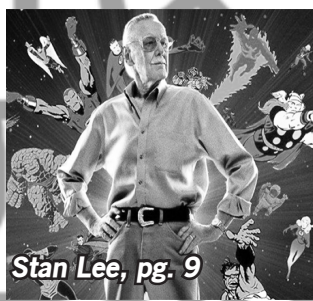


# the paper

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## the paper

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

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

## our aim

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

"What stocking stuffer are you?"

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# Breaking News: Paul Manafort Lied! Again!

by Meredith Mclaughlin  
Arts Co-editor

## Trump's former campaign chief secretly met with Julian Assange

Paul Manafort, ex-Trump campaign chairman and current convicted felon, has recently been accused of meeting with Wikileaks leader, Julian Assange in March of 2016. *The Guardian* claims the two met in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, and though there is no information in regards to what they talked about, the timing of this alleged meeting occurred months before a major leak by Assange's team.

In July of 2016, Wikileaks published a series of emails from upper level Democratic National Committee staff members. Some of the most important information revealed by this leak was the DNC's attempts to undermine the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. One of the ideas thrown around by a DNC staffer involved getting someone to ask if Sanders was an atheist in an attempt to discredit his religious background. The leaks also revealed how former head of the DNC, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, had emailed MSNBC to get them to apologize for claiming that she did not support the Sanders campaign. More generally, the leaks gave insight to the methods that the DNC used to raise exorbitant amounts of money from financial donors; things like getting seats close to President Obama were often prerequisites for getting donations.

The grim reality that these emails revealed damaged faith in the Democratic party on both sides: Sanders supporters felt betrayed and no longer believed that the DNC and Hillary Clinton were honest, and Republicans felt that their beliefs about the DNC were confirmed. Clearly, these leaks were highly beneficial to the Trump campaign. However, they

are call to question whether Russia's interference in the 2016 elections on Trump's behalf were co-orchestrated by the Trump Campaign. The "Steele Dossier" (the results of a private investigation conducted by Christopher Steele, British Intelligence's former head of the Russian desk) indicate that



Russia's efforts to sow dissent among the American public was encouraged by the Trump campaign. It also points to Manafort as being a major player in these alleged dealings.

Paul Manafort is considered by the dossier to be the middleman between Trump and the Kremlin. Within this context it seems likely that Manafort would be the one to organize the Wikileaks for Trump's benefit. This covert meeting between Assange and Manafort would have not only been a first step towards sabotaging the DNC, but it would have benefitted Assange as well. *The Guardian* points out that with a Trump presidency aided by Wikileaks, there is a chance that Assange would no longer be sought out by the US government to

pay for previously leaking secret US documents pertaining to the Iraq war. At the very least, there is a chance that he might get a reduced sentence. Vox points out that Assange and Wikileaks have always taken a very "anti-US" stance, arguing that the US acts as an imperial power that interferes heavily



in other countries' affairs. Assange has held that Hillary Clinton is someone who has no problem with using the US military abroad, making her more dangerous than Trump. However, it is important to note that the hacker who gave the information to Wikileaks to release, Guccifer 2.0 is most likely a Russian agent (he once forgot to hide his IP address, which indicated that he was a Russian GRU agent). While both Russia and Assange deny any collaboration, it is more than likely that the two took advantage of each other's common interests to damage the DNC. Assange similarly denounces the *Guardian's* article about his alleged meeting with Manafort, and is planning on suing the publication.

Unlike Assange, Manafort was unable

to call for asylum at an embassy before getting indicted for conspiracy against the United States, laundering money, acting as an unregistered agent for a foreign principle (Manafort lobbied for pro-Russian-Ukrainian Party), and for making false statements, among other charges. It's important to note, however, that "conspiracy against the United States" indicates that Manafort planned to commit a crime against the United States, in this case massive money laundering. But this doesn't mean there is no evidence that Manafort enabled collusion; during Trump's campaign, Manafort had met with Russian lobbyists who promised to get information on Hillary Clinton. Manafort had entered a plea deal with Special counsel Robert Muller in September after pleading guilty to one charge of conspiracy. It was understood that Manafort would assist Muller in his investigation in order to avoid further money laundering trials. Currently, however, Muller is considering hitting Manafort with even more charges, as his group believe that Manafort has consistently been lying to them throughout the investigation. Investigators say that more details on December 7.

Considering Manafort's criminal history and international connections, on the surface it seems very likely that he and Assange did meet to discuss collusion. However, there is some worry amongst other news sources that this story might be a plant to further discredit the media. Politico has hypothesized that if some of the *Guardian's* sources lied to them, it could prep the public to distrust news sources critical of Trump more and more.



# E. Gads: E. Coli outbreak strikes in U.S. and Canada

by Gabby Curran  
Copy Editor

Despite its rather barbaric origins, most people would agree that Thanksgiving is about family, celebration, and togetherness. However, no matter how kind we may be, there's always company that we'd rather avoid than extend a hand to. This year, families were forced to deal with a particularly unwelcome guest at their Thanksgiving tables--an outbreak of the newest strand of E. coli.

For those of you lucky enough to be unacquainted with E. coli, here's a quick biology lesson. E. coli (short for Escherichia coli) is a kind of bacteria. While most strains are harmless to and even necessary for the human body, others, if contracted, can make you sick. Injurious e. coli bacteria produce a toxin known as Shiga toxin, which damage the lining of the small intestine and trigger the symptoms generally associated with E. coli illness. As E. coli bacteria commonly resides in the intestines, its pathogenic strains will usually cause stomach cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting. Fevers are frequent symptoms of E. coli, though they generally don't break 101oF/38.5o C according to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. Fortunately, most people get better within 5 to 7 days of contracting pathogenic E. coli, though around 5-10% of cases result in hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), which in turn can cause kidney failure and even death. There have been a number of E. coli outbreaks in the past, most notably in early 2016, when a number of people became sick after eating at Chipotle restaurants.

The most recent E. coli epidemic began in October. Though the U.S. Food & Drug Administration claims its earliest case was reported on Halloween, the

## It was just in time for Thanksgiving!

CDC states that cases were first reported far earlier, on October 8. Two days before Thanksgiving, both the CDC and the FDA launched an investigation of the outbreak. As of November 29, cases of E. coli have been reported in 12 US states and certain areas of Canada. There have been no deaths so far, though 16 people have been hospitalized, including one person who developed HUS.

salads and sandwiches; iceberg lettuce is being treated as a viable alternative, with prices soaring 168% in the past few weeks.

The outbreak has received significant media coverage, from USA Today, to Forbes, to CNN, to Fox News. However, despite what the frequent media coverage of the epidemic might have you think, this most recent flare-up of E. coli cases

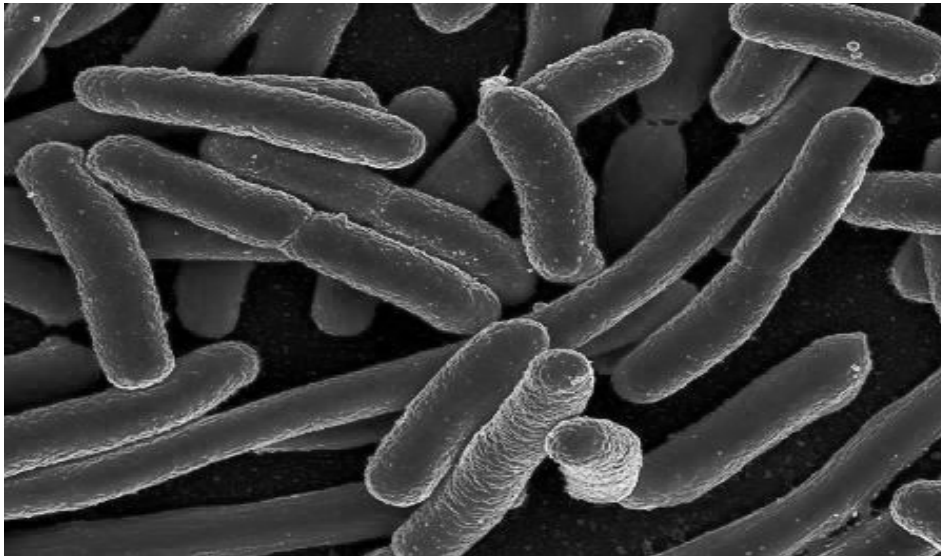
stomach cramping and diarrhea isn't the best of ways to finish our fall semesters. In addition to romaine lettuce, the CDC also advises people to avoid raw/uncooked meats, unpasteurized dairy products and juices, and to thoroughly wash all fruits and vegetables. Good hygiene is also a must--wash your hands thoroughly after using the bathroom, before and after preparing foods, and after being in contact with animals and their environments. Those with weaker immune systems and/or diabetes should also be wary, as they are at a higher risk of contracting E. coli infections.

Above all, don't worry--finals are just a few weeks away. Just tell yourself that in the midst of all the studying, suffering,

**E. coli (short for Escherichia coli) is a kind of bacteria. While most strains are harmless to and even necessary for the human body, others, if contracted, can make you sick.**

crying, and despair, you probably won't have time to contract E. coli anyway.

Even if you haven't consumed romaine lettuce in the past few weeks, contact your doctor or healthcare provider if you develop the following symptoms: persistent (lasting more than three or four days), severe, or bloody diarrhea; a high fever; and/or a significantly decreased frequency of urination. These may be signs of a severe case of E. coli and/or early-onset HUS.



According to a survey conducted of those infected, romaine lettuce seems to be the primary culprit of this year's outbreak. On November 26, the CDC issued a Food Safety Alert advising people not to consume or sell romaine lettuce for the time being, specifically lettuce grown in northern and central California. The outbreak has not resulted in any recalls, with the FDA claiming that it does not have enough information on the outbreak's origins to request a targeted recall. Nevertheless, on November 20, a number of produce companies agreed not to sell or serve romaine lettuce to their customers in the wake of the outbreak. In the meantime, customers have been turning to other leafy greens for their

isn't as sudden and unexpected as it may seem. As far back as June 2018, another outbreak of E. coli originating from romaine lettuce hit the United States and Canada (<https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-04-18/index.html>). The June outbreak was far more acute, resulting in 210 cases of E. coli reported, 96 hospitalizations, 27 cases of HUS, and 5 deaths, yet received far less coverage.

For the time being, numerous measures and precautions can be taken to avoid contracting E. coli. Despite its low fatality rate, it's still an unpleasant experience to have, and enduring finals with severe





# Melania Trump's White House Christmas Spectacular

by Angelina Zervos  
Staff Scrooge

On Monday November 26, 2018, First Lady Melania Trump revealed the 2018 White House Christmas decorations to the public. The mansion's decorations include 20,000 feet of lights, 14,000 ornaments, 12,000 bows, 29 Christmas trees, pencil wreaths to promote the "Be Best" campaign, a gigantic gingerbread replica of the National Mall, and most notably, 40 bright red Topiary trees. The display was set up entirely by volunteers, most of whom are either veterans or are representative of veteran families; out of about 6,000 applicants, only a little over two hundred people were selected to be a part of the decorating team.

The theme for this year's White House Christmas is "American Treasures;" in a statement, Melania Trump said the decorations are meant to "honor the heart and spirit of the American people." The display was seemingly very thought out by Mrs. Trump; however, as soon as the holiday décor made its debut online, the criticisms

## FLOTUS responds to criticism of her decorations for a second time

started to flood in, mostly surrounding the topiaries. The tall red trees were compared to the handmaids' outfits in the television series *The Handmaid's Tale*, the hallway of blood from Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*, and soon the phrase "blood-red" began to be used to describe the festive decorations.

While many poked fun at the White House Christmas just for laughs, some commentators took a different route, insinuating that the Topiaries represented the oppression and bloodshed that took place on American soil, while others believed they tipped a hat to mother Russia. The backlash of the White House Christmas decorations, whether or not a comment was made with the intent of entertainment, was labeled as liberal hysteria by those who saw it as an attack against the Trump administration.

The first lady did not take long to react to the critiques. Two days after the reveal, during a TIME interview, she stated that everyone has their

own particular taste, but she believes that the setup looks "fantastic," and welcomes everyone to "the people's house" to view them in real life. The following Friday, on November 30, Mrs. Trump gave a tour of the White House Christmas, an experience that was much more personal and insightful of her ideas than the original video posted by the White House. She made sure to address her decision to incorporate the color red so diligently throughout. Not only did she want it to represent the celebration of Christmas and the American flag, but also "bravery, heart, and patriotism."

Volunteers who worked on the presentation also responded to the insults. One florist in particular, Vickie Wenstrup said she was proud of the finished product and thought the negative comments were "horrible."

The whole series of events has allowed for people to catch sight of a more authentic side of Melania Trump that is rarely seen. While the original White House Christmas revelation was

a very manufactured representation of the White House and first lady, with generic Christmas music and footage of a lone first lady walking down extravagantly decorated halls, the backlash of her choice of decorations allowed her to give a personal response. Unlike President Trump, the first lady rarely responds publically to criticism and usually has her communications director make statements on her behalf. While the subject matter is not all that significant in the grand scope of American politics, although it has been treated as a national debate, the incident resulted in a very interesting outcome that allowed the nation to see more of the rather reclusive first lady. Hopefully the public will hear more from Melania Trump in future.

# The Weight of a Kilogram is Changing

by Manas Vani  
Staff Science Guy

The central issue of this article is simply put the intersection of philosophy and complex scientific principles. For those of you who aren't STEM majors the kilogram was first defined in 1729 as the mass of a platinum-iridium rod. There are several of these rods around the world in places such as Washington D.C. and Paris. Companies tend to use these rods in order to maintain consistency in weight measurements. However, scientist have discovered as of late that the weights of the rods have changed over time. The French rod specifically has lost 50 micro grams (that's about the same weight as a human hair). Though it may seem unimportant it has changed the accuracy.

Why would anyone change a perfectly good definition, especially for so small a change? Well the reason behind this is that we need our numbers to be accurate if we ever want have cool futuristic things we need to have

## Thought you knew about kilograms? You thought wrong

the most perfect understanding of everything possible. One clear example is a kilometer and a meter which is 1/1000 of a meter. The reason that that is precise is because meters and such are calculated in relation to the speed of light which is a fundamental speed in the universe.

How do we do it then? Currently there exists a function that relates the function between the frequency of a photon and the energy of that particle. So  $E = P * F$  (frequency of the photon). Many of us also know the famous equation by Einstein which is  $E = MC^2$ . Using that equation it is possible to say that,  $mass = PF / C^2$ . In this equation there is only one problem, namely that as of yet we do not know the exact value of F. So the scientists are doing work in DC in order to try to find a precise value of F. The scientist need to get the value of F right because other units too depend on kilogram. Mole is the substance that contains the same number of particles as there are atoms

in a gram of carbon 12. Presumably everyone had studied about the Avogadro's constant (my friend didn't but I assume most people know it). This will change the exact value of that constant.

Likewise, the ampere will no longer be dependent on the ampere. It will be based on the charge of an electron due to which  $e = 1.602176634 \times 10^{-19}$ . Will this change in definition will change something? Honestly speaking no, the point of the change in definition is not to shake things up. All that changing the current definition in this way would do is go remove the current dependency that we have on objects to universal and mathematical phenomenon. This theoretically can help anyone anywhere to make precise calculations and measurements about objects. Eventually I hope that by changing this we are able to make much more precise measurements because that will facilitate the creation and improvement of technology. I'm

not promising anything all I'm saying is that theoretically if it is possible to time travel I'm sure that it would require perfect calculations, which we simply cannot do under the current system for things like the kg. This change brings us one step closer to advancements in technology that we can barely dream of as of now.

# FAKER THAN TRUTH

by Andrew Millman

Saudi Crown Prince (and murderer) Mohammed bin Salman and Russian President (and murderer) Vladimir Putin recently went viral for a very enthusiastic “bro high-five,” which both leaders seemed to take great delight in, at the G-20 Summit. Donald Trump was also seen in the background of the video looking disappointed that he was not included in the bonding moment between evil world leaders. Besides Putin, most other world leaders have avoided Mohammed bin Salman because of his role in ordering the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Donald Trump was so mad about being excluded from the handshake that he attempted an impromptu handshake with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, but she just rolled her eyes and walked away. He tried to initiate it with sixteen other world leaders in attendance and his wife Melania, before finally finding someone who was willing to accommodate him, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, who also congratulated on his “big win” in the 2018 midterms. When reached for comment, Prime Minister Abe said “He is a very sad and pathetic man; I just wanted to make him feel better.” This act of altruism prevented Trump from going on another Twitter rant against his fellow world leaders. Of course, Putin would have been excluded from rant because he is still in position of certain incriminating material on Trump.

## 2020 Democratic Pres. Candidates, explained

by Andrew Millman  
News Editor

The Democratic presidential primaries are more than a year away, but here’s an early look at many of the possible candidates. Special thanks to Wikipedia for a comprehensive list of 42 (!!!) possible candidates.

1. Joe Biden served as Barack Obama’s vice president for eight years and was a longtime Senator from Delaware before that. He currently holds a significant lead in early polling, at nearly 30% in most, but this could largely be because of name recognition. “Uncle Joe” a beloved figure by many, but his handling of the Anita Hill hearings and his role in passing the 1994 Crime Bill will come under scrutiny if he decides to run.

2. Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist Senator from Vermont came in second during the last presidential primary. His surprise success and subsequent advocacy has pushed the Democratic Party to the left on a plethora of positions. However, while he is currently second in polling to Biden, he is currently only polling in the mid-teens, less than half of his 2016 vote percentage, which could portend weakness for him as a 2020 candidate. He’s the most popular politician nationally, but so was Hillary Clinton in 2014.

3. Beto O’Rourke, an outgoing Congressman from Texas who almost beat Ted Cruz in this year’s senate contest, has become a beloved figure among young people and activists. He wasn’t included in polling until recently, but so far he polls better than most. And, ya know, Abraham Lincoln also lost a senate race two years before becoming president.

4. Kamala Harris is a freshman senator from California, but she has already made a name for herself as an outspoken critic of the Trump administration, especially during the family separation crisis and the Kavanaugh hearings. She does relatively well in polling, but she does not have the same name recognition as some of her competitors. Some progressives also really don’t like her, for reasons not really explainable.

5. Elizabeth Warren is a former Harvard professor who helped start

### It’s too early, but someone tell these guys

the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and is currently a Senator from Massachusetts. Along with Sanders, she is a favorite among progressives and has recently publicized several important policy proposals. However, she was recently criticized by the Cherokee Nation for using a DNA test to “prove” Native American ancestry.



6. Kirsten Gillibrand is a second term Senator from New York, who has voted against Trump more than any of her colleagues, a dramatic evolution from being a relatively-conservative upstate congresswoman. During her senate tenure, she has been the most prominent advocate for victims of sexual violence, even before the #MeToo movement came to prominence. She was the first senator to call on former Sen. Al Franken to resign for groping multiple women, but this has surprisingly caused many wealthy donors to turn against her to forcing a popular colleague from office.

7. Cory Booker is a Senator from New Jersey and former Mayor of Newark. He is popular for his social media presence and various viral headlines, including the time he saved a woman from a house fire. However, he has long been associated with the financial services industry, which may not be popular among Democratic primary voters.

8. Amy Klobuchar is a Senator from Minnesota, where she is

extremely popular. She won reelection for a third term by 34% in 2018, in a state that Clinton only won by 1.5%. She’s super popular among people that know her, but the problem is that not many people know who she is.

9. Deval Patrick is the former Massachusetts governor is a relatively-unknown candidate who’s been out

of public office for over four years. Despite his lack of name recognition, he’s close friends with former President Obama and many of his former staffers are encouraging him to run.

10. Sherrod Brown is a longtime senator from Ohio. The media began speculating about his potential candidacy after the midterms, when he was the only Democrat

to win statewide in Ohio. He’s a progressive who focuses on economic issues. He’d be the ideal candidate for Democrats to try to win back white working-class voters than abandoned the party for Trump in 2016. However, the Democrats’ wins in 2018 were largely because of young voters, suburban women, and people of color, not the white working class.

Other Candidates to watch: Mitch Landrieu, Julian Castro, Jeff Merkley, Eric Garcetti, Jay Inslee, John Hickenlooper, Bob Casey

Great candidates that’ll never run: Michelle Obama, Oprah, Chris Murphy, Michael Bennett

People who shouldn’t run but are/might: Michael Bloomberg, Terry McAuliffe, Andrew Cuomo, Howard Schultz, Eric Holder, John Delaney, Richard Ojeda, Michael Avenatti, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Eric Swalwell, Steve Bullock, Bill de Blasio, Al Sharpton, Tulsi Gabbard, Martin O’Malley, Tom Steyer, Tim Ryan, Peter Buttigieg, Adam Schiff, Mark Cuban



# Peace & Justice is a Hidden Gem at Fordham

by Robin Happel  
Copy Editor

Almost forty years ago, a Fordham professor was arrested for breaking into a nuclear weapons plant. Daniel Berrigan, S.J. was already famous for his demonstration burning draft records with homemade napalm, and even in memory he remains one of Fordham's most famed educators, eulogized in the New York Times and elsewhere around the world.

Father Berrigan was ardently opposed to the war in Vietnam – in his words, “our apologies, good friends, for the fracture of good order, the burning of paper instead of children... We could not, so help us God, do otherwise.” While he has passed on, parts of Fordham still retain his deep commitment to faith in action. In the words of Peace and Justice program director Dr. van Buren, “Peace and Justice Studies might seem similar to other interdisciplinary programs at Fordham - but what makes it unique is its focus on issues of justice.”

Peace and Justice Studies may not be the most well-known program at Fordham, but throughout my four years here I've found its faculty to be some of the most dedicated and diverse voices on campus. Some of my professors are retired military, and some are ardent pacifists. Some have devoted their lives to New York City, and some hail from half a world away. They tend to teach not just from a textbook, but from their own experience. Professor Asha Castleberry knows how important it is to have female UN peacekeepers because she was one. Dr. Erick Rengifo's lectures on climate change aren't just graphs or charts, but a heartfelt account of mountain snow melting around his hometown in Peru.

For Dr. van Buren and past directors, the program draws its inspiration directly from the Catholic social justice and peace activism movement. More than almost any other department at Fordham, its students are required to perform service work, both for local charities and international NGO's. Every lecture and every semester is designed to prepare you for the type of work that will give you more than just enough money to live. Freshman

## The P&J Program isn't just about sandwiches

year I took a class on land rights in the Amazon, and this past fall, that class was the first thing on my mind when I interviewed indigenous activists from the Amazon at a UN climate summit. I think about Professor Castleberry's class every time I see a story on the news about UN peacekeepers. While other classes ask me what I want to do with my life, the Peace and Justice

Fordham likes to talk about faith and mission, and for many of us the occasional sticker or “Let's Get JesuLit” t-shirt is enough to demonstrate our devotion. But in the teaching of Father Berrigan, faith isn't about where your head is at, or even where your heart is at. Faith is about where you are. And you don't necessarily have to handcuff yourself to anything to be an activist. If you want to work on Wall Street, consider



program asks me who I want to be. It challenges me to ask if I can do more for the causes I claim to care about, in a time when many of us should be asking ourselves the same question.

Most professors in the program carry their work far beyond the classroom. Dr. Rengifo helped found Spes Nova, an innovative fair trade initiative that helps lift impoverished communities around the world out of poverty, in addition to his work as a consultant. Professor Peleg, who teaches the intro and internship classes, is an expert on peace negotiations in his home country of Israel, and has spent much of his life building bridges between Israelis and Palestinians. And, after tragically losing his son in 9/11, Professor Orlando Rodriguez used his expertise in Peace and Justice Studies to help organize September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.

a corporate social responsibility division that works for reform, and invest in startups like Spes Nova. If you want to be a lawyer, make your pro bono service something meaningful to you, more than just another box to check for the bar. Whatever path you take in life, I promise there is something in Peace and Justice Studies for you.

It hasn't always been easy to fit Peace and Justice classes into my schedule, but it has always been worth it. As Professor Rodriguez told me recently, “Community Service and Social Action is a difficult course, for the students and for me. It's not that the subject matter or the readings are complicated. But the students, and I as well, have to learn how to apply ideas to the messy reality of life.” The people I've met through the Peace and Justice program and the communities we serve – from artisans in rural Kenya, to women fighting for clean cookstoves and a safer future for their families – are something I'll carry with me always, in all of my own messy realities.

**R**ealer  
**T**han  
**F**act

by Claire Nunez

This past week, two undercover police units clashed in Detroit. One unit was acting as drug dealers while the other was pretending to be buyers– do you know where I am going with this? Well, one unit showed up to bust the other and it could have been seriously dangerous. Body cameras on both parties showed the officers verbally and physically fighting. It is unclear as to how the officers found out the others were also in the Detroit Police Department. No one was hurt or injured. But this was a major flaw and laughable moment for the department. Well, it is for people on the outside. This just shows how flawed the department is in Detroit.

In 1986 (also in Detroit), one of these show-offs was proved to be deadly. 2 officers were killed. This mistake, though comical, is obviously very embarrassing for the department. They are currently conducting investigations to see how and why this happened. Detroit has some of the worst police scandals to date, so this big mishap is just another tarnish on their already damaged reputation. There have been many misdemeanors, sex scandals and poor management in the department. Many officials have been fired or resigned.

Hopefully the city can implement better communication between precincts. This event is truly a reminder that it is necessary.

# Next Year's News Predictions: What Will Happen in 2019?

by the paper staff  
(AKA Psychics)

## January 2019:

\*New Study Shows 80% of People Believe in Climate Change—Only 30% of People Care

\*Jeff Bezos and Disney in Competition to Buy Everything Single Living and Non-Living Thing

\*Nuclear Missiles Launched Into the Moon: War Ensues

\*Elon Musk and Seth Rogen Invented New Strain of Weed: Weed Now Illegal in New York

\*Dieters Lose Their Minds Avoiding Candy, Potato Chips, and Carbs

## February 2019:

\*Moon War Ends After Scientists Agree it is Cheese—Gouda Cheese

\*Break-Up Anthem, “thank u, next” by Ariana Grande becomes National Anthem Following Millennial Revolution

\*President of China Xi Jinping Bands Winnie Pooh Merchandise From Everywhere

\*Conspiracist Alex Jones Proven Correct After Two Male Frogs Found Humping

\*Meet Putin and Trump's Love-Child, Donny Vladimir Putin-Trump—The Future is Stark

## March 2019:

\*BREAKING: President Trump Has Been Found As a Stale Cheeto Puff in Oval Office

\*BREAKING: President Trump Was Found Hiding Under Desk Pretending to Be Cheeto to Scare Liberals

\*Pete Davidson Hospitalized After Big Dick Energy Runs Out

\*Conservative Marine Biologists Argues Whales Are Not Filled With Plastic, But Evolving to Have Plastic Organs

## Fun headlines we think may appear in next year's news

\*“thank u, next” Music Video Donny Vladimir Putin-Trump: Who Will Beats out “A Star is Born” for Oscar: Get Holidays and Weekends?  
Bradley Cooper Pees Himself on Stage (Again)

## April 2019:

\*BREAKING: Chester the Cheetah Sues President Trump Over Identity Theft

\*Nickelback Has Top Billboard Song Shocking Nation

\*Winnie the Pooh Riot Takes Place in China: 45 Stuffed Bears Injured

\*Britain Sues EU For Making It Look Like a Good Idea to Leave It

\*El Chapo Escapes Again, Where Did he Go?

\*Rebecca Black Performs at Fordham Spring Weekend

## May 2019

\*BREAKING: Millennials Quit Running Nation to do More Important Things

\*College Graduates Have Record Amounts of Student Debt: How Do They Deal?

\*Bernie Sanders Says He is NOT Running for President in 2020

\*Is Almond Milk Good For You? Nothing is Good For You

\*Britain Tries to Leave EU and Then Begs to Stay: EU Rolls Eyes

## June 2019:

\*BREAKING: Jeff Bezos has Trained Every Bee in the World to Serve as an Amazon Prime Delivery Drone

\*Genetically Engineered Chocolate Milk Cows Now Exist; Prices Fall Dramatically

\*Winnie the Pooh Named the Official Mascot of Beijing Olympic Games in Big Diplomatic Move

\*International Custody Battle Over

## July 2019:

\*Multiple People Lose Appendages to Fireworks on the Fourth of July

\*Avocado Market Plummet With New Fungus Affecting Trees

\*Moon Proven to Not be Cheese; Scientists Wondering How This Happened

\*Rep. John Delaney Ends Presidential Campaign after Realizing No One Cares

\*Wii Sports Theme Song Becomes a Big Deal Again Because of College Paper Video

\*Hangry Hippo Attacks Bird in Latest Viral Video— Hippos Don't Eat Birds

## August 2019

\*Mike Pence Calls his Wife “Mother” during Speech; Everyone Uncomfortable

\*Fortnight Dancing is Officially Banned From America's Got Talent

\*Kanye West Leads Protests in Opposition to the First Amendment

\*BREAKING: Fordham Barman, Known as “Suits”, Announces Presidential Run

\*BTS Collab with T-Pain: We Never Saw This Coming

## September 2019

\*“Gen Z Worse Than Millennials,” Said Old People Everywhere

\*Father McShane Disappears For a Week in the Botanical Gardens and Reemerges Mysteriously Stronger

\*Carbs Declared the New Protein by American Dietetics Society

\*INVESTIGATION: Rachel Ray IS Becky With the Good Hair

\*“El Chapo” Found Living under White House

\*New York City Council Bans Electric Skateboards Because They are “Way Too Rad”

## October 2019

\*Breaking: Chad Kroger, Frontman of Nickelback, Wins Nobel Prize in Literature For His Hit Song “Every Time I Scream, Spaghetti Comes Out”

\*European Union Sues Facebook For Major Privacy Breach

\*Beyonce Announces Retirement from the Music Industry Because of BECKY

\*Fordham University Adds “Studying The Blade” as a Major

\*Surprising Absolutely No One, The Pamphlet Faces Backlash Over Racist Article

\*“All I Want for Christmas is You” Tops Billboard Chart as Christmas Season Now Starts Before Halloween

## November 2019

\*Turkeys Officially Categorized An Endangered Species: Thanksgiving Canceled

\*Elon Musk Departs for One Man Mission on Mars Because He's a Stupid Fucking Idiot

\*One Direction Announces Reunion Tour Just a Few Years After Breaking Up

\*Stephen Colbert Steps Down From Tonight Show, Will be Replaced by Popular Twitch Streamer Ninja

\*Nintendo Announces New Game System: Board Games. They Are Games Without Screens

## December 2019:

\*“A Christmas Prince: The Royal Coup D'etat” Becomes Netflix's Most-Watched Original Movie Ever

\*Elon Musk Realizes He is NOT on Mars but That Grimes Just Took Him to Arizona

\*BREAKING: Elon Musk and Grimes Marry in Arizona Space Chapel

\*Big Snow Storm Cancels Christmas and Rudolph is Too Congested to Function

\*Christmas Uncanceled When Santa Revealed as a Myth







## Excelsior: A Tribute to the Creator of Heroes

By Christian Decker  
News Editor

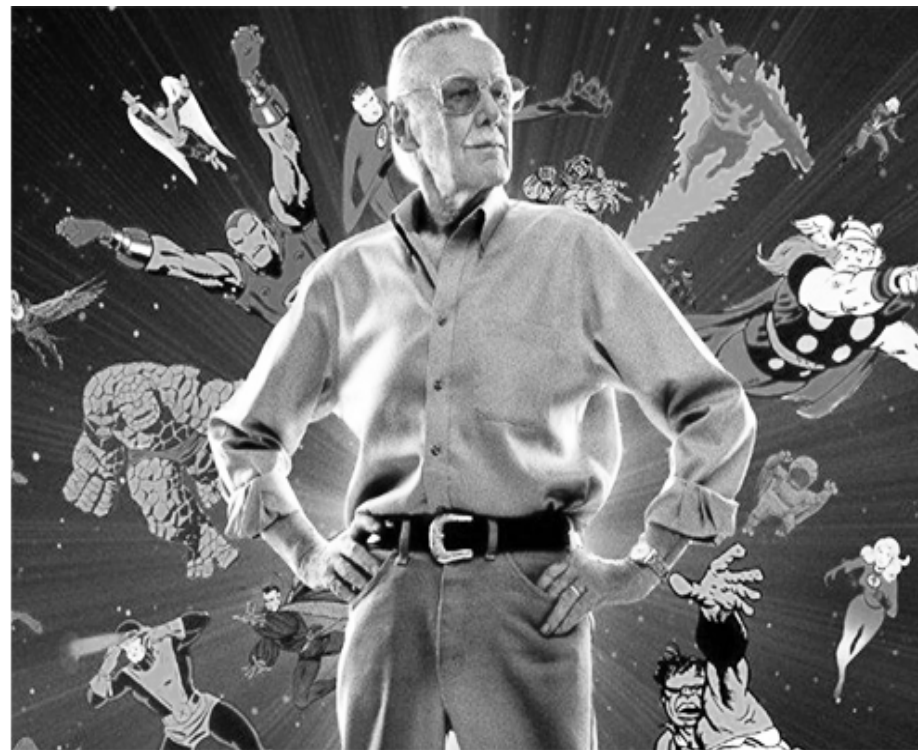
When I was younger, my Saturday mornings used to be a lot different than they are now. There was no sleeping in till noon and waking up and feeling bad about myself. No, there were only the Saturday morning cartoons. Growing up, my favorite to watch in the morning was the old Spider-man show they used to play on that old network Jetex, which actually doesn't exist anymore. I found myself identifying with Peter Parker: every day average nerd who somehow manages to accidentally get spider powers that turn him into the web-slinging hero of New York City. For as long as I can remember, Spider-man has been one of my favorite superheroes. The lessons I learned from Spider-man would never have been possible if not for Stan Lee.

As most of you reading this know by now, Marvel Comics co-creator Stan Lee passed away at the age of 95 several weeks. I suppose it was to be expected, 95 is an old age and no one lives forever. I think, however, most of us Marvel fans kind of expected Stan to live forever. He's had a cameo in almost every Marvel related movie, and it just seemed like something that would just continue forever. Once Avengers 4 comes out, that will be the last Stan Lee cameo ever. It makes me sad to think we won't be able to see that loveable old man randomly show up in my favorite superhero movies, but at the same time, it's through these characters that his legacy will go on.

My dad was a huge Marvel Comics reader when he was younger. I remember when he first showed his collection up in our attic. I kid you not,

## Stan Lee himself was a hero to fans across the world

he had a whole bin full of them. Back then they didn't have as many series as they do now, but he had piles of the Uncanny X-Men, the Avengers, West Coast Avengers, Alpha Flight, and even the original Secret Wars. I suppose that's what makes Stan Lee



so amazing. He was able to create heroes and villains that would stand the test of time. With new writers and artists bringing new takes and ideas to old classic heroes, the possibilities are endless when it comes to story ideas, character arcs, and even completely different takes on the character that have never been done before.

Stan Lee managed to create characters that everyone could love

during times where not everyone was being represented. With the creation of Black Panther, one of the first black superheroes who was shown in a position of power, as a king of the wealthiest nation on Earth, Stan created a character that black people

in America could identify with and be inspired by. Consider the X-Men, who tackled the challenge of being accepted for, and being proud of who you are and challenging the blind hatred of those around us.

Growing up with all these characters provided a lot of role models for me, not that I didn't have any real-life ones. Although I've become more of a DC fan, Stan's influence on them has

never been lost on me. Stan essentially started all the characters that we know and love, and even made his own twist on popular DC characters like Batman and Superman. Although Marvel and DC fans tend to fight over everything, that wasn't something that Stan was a part of. He frequently collaborated with DC, and the amount of cool combined issues that spawned from those collaborations were magical.

Perhaps the most wonderful thing about Stan Lee was his kindness and love for his fans. On many occasions I've heard Stan talking about his appreciation for his fans coming to see his cameos or just their reading his comics in general. I'm not sure there was a person alive who had more of an appreciation for his fan base than Stan Lee. He just wanted to create characters that everyone would remember, and everyone would enjoy.

I remember reading some comments that Bill Maher made on his talk show criticizing Stan Lee and comic book fans as childish. To him, comic book fans were pseudo-intellectuals, and Stan Lee's death certainly should not have received the attention it should have. Big talk coming from the white armchair liberal privileged asshole who said the n word on tv. What the works of Stan Lee have done for people, and making them feel special and loved, is more than any second-rate late-night show host ever could. What the heroes mean to us, and to me, is the hope that we can make a difference in this world. To Stan, we could all be heroes.

# Taco Bell: An American Institution

By Suresh Hanubal  
Staff Chalupa Chowhound

Taco Bell. It's just America's cheap "Mexican" food chain (hot take: Chipotle sucks, right?). It's where you go when you're low on cash and desperate for food. It's really just there for when you really need to scarf something down at 2 A.M. and nowhere else is open, right? Wrong. Wrong on all fronts. I believe that Taco Bell is something more than that, something more than just some place you go when you're hungry and kinda desperate. I don't think it deserves a bad or seedy reputation at all. In fact, I believe that Taco Bell is an American culinary and cultural institution.

Imagine: you don't eat meat, but you're in the middle of Kansas and the only places to grub around are fast food chains. Do you just grab fries from McDonalds for the 20th time, or do you grab yourself a scrumptious full meal from the Bell? The answer is clear. In the decades before America's recent obsession with health food, often the only place to have something more than a light snack on the road was Taco Bell. Now, you might be thinking, "Wait! But how? They put beef in basically everything!" But you'd be wrong on this assertion, as Taco Bell allows patrons to sub any meat ingredients with beans or veggies. This customizability has allowed non-meat-eating Americans on the road a decent cheap food option in the decades since Taco Bell's launch and nationwide spread.

## A haven for healthy yet broke foodies

Now imagine: its 2 A.M. and you're desperate for something to eat. You could go to your local bodega and get a sandwich for \$5, or go the local White Castle or McDonalds and get something barely edible for a couple bucks. Or, for just \$0.99 you could get yourself a steaming and nutritious cheesy bean and rice burrito from



your local Bell. It'll fill you up, it tastes great, and it's available at any time of night. This is why the nation's stoner and college-aged demographics love the Bell. Because it's super accessible and tastes great.

Imagine: you're in the mood for some fast food but you also want to try something new. Well then there's really only one place to go, and that's the Bell. Because think about it, when's the last time that Subway, McDonalds, Wendy's, etc. really

thought outside the box in regards to their menu items? Can't think of anything? That's because they never do. In comparison, the food scientists employed by Taco Bell are constantly on the lookout for innovative methods of food construction. In the last few years alone, the Bell has brought us such wondrous creations as the

Doritos LocosTacos, Double Chalupas, Smothered Burritos, and Nacho Fries. What other national chains have even come close in their new offerings? None. Taco Bell stands alone in its ability to

constantly think of new combinations of cheese, tortillas, beans, meat, and vegetables.

On this point, Taco Bell's menu is stunningly diverse for a place that constantly and consistently delivers good, cheap food. At the Bell you can get the Mexican Pizza, Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes, Chalupas, Burritos, Tacos, Quesadillas, Gorditas, and dozens of other items. And that's not even taking into consideration their fantastic drink menu. Have you ever

had anything else as delectable as the Baja Blast? No? That's because it's literally nectar from the gods, and it's only available at the Bell. Meanwhile, at other establishments of fine dining you're limited to only a dozen choices at most, and you're stuck with terrifyingly boring drink options such as Sprite and Coke. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, the Bell is constantly evolving and adding new creations to its menu. This sort of innovation that excites just doesn't happen at other restaurants.

In addition to all of the things I've previously mentioned, I firmly believe that Taco Bell helps build real community. Whenever I patronize my local Bell, I always see a wide variety of happy and friendly folk. From families enjoying time together to high school and college friends gorging on one of Taco Bell's many fantastic combo meals, the Bell always seems to have the sort of atmosphere that helps build true happiness and understanding between people.

For these reasons, I find Taco Bell to be an American institution worthy of attention for the culinary and cultural value that it provides to this nation. From its cheap prices, easy accessibility, menu customizability and diversity to its general atmosphere of welcoming and acceptance, the Bell has truly got it all. So the next time you're in the mood for some food, stop by your local Bell. And as always, Live Mas.

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# The Real Face of Santa Claus

By Robin Happel  
Copy Editor

## This Christmas Eve, stay woke

It's that time of year again – chestnuts are roasting on an open fire, Megyn Kelly is being roasted on Twitter, and Black Santa ornaments are once again gracing store shelves in our corner of the North Bronx.

What's so magical about Black Santa? Believe it or not, he's actually more historically accurate than most of our modern Christmas celebrations. Although Saint Nick the fire code-ignoring reindeer wrangler is largely a figment of popular imagination (and the Coca Cola company), his namesake, the 4th-century Middle Eastern Saint Nicholas, was very real. And, if you hadn't already guessed based on the words "4th-century Middle Eastern," the real Saint Nicholas was not lily white.

Living in what is now the southern coast of Turkey and what was then the Roman Empire, historically accurate Santa endured decades of persecution under the Emperor Diocletian (and later the Fox News team). Orphaned at a young age, he used his inheritance to help impoverished children and travelers. Although he was imprisoned for his faith, he survived to see Christianity become accepted throughout the Roman Empire and attended the Council of Nicaea (where, allegedly, he was thrown out for slapping someone). After he died, manna formed in his tomb, which maybe is why we leave out cookies? I used up my very limited theology knowledge trying to remember when the Council

of Nicaea was, so you'll have to ask a priest or something, sorry. Today, Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children, ships, repentant thieves, breweries, and students, if you want someone else to pray to during finals week.

How did a saint become Santa?



How did Saint Nicholas go from decking another priest to decking the halls? According to star charts, Jesus was likely actually born in the spring, but the Church moved the celebration of his birth to December since it was easier to pretend that pagans were cutting down trees and bringing them inside to celebrate Christ than it was to convince the pagans to stop doing that. And, since the feast day of St. Nicholas was already in December, combining it with Christmas felt like a natural fit. (Also, all of Santa's reindeer are girls. We learn something new every day.) Much later, Dutch settlers

in America called him 'Sinterklaas,' which over time morphed into Santa Claus. In parts of Europe, the feast day of St. Nicholas and Christmas are still separate holidays, but in America Christmas is mostly an amorphous glob of actual Christianity, paganism, random 19th-century poetry and

of course, unrestrained capitalism.

Like historical Santa, Black Santa in America has a rich history of supporting those on society's margins. Long before political correctness and Starbucks cups became buzzwords, the whitewashing of Santa Claus

was a flashpoint during the civil rights movement of the 1960's. In the words of one Southern Christian Leadership Conference minister, "if a department store cannot conceive of a black man as Santa Claus for 30 days, it most assuredly cannot conceive of his being president or vice president for 365 days." For decades, Jet magazine ran covers with various black celebrities dressed as Santa, and the not-Cosby covers are charming time capsules to a world where black mall Santas were employed in Macy's flagship store and elsewhere across the country. (Today, Macy's still has a hidden

black Santa with an elf bouncer, in the strangest possible interpretation of "secret Santa.") Black Santa has always existed for those who know where to look, in short, but it's also possible to go your whole life hardly ever seeing him.

When I was younger, almost every portrait I saw of Santa Claus was white. (Granted, I've lived a large portion of my life in the rural South.) Santa being black was at most a joke, like when Kenan Thompson dressed up as Santa on Saturday Night Live, and the idea of Santa as a man from the Middle East was almost unimaginable. (Insert your own joke about TSA strip searching Santa Claus here.) As Aisha Harris wrote in Slate a couple years back, there's a tendency in America sometimes to see white as the default. Santa is one of our few cultural symbols that just radiates innocence and gentleness – what does it say about us that it seems so impossible to see a Black or Middle Eastern man that way?

In a country that's currently using tear gas on refugee children, maybe we need a bit more of the Santa who spent his fortune helping travelers than we do of the Santa who's hauled out once a year to sell used cars. Someday, maybe we'll celebrate the Santa who welcomes the stranger instead of turning them away - a community organizer, not just another Christmas ornament. And I can only hope that, someday, Netflix will make the Christmas movie starring Idris Elba we all deserve.



**Pledge allegiance to your god...**



**...and his chain**



# Fighting Negative Energy with Yoga

By Claire Nunez

Editor-in-Chief

If you know me, you may not think that I am a constant ball of stress. Well, I am not anymore. I have not felt stress like I used to for a very long time. It is a nice change of pace. Now before you say I am just smoking a ton of weed, let me tell you I don't smoke the devil's lettuce, nor have I reached nirvana. I have learned to maintain my stress through a series of rituals in the morning and some at night.

As someone who has OCD, I need a routine. No matter how small it may be, a regimen keeps me grounded. It took me some time to discover this, but it has revolutionized my mood and stress levels. I wake up every morning and I drink a ton of water, shower, moisturize, and stretch. This is the most important part for me. Yoga has become a central tenant to my grounding. I am allowed to connect my mind and body in these few minutes every morning. I start with a quick sun salutation and then

## Yes, actually taking time for self-care works

do some core or leg stretches—this makes it so much easier for me to sit in a desk all day too. My joints don't



get as much energy caked in them. It sounds weird, but I truly do believe that negative energy gets trapped in your body. Yoga sets it free.

In the evening, I will try to go to a yoga class in the gym or if I'm lucky, Chapel Yoga. Being with like-minded people fills me with positive vibes and gives us all the power to be. If I can't make it to class, I do a quick 20-minute routine in my apartment. I'm sure the music is annoying to my roommates and neighbors, but at least it is soothing. I like to take time to force the bad energy out so I can have a restful evening dedicated to whatever weird Netflix docu-series I am watching (right now it is 3 Wives, One Husband—riveting stuff). I also take time to do that physical self-care stuff I do in the morning:

moisturizing, drinking water, taking cinnamon supplements (they apparently make you skinny—hasn't happened yet, folks. Stay tuned).

People always say, "take time for self-care!" Well, how many of you actually do it? Probably not that many. I decided to make an effort to put time into myself every single day and it really changed my life. I cut out "bad" self-care practices like scrolling through social media (these are bad for me not necessarily you or anyone else).

Of course, there are days when work and school are too hectic to take this time, but even a shortened regimen is better than nothing. I made a promise to myself to take care of my physical and mental well-being. I stayed true to my goals and it worked. I had to dedicate myself to the whole being—magis as some Jesuits would probably say. With a happy body comes a healthy brain and vice versa. My stress has decreased by an incredible amount—I am constantly amazed. With a little bit of dedication and discipline, I changed my life and it feels amazing.

# Solving a Rubik's Cube is Impressive .... NOT!!

By Manas Vani

Staff Rubik's Truther

"Harvard study finds people who can solve a Rubik's cube are more intelligent than Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein combined"

Everyone has seen the scene where Will Smith solves the Rubik's cube from scratch. That scene makes Will Smith come across as a genius and advances the notion that someone with a cube instantly becomes smart. This is how we treat people. Movies are partly responsible for it because they connect intelligence with the cube. On the other hand, I saw Justin Bieber solve the cube. So, we can assume that to solve the cube you do not need to be smart. If you have some common sense you can learn how to solve in half an hour. Solving a cube does not instantly make someone smart, and that is coming from someone who knows how to solve it. I have been solving the cube for the last four years. I know how to solve it in advance method. You will be disappointed after reading this article that solving a Rubik's cube is extremely easy.

The cube looks complicated, so how

## So easy, Justin Bieber can do it

in the world do you solve it? You are reading the right article then. First, you complete a single side. If you insert pieces properly and according



to center pieces, you are done with one layer. The easiest one. The second layer is also easy. You just have to use URU'R'U'F'UF or U'L'ULUFU'F' (the meanings of these are on the internet) based on the situation. You are done

with the second layer with just two algorithms. The third layer is easy, too. What do you need to do? Just use four more algorithms sequentially (that are also available on the internet) and you will be done with the cube. Then is solving the Rubik's cube easy? Yes and no. I would answer yes for just solving the cube. If you want to master the advanced method, that is another story. Learning the advanced method mainly

involves teaching yourself and coming up with algorithms. There are no proper sources to learn all the possible sequences.

Solving the cube with your own method is difficult and is a fair

assessment of skill where logical reasoning is concerned, but for that you need to know mathematics and algorithms. Furthermore, solving the cube blindfolded is incredibly difficult (you don't solve the cube with blindfold the same way). Or solving it in a world record time may show that you are smart. How fast? I would probably say faster than 15 seconds. Even I do not qualify for that. I can solve the cube in 30 seconds. Overall, solving the Rubik's cube involves memorizing algorithms and recognizing them. Saying that someone is smart just because that person can solve it is a sweeping generalization based on one easily-learned skill.

The Rubik's cube is just the top of the iceberg. There are other challenging cubes like the 5x5x6 and others that really challenge the mind. Give them a shot!



# Ask Bob and Judy

## Giving advice to a lost generation

## the paper's view

So long, farewell!

Hello paper readers,

This is my last time writing the paper view and it is a bit sad, but at the same time, I am very excited to move on. Spending my last of many weekends in the grimey McGinley basement is a bit bittersweet. I learned so much from all of the amazing editors and writers I've worked with since I was a freshman. I am seriously looking forward to having free weekends again, but I will miss creating such a funky publication and my sweet and dear editors and writers. I am so proud of how far you have all come— and I am so excited to see where you will go with this publication.

**Everyone say hello to the paper's new Editors-in-Chief, Jack and Meredith!** I am very excited to see what they will create, the stories they will cover and the new editors they will bring on. Although I will miss contributing to the paper, I am confident that it will still be the weird publication it has been since its founding. I am wishing them all of the best and support! I am proud of you both. Thanks for being funky and cool.

xoxo,  
Claire

Fun fact: when I came to my first meeting for the paper my freshman year I thought it was The Ram! I didn't know there was a difference between the two publications or even that there were two publications! And to think three years later, I would be an Editor-in-Chief with my girl Claire, writing my last paper view. I'm thankful for freshman cluelessness because without it, I probably would've never found the paper and would've never made the weirdest and best group of friends out there. I'm so incredibly proud of this publication and grateful for all the people who made it what it is today. Super shout out to Claire for riding solo last semester while I was abroad and being the best co-editor I could ever have!

I am looking forward to a semester of free weekends, but I will definitely miss Tuesday night meetings in McGinley 2nd and the endless shenanigans of the print shop. I'm so excited for Jack and Meredith to take charge and leave their mark on this awesome publication! It'll be weird taking a step back, but I will always be a fierce supporter and reader of Fordham's only free speech and student-run paper!!

love,  
Colleen

*Q: Do you have any fun holiday traditions?*

**Bob:** Every Christmas Eve I go to the bakery and buy 18 dozen glazed donuts. I don't eat them. Instead, I grind them into a fine powder that I sprinkle in Judy's morning yogurt every morning for the next year. With all this added sugar and saturated fat that she's eating, Judy starts to gain weight. This keeps her from nagging me about how I need to exercise, since she's roughly the size of an eighteen-wheeler by Memorial Day.

**Judy:** New Years Eve is the one time of year Bob and I have sweet intercourse. I always try to make it romantic with wine and cheese, but he always insists we "do-the-do" in the back of his truck to the tune of "Bye, Bye Miss American Pie." I hate the song, but damn that big truck gets me hot every time.

*Q: What's your New Year's Resolution?*

**Bob:** Maybe, just maybe I can make a real change and become a better person. I don't mean by being kinder and more compassionate. I want more money, more fame, more glory, more cars, and a wife thirty years my junior. That's my dream.

**Judy:** Knit more, bake more, kill Bob, spend more time with grandkids.



# Driving through Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Katelynn Brown

Features and Lists Editor

## A Formal Complaint by Katelynn Browne

Listen. Commuting is fucking hard. Aside from a years long difficulty of attempting to integrate yourself into the Fordham community, the commute itself can be a goddamn nightmare. I really used to think that dealing with an hour of rush hour traffic was bad, until one fateful November afternoon, November 15th, 2018 - the day that changed me forever..

What ensued beginning at 3pm that day can only be described in the following three words: absolute fucking hell. Disgustingly aggressive snowflakes began to reign their terror upon me. At first, it didn't seem too bad: it wasn't sticking or anything, so I made one of the worst decision of my life - I waited until 3pm to leave school. I called my brother at home and he said it hadn't started snowing up in Westchester yet and so I embarked on my tortuous journey.

It took me about 1 hour to exit the Bronx, due to a large amount of congestion caused by unplowed and unsalted roads. At this point, I figured it may take me about maybe 2 or 2.5 hours to get home, which sucked, but it had taken me that long to get home a few times before and I figured I'd be fine. (Foreshadowing.) I finally

### “I continued my slow descent into madness”

made my way to Yonkers, where the toll man gave me shit for not having my EZ Pass out and he kept insisting I pay him \$1.25, even though I had an EZ Pass, but he was like “it's too late. \$1.25” and I was rummaging through my pockets looking for money and there was a car behind me and I was really stressed and I'm pretty sure that's not how EZ Passes work but sure anyway he was such a dick that I cried a little bit after.

I continued my slow descent into madness.

An hour later I reached White Plains, which roughly marks the halfway point between my house and Fordham. I proceeded to get stuck in non-moving traffic at a fork in the road for about 30 minutes, attempting to merge

onto a different highway. I called my brother to let him know I was going to be home way later than anticipated. Anyway, Google Maps was all like hey dude? There's a faster route. And I was like... bro! That's sick. So I followed Google into the woods...

At this point, it was already dark. And Google decided to take me deep into the woods like this was a goddamn horror movie and I was the villain's victim. No streetlights. No

let him know I'd probably be home in a half hour, given the state of the traffic. That's when my car began to slide. I jammed my foot on the brake - I was still sliding; I jammed my foot on the parking brake, to no avail - my car continued to slide into the car in front of me, while I was on the phone with my brother, which I honestly find hilarious, because I just yelled to him that I was crashing and he was like Oh No. Anyway, the person behind me

which was so bad it forced people to abandon their cars and walk off the bridge. I heard from others that it took 7 hours or more to get home. And, I'm going to be honest with you - I've never been this pissed at the NYC and

**“That's when my car began to slide. I jammed my foot on the brake - I was still sliding; I jammed my foot on the parking brake, to no avail - my car continued to slide into the car in front of me”**



**HELL FROZE OVER  
AND CAME TO NEW YORK**

Westchester governments in my life.

The gist of what Mayor de Blasio was saying goes as follows: “we didn't know it was going to snow this bad so we didn't prepare at all. Also the forecasts were fake news. It's not my fault; it's all the stupid people who tried to drive home in a blizzard during rush hour's fault.” And that's fucking bullshit. The snow started at 1pm. Rush hour starts at 4pm, and gets really bad at 5pm. There should have, at a minimum, been salting. New York is a snow-prone area; it's literally ludicrous that we were unprepared for a blizzard, and it's even worse to me that no one wants to take accountability for endangering thousands of New Yorkers trying to get home to their families after a long day of work or school.

I hope de Blasio and George Latimer (Westchester Co. Executive), or whoever's responsible for snow removal prepares well for the next storm. Regardless, there's no fucking way I'm driving home in the snow again anytime soon. I'll sleep on Keating steps if I have to.

houses. Just straight up woods. Shit was spooky, dude. I knew vaguely I was in Briarcliff or Sleepy Hollow, but in a much realer sense, I had no idea where I was for this entire hour, creeping at a steady 10-15 mph through winding roads that seemed to lead nowhere. I stopped twice to clear the snow that was steadily attaching itself to my windshield wipers with my bare hands. I was losing my goddamn mind.

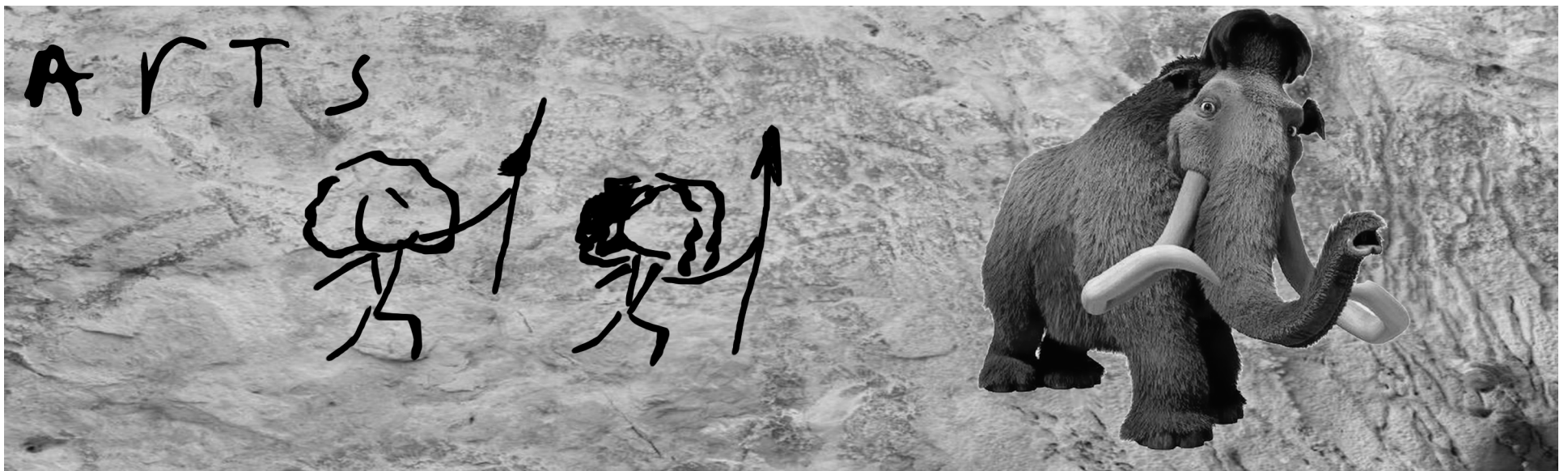
Eventually, I saw a place I knew. Ossining High School, the local high school one town over from where I live. I cried again - this time tears of joy. I was 5 minutes from home. Or so I thought. I drove cautiously down a steep hill and stopped behind another car for a while. I called my brother to

also crashed into me and that sucked. (Luckily there was no damage to my car, or to my person.)

Now, I was having a full mental breakdown. I literally got into an accident; I needed to use the bathroom; I had been driving for at least three hours; I wanted desperately to be home and have a cup of tea. I thought I was close, but no! They closed the only road I can use to get home for two hours. So I was stuck 5 miles from my house for two whole hours. Eventually, they reopened the road, and I got home. And that ended my journey.

I've heard similar stories from people who commute to and from Manhattan. There was a massive pile up on the George Washington Bridge





## What Netflix Original Xmas Movie Should You Watch?

by Colleen Burns  
Co-Editor in Chief

If you love rom coms, cringe humor, Christmas, and trash TV, then you're probably obsessed with NOCMs (Netflix Original Christmas Movie, like DCOM except I made it up). NOCMs are cheesier than mozzarella, riddled with cliché after cliché, and are actual trash (and sometimes, objectively bad) movies. But it's the kind of trash that we love and crave. Don't tell me you don't love mocking these movies and being snarky! Don't tell me you're not invested in these characters because it's been 45 minutes and you haven't stopped watching! Don't tell me these movies are highly predictable and unrealistic because that's the damn point!! Good, now that we're all on the same page, which Netflix Original Christmas movie should you watch next (or re-watch)?

### **A Christmas Prince**

*A Christmas Prince* is the holy grail of Netflix Original Christmas Movies. What makes this movie so grand is that the writers decided to take inspiration from all your favorite movies and fit every trope possible in 92 minutes while still creating a cohesive plot: lying about identity, being a struggling writer, being a clueless American, male lead has misleadingly bad reputation, spunky little sister, British accents in a fictional country whose name ending in the letters "ia", #imperialism, deceased father forcing prince to become king, deceased mother to make him relatable, discovering hidden family secrets, falling in love in

### **This is some jolly investigative journalism, people**

probably a week, prince saving female lead from wolf attack, betrayal by a non immediate family member, dramatic fallout about lying, dramatic makeup about true love, and more.

### **A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding**

I won't lie to you: the sequel is kind of disappointing. I was expecting huge Meghan Markle vibes from the trailer, and that just was not delivered. Instead of a romantic Christmas movie, I got a movie about the economic depression of Aldovia and secret financial crimes causing it. While I appreciate the attempt at a more substantial plot, there were many scenes and dialogue in the movie that are recycled from the first one. I'm clearly all about reusing clichés here, but did they need to go toboggan sledding in both movies? ALSO, I was extremely let down by the wedding. To be frank, Amber's dress sucks!! Totally still watch the movie, but don't hold it to the impossible standards set from the first one.

### **The Princess Switch**

*The Princess Switch* is practically the only other NOCM that gives *A Christmas*

*Prince* a run for its money. It's basically a combination of *The Parent Trap*, *The Princess and the Pauper*, *What A Girl Wants*, and *Cake Wars*. The general plot revolves around a Chicago baker who switches places with lookalike Duchess of Montanaro, both played by Vanessa Hudgens. During their switcheroo, both women end up falling in love, making switching back rather difficult! I was mildly disappointed that Vanessa Hudgens didn't sing at all in this movie—seriously missed opportunity. However, this movie gets an A+ for Christmas magic, which honestly should be a major tenant of all NOCM.

### **Christmas Inheritance**

You should watch *Christmas Inheritance* if you're just starting out in this new holiday rom-com genre. Maybe you're not used to the cringe humor yet. Maybe you need a little time to fully appreciate the brilliance of *A Christmas Prince*. If that's the case, then you should definitely watch *Christmas Inheritance*, which I found to be a truly beautiful and, at times, tear-jerking movie! The spirit of Christmas and overall notion of kindness combined with the rich

party girl turned caring philanthropist transformation is unbeatable. She learns how to help others and that's what's really important! I will say that at first, you may think that love interest Jake Collins played by Jake Lacy is not hot. As you watch the movie, you will realize that he's actually totally cute!

### **The Holiday Calendar**

This movie EMBODIES Christmas magic, as the anti-Christmas protagonist obtains a magic Advent calendar that predicts what each day will bring her. This is the perfect modern day Scrooge movie and will make you want a magic Advent calendar of your own. If that isn't enough incentive to watch, then you should also know this movie definitely has the hottest cast compared to other casts in the holiday rom com genre.

### **Christmas Wedding Planner**

I'm only going to say this once: this movie sucked. Did I sit there and watch the whole thing? Yes. Would I do it again? Probably not. Do I regret watching it? Never. The general plot is a girl planning her cousin's wedding. The bride's ex-boyfriend, who is actually a private investigator, comes back into town to seemingly congratulate the bride but was really hired to investigate the groom. But wait, there's more! He ends up falling in love with the wedding planner. The ending of this movie is beyond ridiculous (even for me), and there is a great lack of Christmas magic and spirit. That's just unacceptable; watch at your own risk.



## EVENTS

**What:** Adults Only  
“Bar Car Nights” at the  
Botanical Garden

**Where:** The Botanical  
Garden

**When:** Fridays and  
Saturdays at 7-10pm,  
from Dec 7th to January  
15th

**How Much:** Use your  
Fordham ID and get in for  
free!!

**Why:** There’s bars, fire  
pits, ice sculptures,  
acapella groups; i mean  
what more can you ask  
for? I’ll tell you what you  
can ask for: a late night  
showing of the Train Show.  
It’s the whole Christmas  
package how can you say  
no?

**What:** Zombie & horror  
convention

**Where:** The New Jersey  
Convention and Exposition  
Center in Edison, NJ

**When:** Dec 8th-9th

**How Much:** \$50 on  
Saturday, \$40 on Sunday  
(but if you go on www.  
events12.com you can get  
a ticket for \$9.50!)

**Why:** If you still like the  
*Walking Dead* then theres  
a whole convention  
waiting for you in New  
Jersey. Take a break from  
finals to meet Norman  
Reedus and ask him  
about *Death Stranding*.

## It’s Time to Wake Up to Wake Child

by Gabby Curran  
Copy Editor

How often do you listen to your Discover Weekly playlist on Spotify? If you’re like me, not often at all. Why discover new music when you can listen to your favorite album from 11th grade on loop for three weeks straight? A few weeks ago, however, I took a chance and decided to check out what Spotify’s shadowy algorithm thought I would like. Now, I don’t make a lot of good decisions; in fact, I make a troublingly low number of them for someone who is allowed to vote and decide on the future of this country. But listening to my Spotify Discover playlist, however, was one of these rare and excellent life choices, because it introduced me to the as-of-yet little-known about band Wake Child.

Created by three students at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Wake Child is an indie band that fuses alternative rock with psychedelic sounds and jazzy rhythms. The band’s members--Danny Silberstein, Terrell Hines, and Austin Max--hail from California, Georgia, and Tennessee, respectively. Their musical backgrounds are just as diverse--Silberstein, a singer-songwriter, has a solo EP out from before he founded Wake Child, entitled “Static Noise and Other Miscellaneous Sounds”; Max, a guitarist, is reportedly more of an improviser when it comes to his music; and Hines, a former gospel drummer, draws much of his inspiration from the psychedelic jazz and modern trap genres. The band considers its sound as “[a synthezation of] the hometowns of California, Georgia and Tennessee into a melting pot of Psych/R&B brilliance [with] bluesy guitars and effortless harmonies.” This wide assortment in backgrounds and musical education definitely shows in the various, eclectic elements of their songs that they somehow manage to piece together flawlessly.

The first song I heard from them--the song that appeared on my Discover Weekly playlist--was their third single, “Kathaleen.” It was released over a year ago, in early November 2017, and I was surprised that I hadn’t heard

### This college band is worth a listen

it sooner (then again, my listening to “Friday I’m in Love” by The Cure at least three times a day, whether it is actually Friday or not, does get in the way of going out and looking for new music to listen to). I don’t think I’m exaggerating when I say the song isn’t like anything I’ve ever listened to before. It combines captivating lyrics with a killer baseline, hard-hitting percussion, and a hypnotizing and ambient melody played on an electric guitar and a synth (at least, I think it’s an electric guitar and a synth; on the off-chance that Wake Child is reading this, please bear in mind that I don’t study music and haven’t taken lessons on the subject since high school). Wake Child’s website states that they recorded “Kathaleen” at an old cabin in the Catskills, which definitely fits in with the haunting yet mellow and

“Don’t Fall in Love.” Unfortunately, as they are a student band and are still in school, they can’t dedicate all of their time to recording new songs and releasing them accordingly. Looking at their timeline, it seems that their release schedule is rather spaced out. “In the End”, “Hangup Blues”, and “Kathaleen” were all released at various points throughout 2017, while “Don’t Fall In Love”, their latest single, came out in April of this year.

All things considered, though, all four songs are absolute bangers in their own, different way. “In the End” has a much fuller and heavier sound than “Kathaleen”, while “Hangup Blues” has a much more bluesy feel to it than either of those songs. “Don’t Fall in Love”, for its part, is jazz meets progressive rock--kind of like what I imagine a collaboration between Kurt

Cobain and Louis Armstrong would sound like, if they’d gotten a chance to meet. All four songs have similar, yet very different, feels to them, from their lyrics to the instruments used to the overall ambience that they create. It’s a rather remarkable feat, to release four songs with four different auras in the span of a year and a half, and it makes it all the more stunning to me that none of the band’s singles on Spotify have broken a million plays yet.

So, if you’ve got a break between listening to Britney Spears for the 80th time of the day and Ariana Grande for the 120th, Wake Child is absolutely worth your time to check out. They’re also very

### Wake up, we just dropped a new single



easy-going vibe of the song. I must have listened to “Kathaleen” at least a dozen times the first day that I heard it; there was a weird, unknown quality about it that kept me hitting rewind every time it ended.

My interest piqued, I headed to the band’s Spotify page and was disappointed to find that it had only released three singles other than “Kathaleen” in the past two years--“In the End”, “Hangup Blues”, and

receptive to feedback--my boyfriend and I reached out to them via email to ask if they were planning on releasing anything new soon, and they responded within a matter of hours. And though they’ve only got four singles out for now, they’ve apparently got a fifth in the works, set for release in early 2019. As for me, I’ll be replaying “Kathaleen” in lieu of The Cure while I wait.



# Why Should You Watch Skins? It Is a Good Show.

by Olivia Langenberg  
F&L Editor

I had a huge obsession with anything related to the UK when I was a teenager. I was pretty dedicated—I proudly described myself as an anglophile (ew), I wore head-to-toe Union Jack flag apparel, I told everyone London was my favorite city (even though I'd never been there), and I watched a lot of British television. I had an account with E4, which is a British television channel, complete with a fake UK address, just so I could watch all the shows I saw screencapped on Tumblr. While I do look on this phase of my life in shame, I am proud of certain things—one of which is the television show *Skins*.

*Skins* first aired on channel E4 in 2007. It was considered quite controversial at the time because it showcased sex, drugs, mental illness, eating disorders, sexual orientation, death, substance abuse, and awful family dynamics. The series ran for 6 seasons with a new cast every two years. My fellow *Skins* fans know each cast respectively as first, second, and third generations. The second generation cast is the most romanticized, with Effy Stonem as the face of the generation. Even if you've never seen *Skins* before, you absolutely have seen gifs and images of Effy all over Tumblr.

One of the reasons I like this show so much is the fact that each cast is filled with nondescript British teenagers who haven't really acted in anything else. There are a few exceptions, as Nicholas Hoult and Dev Patel have gone on to be rather recognizable, but I have a tough time remembering any other shows/movies the rest of the cast is in. Something about that makes them feel more real to me, and I am so attached to these characters that it's honestly embarrassing.

The first generation cast is my personal favorite, and I've been rewatching those seasons over the past month. Tony Stonem, played by Nicholas Hoult, is perhaps the "main" character. He's an absolute tool—the guy you simultaneously have a fat crush on and want to punch in the mouth. He's witty, manipulative, and a total ladies' man, even though he's supposed to be in a relationship with Michelle, the hot

## Self-proclaimed anglophile tells you why.

girl who gets a new stepdad every few months. Tony's best friend Sid, played by Mike Bailey, is pretty much the opposite. He's super lazy, unmotivated, and awkward. The rest of their friend group is a jumbled mix of misfits. We've got Jal, a talented clarinet player that everyone else thinks is a prude, Chris, self-described as "inadequate" and definitely addicted to drugs, Maxxie,



an openly gay dancer, Anwar, a Muslim that is obsessed with sex, and Cassie, a sweet quiet girl struggling with anorexia. Each episode focuses on one of the characters, exploring whatever personal issues they're dealing with in juxtaposition of going to college and getting fucked up all the time. The second season with this cast is shaken by a car accident involving Tony and a really heartbreaking death of one of the group members. Also... Daniel Kaluuya is in this generation. If anything, watch the show for him alone. (Side note: my biggest qualm with *Skins* is that a main cast member dies every generation. My heart cannot take it.)

The second generation focuses on Tony's younger sister, Effy, and her random group of friends. Effy was featured intermittently throughout the first generation, which makes her the longest running cast member on the show. Effy is super open with her sexuality, but inevitably ends up in a love triangle with Freddie and Cook. Unpopular opinion: Freddie

sucks and I hated everything about his relationship with Effy. Anyways.. the second generation features the absolute best lovers of the entire show: Emily and Naomi. It's really touching to watch Emily come to terms with her feelings for Naomi, as well as the two's fears about being in a gay relationship. Other than these characters I've just mentioned, I don't care much for the rest of the group, which might be why

I don't romanticize this generation as much as Tumblr does.

Should I even include a paragraph about the third generation? I won't. It's not awesome. I appreciate the androgyny of Franky, this generation's Tony and Effy, but there isn't a lot more I can say here. Instead, I'll talk briefly about *Skins* season 7, which I actually watched in real time as it aired in 2013. Apparently there were talks about a movie spinoff, but instead the creators shot 6 episodes following some of the most lovable former cast members: Cassie, Effy, and Cook. Watching them in their adulthood is kind of amazing after seeing their messy lives in college.

There was an absolute garbage U.S. remake of *Skins* in 2011, which was cancelled after one season. Obviously, this showcases how superior UK television is to U.S.. if you ignore *Shameless*. While I'd like to say I'm less of a wannabe-Brit these days, I just can't hide my obsession with *Skins*. It's good. Watch it.

## SHOWS

**What:** Los Nutcrackers: A Christmas Carajo

**Where:** Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, 2474 Westchester Ave

**When:** Fridays and Saturdays from Dec.1st to Dec.15th at 8pm

**How Much:** \$25

**Why:** Its a comedic LGBTQ+ take on the Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol, whats not to like?

**What:** John Waters Christmas

**Where:** City Winery, 155 Varick St, in NYC

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 9th at 8pm

**How Much:** \$50-\$125

**Why:** John Waters does a crazy Christmas Show every year, and he directed "Hairspray" so it's worth checking out!

**What:** Micro-Nut Cracker  
**Where:** 21 Snyder Ave, in Brooklyn

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2pm and 4pm

**How Much:** \$10

**Why:** Apparently this show is only 16 minutes, but manages to fit a modern critique on consumerism into its bitesized runtime

## Hasan Minhaj's *Patriot Act* Stands Out Among Other Political Comedies

by Zahir Quader  
Staff Funny Guy

Hello, dear readers, it's ya boi the big Z coming live from the Arts Section to tell you about the wokest, brownest, and most fun political comedy show on Netflix. Hasan Minhaj's *Patriot Act*.

Hasan Minhaj has been a prominent sight on television for years, appearing on TV as a Daily Show correspondent and a hype bro in Pizza Hut commercials. His hit comedy special *Homecoming King* also recently premiered in 2017 on Netflix. Born to Indian Muslim parents in 1985, he was raised in Davis, California. His upbringing greatly influences on his work.

*Patriot Act* is unique when it comes to the informative political comedy show in more than one way. For one thing, it is the first brown and Muslim Late Night Host. Minhaj is unique in this genre not only for his fresh takes on the issues, but also for being able to bring elements of Desi culture to a wider audience who otherwise would not be exposed to these elements.

### Some Words On "Some Rap Songs"

by Noah Kotlarek  
Staff Rap Star

Earl Sweatshirt, an Illinoisan raised in California, has returned with his new album *Some Rap Songs*, and in fact his album is some rap songs. It has been a little over three years since he released his previous album, *IDLSIDGO*, in 2015. *Some Rap Songs* has been delayed many times. Many fans were expecting it to drop in June but the death of Earl Sweatshirt's father, Keorapetse Kgositsile, a South African poet and activist, in January slowed production.

*Some Rap Songs* was released on the November 30, 2018, though a it leaked on Reddit a day before. The album consists of fifteen tracks, most under two minutes. The album is a quick and nostalgic but cheery listen. The beats are simplistic, repetitive, and unclear. If the album were an object it would be a dark wet clay pot before it is smoothed out and put in kiln. The tracks are not grandiose, braggadocios, nor refined. It feels earthy, like magma bubbling from crust or steam coming off a geyser.

### Prepare to laugh and learn

*Patriot Act* is still relatively new and has not had many episodes air yet, but the few that have range from Supreme to Saudi Arabia.

*Patriot Act's* episodes give a fresh take on many issues in our society from Amazon's cut throat business practices to detrimental immigration policies to the monetary value of hype Minhaj is leaving no topic unaddressed. Besides his woke brownness and raw charisma, Hasan Minhaj is a true standout in political comedy.

### As the child of immigrants, Minhaj is a sort of cultural bridge.

He can understand and relate to the plights of immigrants while at the same time be fully connected to the experiences of growing up in America. *Patriot Act* is a series that educates people about contemporary issues that they might not else be aware of because knowing is half the battle.

Minhaj is a standout when it comes

to the comedic form he uses. Other comedians go for the explicit and in-your-face approach that is saturated with the toxic masculinity that sparked the #MeToo movement. He is also not a stick-to-the-script surface level kind of guy. Minhaj's comedic style does not only use humor in a relatable and fun way that integrates both his cultural background, popular culture, and a dash of wokeness, but he can get real at times as well. He has spoken about heartbreaks of his past, near death experiences, and racial prejudices he has experienced throughout his life. In *Patriot Act* Hasan Minhaj tackles real issues in a way that other people in his position do not. He adds his special spin and perspective to issues that no else in the industry can. The way he speaks is relatable and he serious issues easier for mainstream audiences to understand.

*Patriot Act* is a groundbreaking show. It breaks barriers and enlightens minds about the various issues plaguing our

world today.

### In a world saturated in political comedy shows, it is truly a standout feature.

Not only does it have the first brown host of a comedy, but its unique style and energy is refreshing and new compared to its many other counterparts. While many may say it is more of what we already see on TV, as Hasan pointed out "He is the brown one."

It is truly a wonderful experience for people like me to have a comedian who we can relate to socially. Someone whose appearance on the stage says maybe a guy like me could be up there one day. Essentially, *Patriot Act* can be summarized as the newest, brownest, and wokest show on Netflix and if it's not your cup of tea you can always follow Hasan's advice and "watch a better version, with John Oliver two weeks later."

### Here's an in depth listen to Earl Sweatshirt's new album

Earl describes the beats as, a "snake eating its tail," achieving a fidgety feeling, which is surprisingly relaxing, like a strong wave quickly crashing over and over again into a dock. The production does not feel refined either. Listening to it with earphone does not feel like listening to it but rather walking by a 2010 cellphone inside a tin lying on the street in the rain, distorted. This is not a bad thing. It's a unique and novel sound, refreshing really.

The album requires a few listens before it grows on the listener. At first the album seems underwhelming. Unlike his previous album which was featured tidy beats and precise, clear, and sharp vocals, *Some Rap Songs* is loose. Half the time, on the slower songs, it seems Earl is falling asleep halfway through the line. Frequently, Earl's voice seems like it is going in four different directions further distorting the tune.

Track 4 and 5 are the most standout. "December 24" is Earl's safest track.

It sounds like has the "typical Earl" sound. It's the most lyrically technical and impressive track. It's the one you would have someone who is unfamiliar



with Earl listen to. Here he discusses how he has cleaned up his alcohol and drug problem. It's the most "likeable" but not most unique. The introductory beat in the song is reminiscent of a Joji track. "Onthway! (feat. Standing On The Corner)" brings a smile to your face. It's a hopeful song and the background instruments reflect it. Throughout the track the beat is bright but the beginning lyrics are depressing. He describes his struggles

with antidepressants, ignoring his mother's advice, and mood swings. The track closes with him accepting that he must take heed to his mother's words and that he must change his self-destructive ways.

"The Bends!" is about adapting to circumstance and taking ownership of your life. Earl raps, "Bend, we don't break... it's the puppet master, all the strings in my hand." He also emphasizes the importance of staying close to his family because "we all we got," "peace to my mans (his father), gotta go be with your fam more."

"Riot!" is both the final and brightest tune which sounds like it could be the credit score for a movie. It features upbeat drums and upbeat trumpets.

'Tis worthwhile give "Some Rap Songs" a listen or two. Its lackluster properties are what makes it special. You'll hear sound that you haven't heard before. Though it covers some tough topics you'll have finished the album feeling relaxed. Everything will work out.



# The Common Man's Top 10 Christmas Movies

by Jack Archambault  
Opinions Editor

Every year at Christmas, my oldest sister insists on watching *White Christmas*, and every year I watch the first 40-ish minutes, get bored at the part where Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye arrive in Vermont, and make my way into the kitchen where I eat snacks, rejoining the family every ten minutes or so when a song that I like comes on. But despite the fact that I've never actually seen the movie all the way through, Christmas wouldn't be complete without it. And this is what makes a great Christmas movie great. They might not all be critically acclaimed masterpieces, but at their best they inject us with an unmistakable feeling of holiday spirit. It just wouldn't be Christmas without them. So, without further ado, here are the top ten Christmas movies for the common man.

P.S. For the purpose of these rankings, *Die Hard* is not considered a Christmas movie.

Honorable Mentions: *The Santa Clause*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *A Christmas Carol*

10) **Home Alone 2: Lost in New York**  
7/10 Kevins

Mr. and Mrs. McCallister should not be allowed to be parents. Most people don't lose their house keys as often as they lose their son. Fun fact: they only have five children. It seems like more because of all the cousins

## Merry Crimbis! Happy Chrystler!

running around, but keeping track of five kids should not be as hard as they make it seem. Santa should give Mrs. McCallister a nice leash for Christmas to keep her son on.

9) **White Christmas**  
7.4/10 Bing Crosbys

*White Christmas's* biggest crime is its gross misrepresentation of Vermont in winter. I spent five days in Vermont last winter. The temperature never got above zero, and it snowed four out of the five days. Of course, if you only watched *White Christmas*, you would think that Vermont around Christmastime is the tropics, which simply isn't true.

8) **A Charlie Brown Christmas**  
7.8/10 Linus monologues

As Charlie Brown fails to find joy during the holiday season, Linus reminds him, and all of us, that Christmas is a time for generosity and reconciliation. Despite my best efforts, however, I've always found myself relating more to Sally, who sees Christmas as a time for, "Getting all you can while the getting is good."

7) **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas** (the one with real people)  
8/10 roast beasts

Undoubtedly the greatest film adaptation of the Dr. Seuss classic, this movie gives us the Grinch backstory we need. It also left the door open for perverts online to speculate about what a 50 Shades of Green story featuring Martha and the Grinch might look like.

6) **Santa Claus is Comin' to Town**  
8.1/10 Zingle Kringles

This is the greatest origin story in the history of origin stories. But as great as it is to see young Kris Kringle

bring toys to the good little girls and boys of Sombertown, the star of the show is the tyrannical Burgermeister Meisterburger. Throw in some catchy songs and this is a must-watch every Christmas.

5) **It's a Wonderful Life**

8.3/10 guys who are bummed out because they didn't take their friend Sam's advice and invest in plastic

"What if you were never born?" is a very different question than, "What if you killed yourself?" It's a Wonderful Life attempts to answer the former when it should be answering the latter. Still, I saw it for the first time last year, and it was one of the few movies that has ever made me cry. That should count for something, right? It does - fifth place on this list.

4) **Home Alone**

8.5/10 filthy animals

On the topic of Kevin McCallister wishing his family would disappear, let me just say that I get it. The poor kid is treated like dirt in his own home. His oldest brother, Buzz, is an unrepentant bully, as are his other brother, Jeff, his two older sisters, his numerous cousins, and his uncle Frank. In one excruciating 50-second sequence, Kevin is told to eat Buzz's barf, learns he has to share a bed with his bed-wetting cousin, Fuller, is called a "little jerk" (by Uncle Frank) and a "disease" (by Jeff), and is banished to the attic by his mother. If that happened to me, you'd better believe I'd wish for my family to disappear too. To make matters worse, when the rest of the family finds out that they left Kevin behind, his mom is the only one who seems to care. His dad appears pleasantly bewildered, Buzz and Kevin's other sisters roast

his poor ass from another country, and Uncle Frank looks like he's just happy to be free of the little jerk. Kevin was well within his rights to trash the house and have a ball. I would have done the same thing if I had his family.

3) **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

8.9/10 holiday bonuses

The first time I saw this movie was in art class in 10th grade, and my art teacher got a little too excited at the part where Clark Griswold buys women's underwear at a department store. He was standing in the back of the class, muttering, "Yeah, Grizz is the man," under his breath, and I've never been more creeped out in my life.

2) **Elf**

9.3/10 South Pole elves

Are you sensing a trend? I like funny things. Sue me. Also, for anyone interested in dying this winter, try the Buddy Breakfast: spaghetti, maple syrup, sprinkles, mini-marshmallows, chocolate syrup, M&M's, and frosted chocolate fudge Pop Tarts. Yum.


1) **A Christmas Story**

10/10 Red Ryder BB guns

The holy grail of all Christmas movies. The undisputed champion. The winner of the major award. No movie has more memorable lines, iconic scenes, and relatable characters than *A Christmas Story*. I was nine when I saw this movie for the first time, and I laughed so hard I got stomach cramps. 11 years later, the result is the same. Try to watch this movie and not be overcome with simultaneous fits of laughter and waves of nostalgia and excitement for Christmas morning. I triple dog dare ya.



Have you seen this woman??



Grandma Spankenheimer has been missing for a year. The police have no answers, and without her the store she worked so hard to run will be sold. Please email me at [cousinmel@aol.com](mailto:cousinmel@aol.com) if you have any information.

# junior year of college, told through spongebob memes



**me realizing that my final papers won't write themselves**



**"yeah, mom, everything is going super well"**



**me showing obscene amounts of affection to everyone i know**



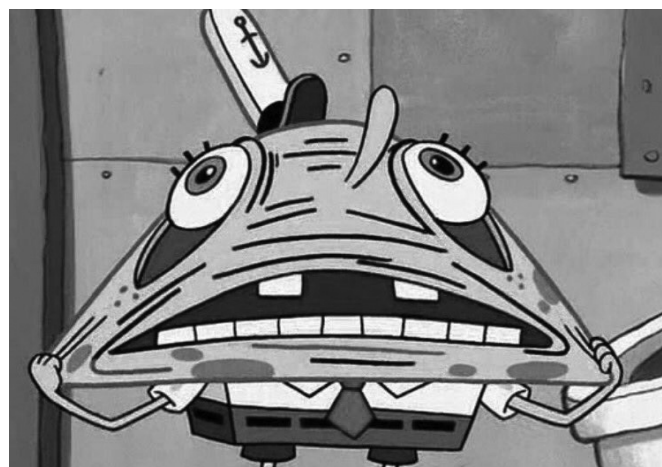
**me leaving a party after drunkenly embarrassing myself**



**me realizing i have an assignment due in 10 minutes**



**how i look at myself in the mirror after not showering for 3 days**



**when the subway makes me late for work for the third week in a row**



**me trying to take care of myself**





# LETS GET THESE LISTS

**Hello paper pals - what is up? How are you doing? I hope good. Now that that's out of the way, we asked our editors one of the most important questions of the year - what is your favorite meme of 2018?**

**I Kissed a Gorl**

My favorite meme of 2018 has to be the one with Gru from Despicable Me as Ru Paul. I think this is just really hilarious because Despicable Me is garbage. I love when anything that has the word "girls" in it is replaced with "gorls". Like, Katy Perry's "California Gorls" is hilarious with girls replaced. It is something you really just need to look up and listen to because my writing about it will not do it justice

**#YOLO**

No other meme combines nostalgia, sarcasm, and the bitter cynicism our generation feels towards Baby Boomers as seamlessly as the "Not a Cell Phone in Sight" meme does. If America's elders are so eager to return to a time when technology wasn't prevalent, then why not apply such a deeply condescending phrase to the Cambrian Era? Why not admire a tribe of trilobites (a tribobite, if you will) admirably... living...doing nothing...without checking their Instabooks and Snapgrams? God dammit, this

generation just doesn't know how to live in the moment anymore..

**Can I please have a cat me, thank you?**

I love cats. So naturally my favorite meme of 2018 involves cats. It's the Polite Cat meme! It's 100% a fake chain of texts but who cares because it's funny and cute. A person receives a text from the landlord saying "It is clear in the lease: no pets are allowed in the apt. Sorry." Then the person send back a really quirky (maybe photoshopped?) picture of a cat, and the landlord gives in and says, "OK I will make an exception because he looks very polite." Don't we all deserve a landlord who understands the superiority of cats? Meow. I love cats.

**Gritty**

Gritty is my favorite meme of 2018. Honestly, I don't even think of Gritty memes as memes at this point since they feel more like prophecies. He is the best part of our cursed timeline. Gritty is the beast W.B. Yeats describes in "The Second Coming." Philadelphia's adulation of Gritty is like if Crete suddenly decided to start merchandizing the Minotaur. He doesn't even really have to be a sports mascot - he's like the Platonic ideal of 2018 itself, slumping towards Philadelphia to be born. A representative of Gritty

once told a local reporter he's "been around for a lot longer than we know." At least for now, the NHL is enough to contain him. But someday, I think we all already know that he will escape.

**MARK ZUCKERBURG.**

Honestly, I was a pretty big fan of the Mark Zuckerberg memes that ensued during those hearings. I liked watching him inhumanly take a sip of his water while looking like the Brain from *Pinky and the Brain*. The memes that made fun of the fact that he is not human, and he definitely an android were very good. There was a pretty good one where someone compared Zucc to Lt. Data (an android from *Star Trek: the Next Generation*).

**TIK TOK (by Ke\$ha?)**

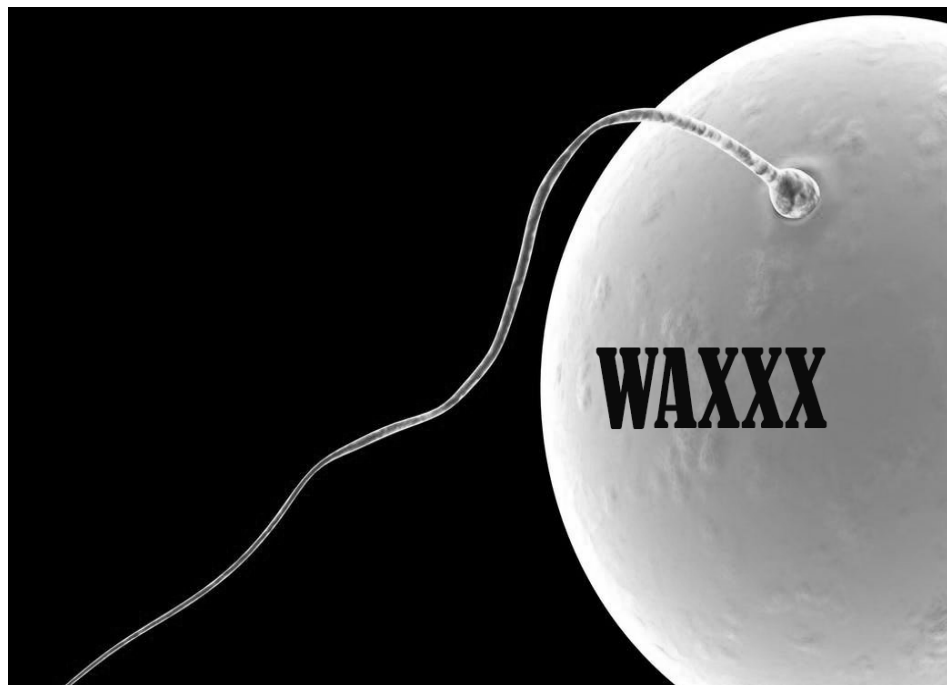
Say what you want about Tik-Tok, a platform who's entire user base is so ironic that it actually bent over onto itself like a mobius strip and became unironic again, but goddamn if there aren't some spicy memes on there! From the "Good Girls Like Bad Guys" meme to the iconic "HIT OR MISS, I GUESS THEY NEVER MISS, HUH?" Tik-Tok has become a goldmine for memey garbage and I'm here for it. It's hard to choose a favorite, just like it's hard to choose a hero in Overwatch, just don't choose Tracer, because I'M ALREADY TRACER

**Bradley wants to look at me**

The best movie of 2018, "A Star is Born," also produced some of the best memes of the year. My personal favorite captures the scene where Bradley Cooper calls out "hey" from his car window to Lady Gaga as she's walking back to her house and she asks "what?" His response, in his grizzled faux-western voice, is "I just wanted to take another look at you." This is a perfect movie scene to turn into a meme, because it is both super romantic and also really corny. Variations of the meme include substituting various people such as Gritty or It replacing Lady Gaga or, changing what Cooper says, for example, asking Lady Gaga "ain't you that rah rah bitch?" merging two great Lady Gaga memes.

**We begged Marty to write this**

I don't do memes. I've never really "done" memes. "Meme culture" seems to move so terrifyingly fast that I've only ever felt brave enough to take apprehensive peeks into this whirlwind of information. In one of these rare instances, however, I found "they did surgery on a grape." Never have laughed so uncontrollably at something so stupid. Somehow, it makes the grape more fleshy and human when it's being dissected with human tools. And that shit makes my skin crawl, but also, it's just a grape! Just a fuckin grape!



### Dummy Boy

6ix9ine

Jack Archambault



Tekashi 6ix9ine's sophomore album *DUMMY BOY* is bad, but that's probably the least of his worries right now. The rapper, who currently faces life in prison on racketeering charges, fails to rap with the type of unabashed vitriol that was present on his first album, *Day69: Graduation Day*. Instead, he opts for quieter tracks that are heavy on features in what I can only assume are attempts at capitalizing on his sudden fame and becoming a mainstream success.

Take "FEFE", a collaboration with Nicki Minaj and actually one of the better songs on the album. 6ix9ine and Minaj take turns rapping over a soft beat in a marked change of pace from 6ix9ine's usual aggressive, punchy style. Released as a single over the summer, "FEFE" climbed to number three on the Billboard Hot 100. Unfortunately, most of the songs on *DUMMY BOY* feel like cheap attempts to replicate its success.

On a couple of occasions, 6ix9ine goes back to what made him popular

in the first place: rapping with such unrestrained venom that listeners have no choice but to get hyped. Songs from his first album like "BILLY" and "KEKE" actually probably definitely go too hard, but that is what makes 6ix9ine 6ix9ine. When I listen to him, I expect to feel like I have fire coursing through my veins and like I can eat a bucketful of glass shards. On *DUMMY BOY*, he achieves this in small doses with "TATI" and "KIKA", but all too often he is either overshadowed by the artists he features or spits incoherent nonsense. For example, the last 45 seconds of "WONDO" feature TrifeDrew yelling, "DVDs, porno tapes." Nonstop. On a two-minute song. That means that 37.5% of the song is devoted to shouting about DVDs and porn, which is not exactly a great look for a guy who was found guilty of using a child in a sexual performance in 2015. In an interview with Angie Martinez about "FEFE", 6ix9ine said, "I didn't put no effort into that shit." With *DUMMY BOY* being as bad as it is and his life going up in flames, it might not be a bad idea for 6ix9ine to change his tack and start trying just a little.

Favorite Track: "KIKA"



"BAD!"  
XXXTentacion  
David Kennedy



So, full disclosure, I was never a fan of X, his passing didn't really change that, and the heinous abuse allegations had something to do with it. It's hard for me to hear him say "I gave her everything" on a track, and not immediately think he's being dishonest and immature. That said, I also don't want to spend my 250 words congratulating myself for frowning on a dead person so I'll try to focus on the music.

Posthumously released, but supposedly finished while he was still alive, "BAD!" is a good example of a characteristic XXXTentacion track. It's got an infectious hook, druggy, depressive atmosphere, and it's incredibly short, two choruses, one verse. X's strengths are in the hooks and his line delivery, which in this instance are taken to a whiny pitch that might sound better coming from Trippie Redd, not his best. It doesn't help that "BAD!" is another song where X seems to be complaining about a woman. X's lyrics are pretty simple, but he emphasizes rudimentary wordplay to make his observations sound cleverer than they are. For example, on this track the woman is "bad" and "profane" like a "bad word." What that's actually supposed to convey about this woman, and how X feels about her, I don't know. Perhaps, like cursing, she's alluring because she's somehow forbidden? The verse is only four lines so he didn't really give himself the space to elaborate. On the whole, the track is just pointlessly bitter. X made good on his promise to spread bad vibes, and I don't have any use for them right now.



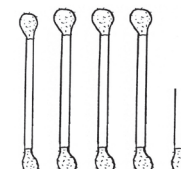
*The Capitol Studio Sessions*  
Jeff Goldblum  
Katelynn Browne



In the words of Jerry Seinfeld as Barry B Benson in the hit cinematic masterpiece, *Bee Movie*, "do ya like jazz?" And to answer my own question, I do now. Jeff Goldblum's jazz album *The Capitol Studio Sessions* is an absolute delight. I've never really listened to jazz of my own volition, but I have to say I really enjoyed listening to this album. The melodies were smooth and calming, making the listening experience feel like I was a woman of the highest class. This is the sort of album you play while taking a bath, glass of wine in hand, candles glowing around you in your \$1.6 million home. The only thing I wasn't a fan of was the weird old-fashioned dialogues that occurred from time to time between Goldblum and the female singers - they're meant to be flirtatious and playful, but honestly I found them to be really uncomfortable! I therefore was not a fan of *Come-On-A-My House* which was way too overtly sexual in tone for my comfort. I'm not here to listen to someone seduce Jeff Goldblum?

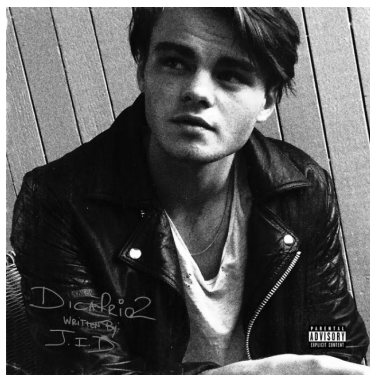
Regardless of these very minor complaints, all of the musicians were exceedingly talented, especially the trumpet player and all the vocalists featured on this album. If you're looking to feel relaxed and bougie, give this album a try! You'll be sure to feel smooth as fuck.

Favorite Track: "It Never Entered My Mind"





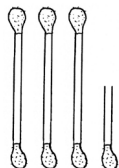
**DiCaprio 2**  
**J.I.D**  
**Jack O'Brien**



*DiCaprio 2* by upcoming Atlanta rapper J.I.D is a strong follow-up to his last full length project *The Never Story* that mixes the hard hitting trap instrumentals of his Atlanta contemporaries with a hyper literate, impeccable flow. I cannot undersell how good J.I.D is at riding an instrumental. His lackadaisical, almost nasally flow allows him to weave in and out of a track effortlessly. Despite originating in Atlanta, it is clear that J.I.D's most direct influences include the other lyrical savants of our generation such as Kendrick, Vince Staples, and his cosigner J.Cole. Cole is also featured on the record *Off Deez* in which the duo spits lightning fast bars over a quirky, jackrabbit instrumental.

While the subject matter of J.I.D's lyricism is oftentimes par for the course as it pertains to "lyrical rappers", the artist truly shines through his fusion of old school, boom-bap-esque production and more modern club bangers. While I don't expect that this record will get much radio air time, J.I.D's heightened notoriety from his presence on the XXL freshman cypher has landed him the opportunity to ramp up his projects production value which can certainly be appreciated. While subject to change, I would certainly say that my current favorite on the album is *Westbrook*, featuring A\$AP Ferg. The track, while not offering as much substance as the other tracks, perfectly encapsulates J.I.D's potential mass appeal. Definitely worth a listen.

Favorite Track: "Westbrook"



**Medium Rarities**  
**Cattle Decapitation**  
**Christian Decker**

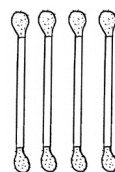


After getting into extreme metal for a while, Cattle Decapitation has quickly become one of my favorite bands. This vegetarian (yes, I know it's great) goregrind/death metal outfit has released a compilation of unreleased tracks from their vaults. It contains a massive 23 songs, but only clocks in at 34 minutes. Most of the songs on the album are shorter than a minute. In fact one track, "The Recapitulation of Cattle", is only 4 seconds long. It's a really cool thing to listen to the album and see how their music has progressed since their inception, from very short songs to a longer and more sophisticated production. Each has its merits. I like hearing the angry and quick bursts of rage against the human race on songs like, "Birth. Cancer. Death." and "Chili Dispenser" along with the demos of songs that made their albums, such as "Human Jerky- Demo."

Another odd twist is that the album contains tracks all in Spanish like "Tripas de Pepe," "Vino de lo Sanguifero," and "Queso de Cabeza," which is something I've personally never heard before, but think is a really cool touch. My favorite tracks on the album are the later tracks because they showcase the stuff I love about this band: the technical prowess, the awesome quality, Travis Ryan's disgusting guttural vocals, and the weird pseudo-clean vocals that sound surprisingly amazing. Personally, I think the track that shows this best is the final track, "Cannibalistic Invasivorism." It sounds a lot like a track that belongs on the album *Monolith of Inhumanity*, which is considered to be one of their best. The structure of *Medium Rarities* is brilliant, too, in how it progresses from older to newer sounds.

december 5, 2018

Favorite Track: "Cannibalistic Invasivorism"



**A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships**  
**The 1975**  
**Olivia Langenberg**



The 1975 released their third album this past weekend, and somehow it manages to have an even more pretentious title than their previous *I like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it*. But don't worry, they know that. *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships* has been receiving rave reviews, with some calling it the best album of the year. While admittedly, The 1975 is my favorite band, I'm going to agree.

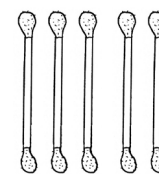
This is the most daring and emotional album from the band to date. It explores a different genre in almost every song, from soft acoustic in "Be My Mistake" to typical pop in "TOOTIMETOOTIMETOOTIME" to the jazz-inspired "Sincerity Is Scary." Frontman Matty Healy is the band's lyricist, and he has never been shy of talking about sex and drugs. He pushes himself in *A Brief Inquiry* with incredibly raw vocals, exposing his battle with heroin addiction, loneliness, and fear of the digital age. "It's Not Living (If It's Not With You)" is reminiscent of "UGH!" from their previous album, in which Healy sings a love song about heroin. "I Couldn't Be More In Love" was recorded the day before he entered rehab, and listening to it is absolutely gut-wrenching. What is particularly interesting about *A Brief Inquiry* is its emphasis on instrumentals rather than lyrics, which strays somewhat from The 1975's previous material. Somehow, though,

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this album still managed to hit me like a freight train, and I've been dancing and crying for days. The album is wrapped up with "I Always Wanna Die (Sometimes)" which is so powerful that I can't even write anything more about it. This album is a complete masterpiece, which excites me as a huge '75 fan because they are already working on a follow-up album *Notes On A Conditional Form*, due early next year. I cannot wait to see *A Brief Inquiry* live in January and ultimately float outside my body.

Favorite Track: "I Couldn't Be More In Love"



## Shitty Holiday Playlist

1. **Dominick the Donkey**  
- Lou Monte
2. **"Jingle Jingle (Santa Party)"**  
- Stephen Colbert
3. **"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"**  
- Bruce Springsteen
4. **"The Hanukkah Song"**  
- Adam Sandler
5. **"I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus"**  
- Rupaul

