

What: Stay Home Club NYC Pop-Up

Where: Boris and Horton, 195 Avenue A, NYC

When: Saturday, Oct 6 10am-7pm

How Much: FREE

Why: .dog friendly cafe with coffee and beer!!!

Top 3 True Crime Podcasts to Listen to on Your Way to FMH

by Ashley Wright
Staff Casual Case Listener

Despite the many concerning looks I've gotten from friends and family members, I cannot help but indulge my slight addiction in all things true crime. I can easily list of my "favorite" serial killers (while making it clear I absolutely do not condone or idolize them) as well as go into absurd detail on crimes people have never even heard of before. One of my favorite ways to support this habit is by constantly listening to a podcast. Whether you simply haven't mastered the skill of watching Netflix and walking to class at the same time or you just can't wait until you get back to the dorm, podcasts are the often-overlooked solution you need for getting your crime fix. Which is why I've decided to share my top podcast recommendations.

My Favorite Murder

Chances are, if you were to look up any "Top True Crime Podcasts" list, My Favorite Murder will be on there, and this one is no exception. The reason for this isn't too clear, as the MFM Podcast is everything true crime shouldn't be. It's lighthearted (i.e. full of vulgar jokes), the hosts tend to go off on tangents that can last between 3 and 30 minutes, and sometimes the details about the crimes aren't even accurate. But strangely, it works.

In the gritty and depressing world that is true crime, you need outlets that don't take themselves too seriously and that you can catch yourself laughing out loud to. While hosts Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark are far from professional researchers, they do try their best to be respectful and relatable, which in this case is enough. And what's the harm in collecting a few pithy quotes, like "Stay Sexy, Don't

Just don't get into Tumblr true crime ok

Get Murdered" or "You're in a Cult, Call Your Dad," if they distract you on those nights when every bump reminds you of Jack the Ripper or Ted Bundy.

If you're looking to impress, and maybe even concern your friends with the amount of serial killer facts you can list off—then My Favorite Murder probably isn't for you. But, if all you're looking for is some quick entertainment that won't send you in a downward spiral for the rest of the day, then I can't recommend it highly enough.

Casefile

Casefile is the exact opposite of My Favorite Murder, but again, this podcast makes it work. The work put into this podcast, in terms of research and fact-checking, is truly astounding. In fact, the host's name is never even revealed as it's deemed irrelevant to the telling of the cases. All listeners know about him is that he is dedicated to telling the stories of victims and survivors alike.

making it difficult to binge-listen. However, it is perfect for those times when your mind might otherwise wonder, such as when you're walking to class or sorting through your ever-growing pile of laundry.

True Crime Garage

In the immortal words of Hannah Montana, True Crime Garage is "the best of both worlds". It has the factual accuracy and the colloquialisms, making it the appealing choice to many audiences.

Similar to My Favorite Murder, the format of the podcast is structured as two friends who have gotten together for everyone's favorite casual discussion topic—horrific crimes. Spanning from conspiracy to murder, the show covers just about every topic under the umbrella of true crime. It also has the research to back it up, making it an actually reliable source of information. Episodes tend to consist of news clips, light-hearted jokes, statistical analysis, and casual speculation along with much more.

The only downside to this is that while the show possesses the positive qualities of other podcasts, it can also fall victim to the same pitfalls. The hosts have tended to veer off topic, dedicating blocks of time to tangents that seemingly don't relate to a specific case at all. The formulaic nature of the episodes can also result in them bleeding together, which becomes more noticeable after excessive bingeing.

True Crime Garage is a great example of what a podcast should be. It works both for listeners who have a casual interest in the world of crime, as well as those who feel they've heard all the same stories before.



The cases are non-America centric, and tend to take place in Australia, given that that is where the host is from. This adds an extra layer to the platform, as it consists of incidents that most of us have probably never even heard of before. (On a personal note, I find that nothing eases the gruesome details of crime than an accent.)

While the episodes of Casefile are expertly researched and produced, it does tend to fall a tad monotonous,

Captain Marvel Soars onto the Big Screen

by Stacy Lacina
Staff Cosmic Warrior

The first Captain Marvel trailer dropped at 8 AM on September 18th, and I actually hauled my ass out of bed to watch it the moment that it was released. It did not disappoint.

Captain Marvel is the next installment in the MCU, and it stars Brie Larson as the titular hero, Jude Law, Gemma Chan, Lashana Lynch, and Ben Mendelsohn. Also returning to the franchise are Samuel L. Jackson, Clark Gregg, and Lee Pace.

So far, the only description we have of the film is this: "Captain Marvel gets caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races." But from what we know of the Captain Marvel comics, as well as the information we got from the trailer, I think we can safely deduce several things. The film will follow Carol Danvers, an Air Force pilot who gets abducted by an alien race called the Kree and is imbued with their powers. Several years later, with very little memory of her home planet, Carol returns to stop an alien invasion by the shape-shifting Skrulls.

Now, if some of you are confused as to how this fits into Infinity War and (spoiler alert) Thanos' Snap, don't worry! Captain Marvel takes place completely in the 1990s. And although it is set decades before Thanos' quest to collect all of the Infinity Stones, there can be no doubt that the events of Captain Marvel will be heavily influenced by the third Avengers film.

But let's set aside the fact that this may be the most important MCU movie to date, given that Carol has already been confirmed to be the game-changer in Avengers 4. Let's also put aside the fact that this is Marvel's first female-led solo film. Let's just focus on the film and trailer itself.

The MCU finally has a female-led film

The trailer begins with Carol unceremoniously crashing into a Blockbuster, which is A+ 90s nostalgia. Soon enough, Nick Fury (with two eyes!) finds her. She explains to him: "I keep having these memories. I see flashes...I think I had a life here, but I can't tell if it's real." Interspersed with Carol's alien present are the images from her human past—fingers lingering over her fighter jet, playing baseball as a little girl, and flashes of the abduction which gave her powers.

For the first time, we see the elite

Captain Marvel's iconic blue and red suit with the star on her chest (a uniform which isn't sexualized!), and Carol "powering up" as energy bursts around her and consumes her eyes.

The release date pops up – March 2019 – and boy, could that not come soon enough!

Marvel fans have been both excited and nervous about this film. Captain Marvel is one of the most beloved Marvel characters of all time, especially to female fans, and there has always been concern about the MCU getting her character wrong. I think most fans can dismiss those worries after this trailer, however. The female-led team behind the film have Carol's character well in hand, and Brie Larson not only looks the part, she acts the part too.

Although some fans have raised concern that Carol's characteristic snark and sarcasm will be lost in such a serious portrayal, I have faith in the creative team behind the film. One screenwriter actually addressed these concerns, saying: "Captain Marvel has a very funny voice, and [the movie is] more of an action-comedy...Carol Danvers is one of the funniest comic book characters. She's so sassy, she's such a smartass, she won't take shit from anyone...it was important that the entire Captain Marvel creative team [kept to that]."

Of course, there has been sexist backlash to the trailer – when is there not sexist backlash to something that women are excited for? The comments section of this trailer is currently filled with male trolls, telling Brie Larson that she needs to "smile more." Once again, male nerds demonstrate that they simply cannot stand a compelling and serious female narrative.

Well, their loss is our gain. I, for one, will be first in line when Captain Marvel tickets go on sale in late February!



military team that Carol leads, called Starforce. Among their members are Mar-Vell (played by Jude Law), who comic book fans may recognize as the original Captain Marvel before Carol took over the role in 1977.

In between overlapping images of Carol's past and present, the words "Discover what makes her a hero" appear (which sent chills down my spine, I won't lie). And the trailer ends with

SHOWS

What: Chris Fleming's "Paradise For a Toad" Comedy Show

Where: BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center

When: Saturday, Oct 13 at 8pm

How Much: \$25

Why: .If you've seen "Gayle Waters-Waters" on Youtube, then you're dying to see Chris Fleming live. If you haven't then you should still go because Chris Fleming is hilarious.

What: Lexie, Honey Cutt, and Noods Show

Where: Rod's Coffee House

When: Saturday, Oct 13 at 8pm

How Much: FREE

Why: .good tunes, mediocre coffee, and gr8 company

What: Troye Sivan: The Bloom Tour

Where: Radio City Music Hall

When: Tuesday, Oct. 9th at 7:30 pm

How Much: Lowest ticket price is \$65

Why: "Because he's fun, and he's a bad dancer and it's funny." -Editor in Cheif Claire

Battle of the Bowl Cuts: Diving Under a Childhood Haircut

by Edward Lucano

Staff Alien Boy

Let's get ready to mumble! Good Jesuit day, Paper readers, and welcome to today's match-up. In the left corner, weighing in at approximately one hundred pounds of hair dye and nail polish with a body fat percentage of zero is Gus Dapperton. And in the right corner, weighing in with vape clouds thick enough to suffocate a flock of pigeons and a jacket puffy enough to finish the job is Oliver Tree... The prize here is bigger than music - they may just have the guts it takes to make it in the industry, but now it is about the cuts and if the bowls have symmetry. Please take your seats - now it is time for a fight as good and clean as their scissor trims:

Haircuts aside, both of these artists offer a unique sound to their respective musical genres. Dapperton belongs to the indie-alternative family, but the energetic production behind his mellow music leaves his audience nodding to its rhythm at a speed that is somewhere

Check out these two zany artists!

between a Gov Ball mosh pit and a coffee shop open mic night. However, on the other side of the spectrum is Oliver Tree's satirical interpretation of pop and hip hop. Although the wacky character Tree's social media platform has allowed him to create is half of his stage presence itself, the cadence with which he raps and sings truly makes his music enjoyable to listen to. Seeing that these two performers are completely different when it comes to their lyrics and audiences, the fact that they both have bowl cuts is not just a minor aesthetic detail to glance over, and it is my duty to reveal how their willingness to look like mushrooms mirrors their determination to become famous by staying true to themselves.

I would consider myself an avid music

listener. This pastime of mine is what led me to make the switch from Apple Music to Spotify this past January. Although both streaming services offer immense music libraries, I felt that Spotify made it much easier for me to find new music rather than harping on all of the throwbacks I have had since I listened to them on my iPod Shuffle. Keeping this ease of collection in mind, my Spotify Daily Mixes have opened up a whole new world of artists whose music is now at my disposal, and it now includes the Bowl Cut Duo whether I like it or not.



First up is Brendan Rice, otherwise known by his stage name of Gus Dapperton. Upon first glance, Dapperton seems like the personification of a pair of zebra-print Doc Martens. On the contrary, the hipster glimmer he

emanates pales in comparison to a smooth vibe that is completely his own. For instance, "I'm Just Snacking" combines his traditional skills in piano and ability to sing in a high range of octaves with echo distortion and bubbling autotune that masks tender tales of his experience with family and relationships in an unorthodox effort to put them in the spotlight at the same time. On a similar note, Oliver Tree's utilization of these musical methods highlights the fun and reckless nature that Dapperton's maturity cancels out. Tree's "Alien Boy" is a lyrical manifesto of how weird and questionable of a human being he really is, which is supported by a beat full fast-paced electric pangs that perfectly reflect his clout-driven life as it rushes past him aboard his Razor scooter.

No matter how you cut it, the brilliant minds below these bowl cuts makes this fight result in a draw. Thank you for watching and have a pleasant evening.

Hozier Took Me to Church, and It Was Phenomenal

by Hillary Bosch

Opinions Editor

You're standing in a historical theater decorated with classical Roman iconography, swaying with a couple hundred strangers in complete darkness and almost complete silence, spare one sound. Booming bass ripples through the seats and strikes you in your chest, sweeping out your breath and swirling it into the fog on the stage. And then, Hozier steps into a blood red spotlight and you forget everything you've ever known.

On September 25, I had the opportunity to see the Irish guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Hozier live at the Beacon Theater on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. If you live in New York City and have at least one moody/poetic friend, you probably heard about it. It was a big deal! Earlier this month, Hozier released his EP *Nina Cried Power*, which was also a big deal because he hasn't released an album since 2014. 2014! He's only produced one other song in the past 4 years and it was for that random Tarzan movie, so it doesn't count (but it is beautiful,

Finally, Hozier is back with all new tracks

look it up. The song, not the movie).

Though it was obvious half of the crowd was only there to hear "Take me to Church" live, he put on a great show for fake fans and die-hards alike. Accompanying him on stage were three back-up singers, two guitars, a bass guitar, an organ, piano, drum set, keyboard, and violin! It wasn't just a band—it was a symphony. His opening act, Hudson Taylor, also put on a great show. The Irish folk group put on an energetic performance complete with



fiddles, harmonicas and tambourines, oh my! They helped balance out the mood of the night and get the crowd on their feet before Hozier. Normally I find opening acts to be more of a filler, but Hudson Taylor gave an incredible show in their own right. I actually spent the

day after the concert listening to their entire discography.

At the concert he performed favorites like "Jackie and Wilson," "Cherry Wine," and ended with "Take Me to Church." Interspersed with the classics he also performed all four new songs from the EP. He also performed a NEW, UNRELEASED song titled "Movement" and my spirit left my body. His new music further solidified his style loved by fans across the globe: soulful vocals, bluesy guitar riffs, spooky lyrics, and a reverb that shakes all of your emotions. I'm not crying, you're crying. No wait that's just me crying. Oh now

we're both crying and Hozier is crying, yep group hug time.

Though he seemed to disappear from the scene, his fans always held out for more. It wasn't hard; his music has a way of pulling you in by your heartstrings whether you want it to or

not. Listen to any of his songs and you'll find yourself breathing to the rhythm, humming along by the second verse, and unable to think of anything but his voice and his guitar. For example, here's the chorus from my favorite song "From Eden":

Honey you're familiar like my mirror years ago

Idealism sits prison, chivalry fell on it's sword

Innocence died screaming, honey ask me I should know

I slithered here from Eden just to sit outside your door

I have NO IDEA what it means but it's INCREDIBLE. Hozier captures the essence of spoken poetry and sets it to a rhythm that twists your emotions into whatever he pleases. I have never been so happy to be manipulated. He promised to have more new music by the end of the year, and I will hold him to it. You can find me patiently refreshing my Spotify until that day.

Childish Gambino Is So Good, He Should Be Allowed to Kill One Person

by Katelynn Browne
Features and List Editor

On Saturday September 15, a few friends and I made the trip down to Madison Square Garden to see our queen, Childish Gambino.

The show opened with the hip-hop duo Rae Sremmurd, which for the record I still don't know how to pronounce, and its okay if you don't know how to pronounce it either. The stadium wasn't full when they began their set, yet the duo still managed to give an energetic performance. They really tried their hardest to get the crowd pumped and engaged with unfortunately lackluster results.

One of the brothers hopped off stage and ran into the crowd at one point, in an attempt to hype everyone up, which worked a little, but the general feeling in the crowd was mellow. Most people were seated, or trying to find their seats, and only those who had seats by the foot of the stage were really standing and into the performance. Eventually, they finished their set, maintaining the same level of excited energy the entire time - which I admired - and left.

Then it was time for the real show. Childish Gambino appeared on stage, with a single white light beaming upon him, standing with his head bowed, as the beginning of his new song played. I do not recall the name of his new songs - he released two during the concert and all I remember was that they were absolutely incredible, and I couldn't wait for them to be released for streaming and purchase.

At the start of the first song, the crowd went absolutely nuts. My friends and I also went nuts. (We were part of the crowd after all.) After a minute or

Watch out for goobers standing next to you tho.

so, he began to bust out these mesmerizing dance moves, which were similar to those seen in the "This is America" music video, and at times echoed the choreographic stylings of Michael Jackson, which was super rad.

Soon after the opening song, Gambino told the audience to put away their phones for the duration of the concert, and compared the concert experience we were about to partake in to church. This created a really interesting atmosphere - I've never been at a concert where there were only scattered glim-

ish Gambino performing Redbone live, hitting high falsettos like no one's business, dancing, and working the crowd. I didn't think it was possible to love his music more than I already did, but then he went and did that. He really didn't have to snap on us that hard like damn.

Aside from the phenomenal talent of Childish Gambino, there was this fantastic electric guitar player who had this incredible solo - Gambino gave him the front and center of the stage and this guy just went HAM. In that moment, I suddenly understood people's

with his boys something like 3 minutes before the show starts, scooching their way in front of me and my friends with their cups of beer, dangerously close to our faces, and dangerously close to spilling.

He was having trouble locating his seat due to the darkness of the theatre, and I was like yeah man the seat there (the one next to me) is your seat which was a Horrendous mistake, because my politeness was taken as an invitation for homeboy to talk to me the entire concert.

Like, my guy looked like he was maybe 30, and I'm gonna keep it real with you chief, I was looking high-key underage that day - I think I looked 16, 17 at best (for the record I'm 19, but still.) And he kept making these stupid comments to me throughout the show like "oh I really like this one" and I'm like well yeah, me too fam, that's why I spent like \$70 on concert tickets - to listen to Mr. Glover, and not these sorry attempts at talking to me. He was also like copying my Sick dance moves, and I'm not here for that...Also, he and his boys were making loud comments during the slower and softer songs which was really annoying, and really really took me out of it. He also asked me if one of the

dancers/backup singers was his mom. And I was like...fam what? I just didn't answer that one because that was... dumb.

Anyway, all in all the concert was a fabulous experience - if you ever get the opportunity to see Childish Gambino live, you absolutely should! Just make sure your seat neighbors don't suck like mine did, and you'll be golden



mers of cellphone light illuminating the stadium. Normally, at times during concerts, it can feel as if you are watching a performance through the lens of someone else's cellphone camera, which can sometimes diminish the impact of the experience.

As for whether or not the concert was akin to church - I only wish church was as moving of an experience as Child-

love of rock in a way I never understood people's love of rock before. There were also phenomenal backup singers and dancers who gave outstanding performances which are not to be overlooked. I really wish I knew the name of that guitarist because he really blew me away.

My only complaint about the concert was regarding the guy who was seated next to me (or rather standing next to me). This guy shows up to the concert



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FALL FASHION ICONS

style inspo and upcoming trends

CHRIS <3



Chrissie is rocking a bust-down tommy watch and a stylin gucci belt. On his bottom half, christie is wearing some hella baggy chinos. on his top, he's got a classic ralph lauren polo.

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Jerry <3



Here Jerry is sporting a tres chic denim with a super cute black crop top, exposing his fabulous abs. He is in the go-to T-pose, about to take off in flight... He is donned in black denim jeans, secured tightly with a black belt. Be sure to copy Seinfeld's look for an authentic normcore look.

Purchase Jerry's look at your local Urban Outfitter's for something like \$200.

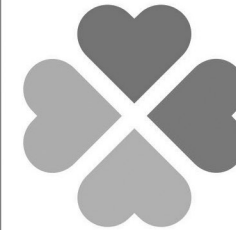
K r a m e R



THE WEATHER IN NEW YORK MAY BE GETTING COLDER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR NIPPLES AWAY. FOR THE FALL SEASON, KRAMER ADVOCATES FOR FULL CHEST EXPOSURE, ACCESSORIZING WITH A PIGEON HAT FOR MAXIMUM WARMTH. PIGEON HATS CAN BE FOUND ON MOST NEW YORK STREETS FOR FREE - THE TRICK IS CATCHING THEM. THIS CAN BE RISKY BUSINESS SO BE CAREFUL THIS PIGEON CATCHING SEASON!!

Kramer's outfit is not for sale; it is priceless





Hey y'all! It's cuffing season again and I'm still lonely. Of course I use dating apps to try to cope with this pain. I thought I'd ask *the paper* editors: Do you have any dating app horror stories??

Cute dog, gross boy

I matched with this one dude like a year ago and I thought he was p cute. We decided to meet up and go out for drinks. Dis boi seemed like a decent person and owned two dogs, so I thought, what could go wrong? He made some off-color joke, followed by "It's ok, I'm Jewish, I can say that." I was skeptical that this would be any more fun, but he was buying my drinks and food so I figured what the hell. We then went to go sit on a bench where this dude proceeds to cradle me in his arms like a baby which felt beyond weird because I had literally just met him in person. After a little while of awkwardly ~cuddling~ he offered to drive me up to the 4 train so I could go home. As we walked to his car, he proceeded to smack my ass and go "Is that why you have such a nice booty?" He proceeded to never text me again, which looking back was one of the best things the universe has ever done for me. TL;DR just because a guy owns two dogs doesn't mean that he's a sweet person.

Not really?

I used Tinder, Hinge, and Bumble for a while. I met a lot of weirdos and many cool people. I met one guy, went on 3 dates. and then he went back to school. I visited him in New Orleans over spring break last year. I, uh, could've died but he didn't kill me so that's good. And we're still kinda together so that's also good. I'm just glad I didn't die in the woods.

Men never fail to bewilder me

I asked this question so obviously I had to have something up my sleeve. I'm into men that look like they're on the verge of death so that's kinda what this boy looked like. I'm talking eye bags, super skinny, pale af, and generally drained of all life. So this boy actually messaged me first on Tinder, which was odd. I should've assumed he was whack by the way he talked, but I'm desparate, so whatever. He told me he was a fucking New York Fashion Week model, so I casually asked him why on earth he matched with me. I mean... what? Why is a NYFW model wasting his time on the human version of a gas station hot dog? He proceeded to respond "Haha idk, I like ur boob." Wow, I love romance. Also.. which one? Why only one? Let's just say we didn't work out.

.... I felt this one

My only horror story is that I can't get a match.

Fully the most bizarre story

I once got liked by a poly couple but their description was fucking insane. Like 10 screenshots long. (Editor note: I'm including some of it here bc if I had to read it, so do you.)

"For those interested in romantic vibes, we dabble in menage-a-trois, however, prefer long-term, FIDELIOUS 'triad' relationships. We only take part in polyfidelity or polyfidelitous relationships as in we DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN OPEN RELATIONSHIPS. If you express interest in either one of us separately instead of both of us, we will exclude you from even being our friend."

Could i get a yeehaw?

One time as a prank, my friends set me up on a bunch of dating sites. These profiles included singlemingler12 on OkCupid and farmgirl[insert really long number] on FarmersOnly.com. The worst one was FarmersOnly.com because they made my profile say I was 30 years old and looking for other farm girls near me when in fact I was 19 years old, only interested in boys, and didn't need a farmer! This was not a fun time changing passwords and deleting accounts!

when it actually sorta works out???

I joined Tinder for a total of 2 months this past summer. I know it's a great way to meet new people, but I was so scared I only swiped on people I knew! I went home for a week and decided to swipe right on some cute randos; I had no intention of meeting up with any of them! But one guy was very persistent; so we met at a bar. And you know what? He was perfect. We clicked immediately and talked from 9 pm to 6 am-granted, with a lot of, uh, not talking in between. But then I left. He lives there, I live here. We don't talk anymore. We're dating other people. It was so much worse than a bad date, it was the perfect date, and I will never see him again.

A tru tragedy :/

Ok so one time I went to meet this really pretty guy somewhere in the Bronx for a hookup; he straight up just sent me his location on Grindr and I ubered there. After an hour, I realized I'd been stood up and ordered an uber home. But 5 minutes later, I noticed my uber had arrived and someone else was in it. I called the driver and he was like "That's weird. Bye." It started raining, my phone died. My friends sent me an uber while I sat on the curb, soaking wet, wondering if I'd have to walk until I wasn't lost or if it would arrive. It did.



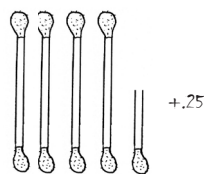
The Outer Ones
Revocation
Christian Decker



In delivering their seventh studio album, *Revocation* has unleashed an astonishing display of musicality as well as metal song crafting. *The Outer Ones* has some of the best technical death metal songs that I've heard in a while. The album starts off with the hard hitting "Of Unworldly Origin," which tells the story of a guy going insane after seeing some ritual being performed by a witch. The album has such a strong opening with a technical onslaught of scales and chugs. This also includes the second track, "That Which Consumes All Things," which again packs a hell of a punch to get you invested with the rest of the album. The fourth song, "Fathomless Catacombs" is by far my favorite. It contains lyrics about beings lost deep in the depths with horrors creeping around every corner. Although the lyrics are screamed, it's surprisingly easy to understand and the guitar work is phenomenal with amazing solos embellishing and adding to the

creepiness of the piece. There's also a great instrumental track, "Ex Nihilo," which adds some awesome filler to break up the lyrical half of the album. There's a sick section with a string of arpeggios which sound so fluid and ethereal you can feel the Lovecraftian influence in the music. The last track, *A Starless Darkness*, does a great job of concluding the album with a 7-minute-long piece and an awesome faded ending. My only complaint is that the album isn't longer as it clocks in at around 48 minutes.

Favorite Track:
 "Fathomless Catacombs"



Blood Red Roses
Rod Stewart
Katelynn Browne



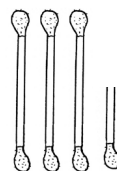
Rod Stewart. Actually, that's SIR Rod Stewart to you - homeboy was knighted in 2016 what's Good. You may know him - maybe your mom is obsessed with him like my mom is. He was a super popular musician in the 70s and 80s. You may know him from classic hits such as "Young Turks," "Maggie May," "Forever Young" or "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy." You absolutely know these songs look them up.

With that introduction out of the way, Sir Stewart at the age of 74 just dropped a new album called *Blood Red Roses* last week and let me tell you - that shit was very okay. My favorite track from the album was called "Grace" mostly because it reminds me of soft Irish ballad-style folk music, and it makes me think of my family.

The songs on the album, I think, might have worked better as singles - a lot of them were stylistically quite different, ranging from disco, to 70s/80s rock to what I can only describe as the "diddy-diddies." The album, in my opinion lacked cohesion both in genre and in content. The last four songs on the album were kind of boring and all sort of melded into each other, which then feels like too much cohesion. The first song and the last song had this slight autotune which felt really weird.

However, this is not to say there were no good songs on the album - some of them felt nostalgic like "Didn't I" and "Farewell." "Rest of My Life" was a straight bop. But for the most part, I will have to say, Sir Rod's voice is holding quite well and I find it admirable that he's still making music even into the age that he's at. I think it shows passion for his work, which I respect.

Favorite Track: "Grace"



Superclean, Vol II
The Mariás
Annie Muscat



The first time I listened to *The Mariás*, I was in disbelief. Where had these captivating sounds been all my life? The Los Angeles-based band re-released their first EP, *Superclean Vol. I*, last year and immediately gained a substantial following. Led by beautiful Puerto Rican singer María, the group describes their dreamlike melodies in both Spanish and English as "psychedelic soul." Their songs are undeniably sensual through their breathy vocals and jazz influence.

Thankfully, *The Mariás* blessed this undeserving world with a new EP on September 28 titled *Superclean, Vol. II*. Composed of six songs ranging from a minute to over five in length, the EP reasserts the band as an absolute creative powerhouse. The first lyrics of the initial track, "Ruthless," start with María's seductive: "Hello, it's nice to see you again. Did you miss me?" Yes, María, we did.

"Cariño" is an up-tempo beat with mesmerizing guitar riffs while "ABQ" slows things down a bit with tantalizing R&B vibes. "Loverboy" can be described as nothing other than sex in musical form. "Over the Moon" evokes a sort of melancholic romance accompanied by hypnotic synth. Finally, "Clueless" ends the EP on an extremely catchy note. You can't help but shimmy to the rhythm and sing along with María each time she smugly insists: "You're telling me I can't take this shit no more, baby. How does it feel every time I let you down?" *Superclean, Vol. II* is a fantastic collection of songs, each carrying its own distinct emotion. I find it difficult to put

Songs for Your Hangover

“Every Time the Sun Comes Up I’m in Trouble” Sharon Van Etten

“Lift Yourself” Kanye West

“Shallow” Lady Gaga

“Every Rose Has its Thorn” but the cover by Miley Cyrus

“Kingdom” Carrie Underwood

“Chicken Wire” Johnathan Byrd

“Monster” Imagine Dragons

“Sunday Morning” The Velvet Underground

“Combustion” Meshugga

october 3, 2018

made iridescence in 10 days at the infamous Abbey Road studio in London. This is definitely their most experimental and daring album yet, with high-pitched vocals, deeply personal lyrics, and samples from other popular music.

It took me a minute, but I haven’t been able to listen to anything other than iridescence since it dropped. If you wanna ball out on your way to class, you have “NEW ORLEANS” and “VIVID.” If you got dumped or you’re feeling generally shitty, you have “WEIGHT” and “TONYA.” This album has it all. Joba is absolutely the star of this album with some truly incredible lines, like “Impending death is the only sign of life / I’m throwing Hail Marys till I die.” Kevin Abstract has some gut-wrenching verses also, continuing to explore sexuality and coping with fame. I cannot wait to hear the rest of the trilogy and I can’t imagine what they’ll do next. That being said, with iridescence, BROCKHAMPTON shows that they’re not slowing down and they’re only going to keep evolving.

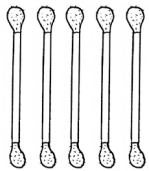
Favorite track: “VIVID”

highs and emotional lows. “Let It Go,” the album’s fifth song marks a unique fusion of these two sensations. Somehow Cannon manages to relate his own feelings for his ex with trying to help his little brother cope with a broken heart. This constant back-and-forth coupled with bitter chords and slight autotune is truly mesmerizing. As Proper Dose comes to a close, track ten, “Growing On You,” depicts Cannon’s struggle to write this album. Writing Proper Dose represents how he wants to move on from singing about girls and sipping lean so that he can grow as an adult. Subsequently, the album’s final track, “Light Year,” depicts how he finally let go of his past through an ironic use of the band’s signature punk style.

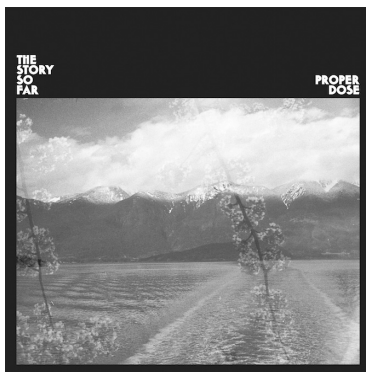
Favorite Track: “If I Fall”

The Mariás’ music into words. After all, it’s not just something to be heard. It’s something to be experienced.

Favorite Track: “Cariño”



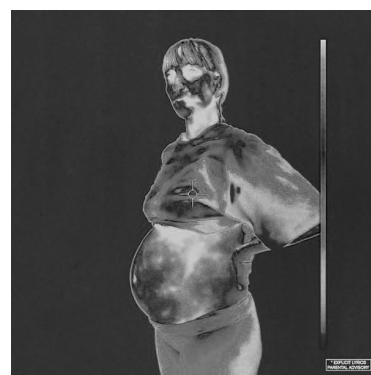
The Story So Far
Proper Dose
Ed Lucano



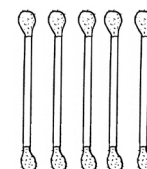
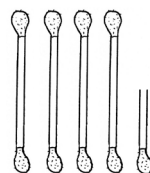
The Story So Far have returned in typical pop-punk fashion. After three long years of monotonous teen angst, and a tearful longing for something more, The Story So Far has finally graced its loyal fan base with their fourth studio album, Proper Dose. Similar to how I have changed since 2015, the musical MO of lead singer Parker Cannon’s rowdy ensemble has metaphorically transformed from that of an emo seventeen-year-old, angry at his ex-girlfriend (and the world itself), to that of a balanced twenty-something with an experienced perspective on happiness and loss.

Proper Dose starts off with its title track, jolting its way into its audience’s eardrums with aggressive guitar riffs, and thundering drum lines that are reminiscent of The Story So Far’s previous discography. However, shrouded in its nostalgic instrumentals is Proper Dose’s raw look at Cannon’s battle with drug addiction, and how it has negatively affected his health and family. The album continues on a journey of drug-induced

iridescence
BROCKHAMPTON
Olivia Langenberg



It’s been quite a year for BROCKHAMPTON. Following the SATURATION trilogy last year comes iridescence, which is also the first of a new trilogy: the best years of our lives. This is BROCKHAMPTON’s first release after the sexual misconduct allegations against member Ameer Vann came out this past year. And damn, this album is an emotional rollercoaster. The group trashed a few projects they’d been working on and



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