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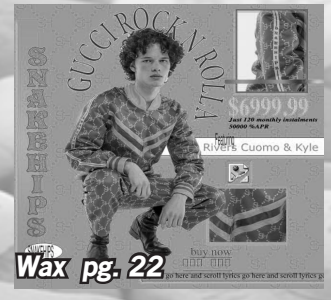
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So, why come write for us? We are a constantly evolving publication, and have been since 1972. We provide an outlet of expression otherwise unavailable to Fordham students. Writers are free to say whatever they want, whenever they want. We are also 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 Ice Cream Flavor Are You?"

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Virginia Political Scandal Snares Political Top Brass

By Suresh Hanubal

News Editor

Three weeks ago, it seemed like things could not get worse for the Virginia Democrats. They were attempting to pass a controversial abortion bill which was facing severe opposition from Conservatives and even a fair amount of Moderates in the Commonwealth. This bill was always a long shot, as it would reduce oversight on second and third semester abortions and scrap a previous requirement for a 24- hour waiting period before getting an abortion. In addition, Governor Ralph Northam made things far worse in this case by appearing to endorse infanticide on a public radio show. So it didn't seem like things could get worse for the Virginia Democratic political establishment. Then, it came out that Northam wore blackface at a party while a 25-year-old student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

These yearbook revelations from the 1980s sparked a national discourse about blackface and immediate calls for Governor Northam to resign. In addition, Northam's catastrophic response to the incident led to further political repercussions for him. Specifically, Northam began by stating that it was in fact him in the picture, then backtracked, then said he did participate in blackface but just in that specific instance, and then moonwalked. As this was occurring, revelations came out that Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax sexually assaulted a woman in 2004. Within a couple of days, another woman came forward, and it now appears as though Fairfax will have to resign. As this was unfolding, Attorney General Mark Herring revealed that he too participated in blackface while at a

Northam, Fairfax, Herring all face accusations of misconduct in their past

college party in 1980, specifically as rapper Kurtis Blow. So in effect, the men who occupy the three most powerful political positions in the Commonwealth of Virginia are all currently implicated in scandal.

The scandals currently implicating the top political brass of Virginia are made all the worse by the nation's current reckoning with sexual assault in the form of the #MeToo movement and rising racial tensions



during the Trump administration. In addition, as a state in the American South, and the capital of the Confederacy, Virginia has had a long and difficult relationship with racism. Thus, these blackface scandals served to show the lingering effects of America's history with racism on society today. The effects are, of course, far-reaching. The fact that two of the three most powerful people in Virginia participated in a racist practice such as blackface underscore the severity of the problem. This is doubly true as the incidents that transpired in the case of Herring & Northam occurred just a couple of decades ago, very much

in the recent past for many people. Herring's incident of blackface did not reach the same level as Northam's, as it occurred when he was 19 instead of 25. He also did it in reference to a rapper that he liked, instead of just participating in blackface for the sake of participating in blackface. However, that doesn't change the fact that blackface's history in this country is steeped in racism.

On sexual assault, it can be

said without a doubt that if Fairfax participated in said unspeakable acts, he should resign. As the United States is currently undergoing a national reckoning on the topic, with Democrats in particular calling for the resignation of persons accused of sexual assault, it would be hypocritical to not apply this same standard to one of their own. Especially as the party has been advocating for the #MeToo movement for the last two years the only possible solution to this, if the allegations are proven to be true, would be a resignation. Thankfully, most Democrats and Republicans, both in

Virginia and across the country, have begun to call for his resignation.

The political scandal in Virginia is further complicated by the fact that if all three officeholders were to resign, the governorship would pass to a Republican, Kirk Cox. As the Republican Party has been drifting in an extremely conservative direction over the last two decades, this could prove problematic to a wide swath of Virginia's marginalized populations. Kirk himself has also proven to be a very conservative politician, with a record peckered with things like opposing sanctuary cities and supporting the National Rifle Association (NRA) wholeheartedly. As such, it could almost be seen as unfair and undemocratic to the voters of the Commonwealth of Virginia to impose upon them a governor whose values are antithetical to what they voted for in 2017. As stated previously, the triumvirate of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General are all held by Democrats in Virginia. Although all three of these men have participated in truly unspeakable acts it may not seem completely fair to the voters of Virginia to appoint a person from the opposing political party to that office.

In sum, the events unfolding in Virginia over the past month have rocked both the Commonwealth and the Nation. As of now, there is no clear path out of this predicament, but hopefully the Virginia political leadership eventually makes the right decision. As there have been a number of twists and turns already, there are sure to be many more before the situation resolves itself.

A Tale of Two Claimants: Who Rightfully Governs Venezuela?

By Noah Kotlarek
Copy Editor

Currently, two men claim to be the president of Venezuela. The first is Nicolas Maduro; the second is Juan Guaidó. Guaidó, the head of the National Assembly (Venezuela's parliament) cites Article 223 of Venezuela's constitution to justify his claim to presidency. The Article reads that during "pending election and inauguration of the new President, the President of the National Assembly shall take charge of the Presidency of the Republic." Guaidó and his supporters argue that the election is still pending since only 46% of the population voted, down from the 80% that voted in the past two elections, coupled with evidence of anti-democratic election procedures and pressures.

So how did Venezuela end up here? In December 1998, Hugo Chávez from the United Socialist Party, was elected President of Venezuela. Chávez planned to solve Venezuela's poverty problems by redistributing the country's oil wealth, which is the biggest in the world, and was thus championed as a man for the people. To accomplish this redistribution, Chávez nationalized the oil industry. When he entered office, Venezuelan oil was priced at \$8.00 per barrel. By 2004, it had risen to \$100.00 per barrel. Because Venezuela was selling massive amounts of oil for high prices, Chávez was able to fund his expensive and extensive social programs, known as Misiones, which included access to university education, healthcare, job training, and food. At this time, Chávez saw the flaw in his plan: he would no longer be able to fund his Misiones if the oil prices plummeted. So, he worked to make Venezuela agriculturally independent among other industries. In 2006, when Chávez

The love triangle between Maduro, Guaido and the Venezuelan government, explained.

was reelected, he decided to go a step further and nationalize all sectors of the market that at the time were private. Oil, electricity, telecommunications, and banking (Chávez purchased Banco de Venezuela from Santander) were all nationalized. This nationalization was much more inefficient and expensive than the privatized economy, but because prices of oil were kept high and borrowing from foreign governments was possible,

came to the Presidency on April 19th, 2013. It is important to note that Chávez was democratically elected in 2013. Since he became president, Maduro has done nothing to mitigate the economic catastrophe in Venezuela. Rather, Maduro has mismanaged the country and situations have declined since 2014. Today, Venezuelans suffer from food, water, toothpaste,

American countries in the 20th century, if not the most successful. Unfortunately, due to unacceptable decision making in the 21st century, it is one of the poorest countries not only in Latin America, but in the world."

Maduro has been able to stay in power thanks to the military's loyalty. Maduro promotes those in the military who support him and gives them healthy bonuses. Those who speak out against the leader are removed. Others in the military who resent Maduro do not express it. Many involved in the military are also involved in drug trafficking and other illegal activities. If Maduro falls, so will his protection of them.

Now, however, Maduro has a challenger: Guaidó. Guaidó promises to lead a transitional government and ensure a truly democratic election to topple Maduro. Maduro, on his part, maintains that he is the only president.

The United States and other western countries have responded to Guaidó's announcement by recognizing him, rather than Maduro, as the official leader of Venezuela. The United States has imposed sanctions on Venezuelan oil, which makes up 40% of Venezuela's exports and is controlled by Maduro. Some, however, fear these sanctions will only exacerbate the current humanitarian crisis and give reason for Maduro to stay in power. Essentially, they fear that the sanctions will enable Maduro to say, "look what the U.S. has done; they support Guaidó." China and Russia, for their part, support Maduro.

Venezuela's situation shows the importance of having a diverse economy, practical leaders with reasonable plans, and law-abiding military leaders. This, we must hope, is what Guaidó will deliver.



Venezuela stayed afloat. Quickly though, things began to take a turn for the worst. In 2013, Chávez died of a heart attack. Foreign investors noticed Venezuela was not repaying its debt and pulled out of the country. Then, in 2014, oil prices dropped. Bigly. Venezuela could no longer rely on oil to fund its social programs and repay its debt. It could also not afford to purchase medicine and food, both of which were imports. Unfortunately for Venezuela, it had no other goods or services to lean back on, as in 2012, oil made up 95% of the nation's exports.

In the midst of this turmoil Nicolas Maduro, Chávez's chosen successor,

and hygienic product shortages due to foreign disinterest, its oil heavy market, and its inability to import necessities. The Andrew Bello Catholic University in Caracas reported that in 2017, Venezuelans lost an average 24 pounds and that 90% of the population now lives below the poverty line. Inflation, exodus, and starvation are three accurate ways to describe what is occurring in Venezuela.

Venezuelan native Daniel Davallio (FCRH '22) sums up the country's situation thusly: "Venezuela... was one of the most successful Latin

One Hit Wonder and Narcissist Hits Legal Trouble

By Anonymous
Staff Paparazzo

Soulja Boy has largely been known as a one hit wonder, but it turns out that there may have been many more hits than we realized. This week, a woman named Kayla who used to date Soulja Boy came forward claiming that he had both assaulted and attempted to kidnap her on Friday, February 1st.

According to Kayla's story, she and Soulja Boy who were dating at the time got into a heated argument at his Los Angeles home. Soulja asked her to leave, and as she was pulling out of his driveway to leave she hit the curb, causing Soulja to come outside and initiate another argument. Soulja Boy allegedly knocked her to the ground and proceeded to kick and punch her before bringing her inside his home and tying her to a chair. After allegedly spending 6 hours tied up with an electric cable, Soulja finally released her. Kayla claims to have immediately called the police upon leaving his house and checked herself into the hospital to be treated for a concussion and three broken ribs.

After years of irrelevance, Soulja Boy roars to fame ... and his #MeToo moment

None of these accusations have been proven to be true at this point, and Soulja's manager has denied all claims made by Kayla, but law enforcement is conducting an investigation of the allegations.

Soulja is already on 5 year probation for a previous weapon conviction, meaning that if these accusations turn

out to be true, he can be charged with not only assault and kidnapping, but also for breaking his probation which will most likely lead to extended jail time. Soulja's bad publicity has been



out to be true, he can be charged with not only assault and kidnapping, but also for breaking his probation which will most likely lead to extended jail time.

Soulja's bad publicity has been

artists alike. Even Jake Paul is in on the current Soulja Boy beef, making plans to fight him for the small price of 20 million dollars. The rapper and YouTuber have both stated that they

will bet 20 million on the upcoming boxing match. This hatred stemmed from a heated Instagram live video where the two fought over Soulja Boy's recent entrepreneurship and outspokenness.

So what does all this bad publicity mean for Soulja Pods? Or his new game console? Or, most importantly, Fordham University Spring Weekend? If Soulja boy is found guilty of assault or kidnapping he might be too busy in jail to make it to the Bronx this spring. In that case, CAB will have to scramble to find someone last minute that lives up to the hype that Fordham students created around Soulja Boy, which would prove to be quite the task. Some students are hoping that the accusations are false so that they can still jam to "Kiss Me Thru the Phone", while others would be ecstatic to have a different artist visit this spring. Whether you're pro Soulja or not, there is one thing we can all agree on: "In this world you either crank that soulja boy or it cranks you".

Fordham Basketball Continues Exercise in Futility

By Jack Archambault
Editor-in-Chief

The Fordham men's basketball team finally won a conference game. No, I'm not lying. After starting off 0-8 in Atlantic 10 play, the Rams posted an 85-67 drubbing of UMass on February 6.

But don't let that fool you.

Fordham basketball is still an irredeemable, soul-crushing dumpster fire. Going to a game is an exercise in self-hatred. Even free t-shirts can't change the fact that watching the Rams play something resembling basketball is nothing more or less than ritualistic torture.

At the center of it all is head coach Jeff Neubauer, a man who, for my best guess, goes temporarily blind during the first and second halves of every game. After a particularly brutal 75-52 loss to Dayton on January 26, Neubauer held his typical postgame press conference. As a public representative of the University, he had to maintain some semblance of

Neubauer says everyone is buying in. Here's what he really means

decorum. I don't. Here are the answers he wanted to give.

Q: "Coach, did you feel like you were prepared to deal with a player like [Dayton forward Obi] Toppin?"

JN: God, no. To tell you the truth, I didn't even know who Obi Toppin was before today. I usually take the first 15 minutes of every game to do all the scouting I didn't do beforehand. That's why until almost halftime it always looks like our guys have never played a game of basketball before. It's not on them, it's on me.... but it's mostly on them.

Q: "What's been the hardest thing about this losing streak?"

JN: Uhhh, probably all the losing?

Q: "What's the biggest thing you've learned about your team during this losing streak?"

JN: That we're not very good and we lose a lot. As the saying goes, "You win some, you lose some, but you can't win 'em all." In our case, we can't win any.

Q: "Chuba [Ohams] looked really

good today. What has he been doing in the past few weeks to improve?"

JN: He's been doing the exact opposite of everything I tell him. Call it the Neubauer Plan. I guess he finally realized that every instinct I've ever had has been wrong, so he's just doing the opposite. Probably a good call.

Q: "What are you looking for from Ty Perry? Is it simply a matter of shooting the ball more consistently?"

JN: Ty Perry is a master of the Jeff Neubauer offense. He hovers around the three-point line, swings the ball aimlessly around the perimeter, and shoots contested threes with the shot clock winding down. You can't teach those intangibles. That's my kind of player.

Q: "Coach, where is [freshman guard] Nick Honor's confidence right now?"

JN: I think Nick has been playing very well. Like I said about Ty just now, he's running my system to perfection. Missed shots, forced drives, I love it.

Q: "Dayton had a 32-point advantage

in the paint. What was the difference between their big men and yours?"

JN: Theirs played better. I've got news for you, Christian Sengfelder isn't walking through that door. I wish I could reference a better player than Christian Sengfelder, but this is Fordham, and he's the closest thing I've ever seen to Larry Bird.

Q: "What challenges lie ahead for this team in the coming weeks?"

JN: Probably looking for employment mostly. I'll start firing up my resume, too. I might still be qualified to coach a CYO team. Or maybe not. I guess I could always coach the football team. The qualifications don't seem to be too high.

Q: "Any big train rides planned during spring break?"

Okay, I made that last one up.

Go Rams.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Suresh Hanubal

Climate Change Agreement Reached

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina – Yesterday at the tail-end of a Global Climate Change Conference hosted in this balmy South American city; leaders from the United States, China, Russia, India, and The European Union agreed on a plan to reduce emissions by more than 75% by 2050. This comes in light of a recent report from The University of Hong Kong that detailed the disastrous effects of Climate Change if action was not taken immediately.

President Hillary Clinton of The United States was quoted as saying “We owe Earth to our Children, thats why we signed this landmark agreement today”. Initial objections from India, China, and Russia were overcome as political leaders from the three nations realized that although fossil fuel derived growth would deliver benefits in the short term, it would lead to catastrophic damage by mid-century.

This agreement is one in a wave of substantive declarations made in the last several years, as political leaders the world over begin to realize the benefits of cooperating on matters ranging from Climate Change to Trade. These agreements have been boosted by recent public sentiment that seems to favour a societal approach to societal problems. Since the turn of the decade, experts have been noting a surge in the percentage of people vaccinated, a shift to renewable energy sources, and increased prosecution of individuals who have committed financial or tax crimes.

In the aftermath of the 2008 Financial Crisis, it seemed very likely that the Western world would fall prey to the vagaries of populism. These fears now appear silly and unfounded.

State of the Union Shocks and Satisfies Divided Nation

By Courtney Bergsieker
Staff Political Strategist

On February 5, 2019, President Trump delivered the State of the Union Address to the most diverse Congress in American history. Determined to make a statement, most of the female representatives of the Democratic Party arrived wearing white to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of women receiving the right to vote, according to Jeff Mason with Reuters. Regularly casting unamused looks at the President and choosing to remain seated when others stood to cheer, the Democratic congresswomen made it known that they were not pleased with the Trump Administration’s performance. Briefly following a comment that “women have filled 58% of newly created jobs last year,” the women cheered approvingly to show their support, but icy stares mostly dominated the



address. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez particularly rifled social media platforms with her shiny silver hoops and pursed red lips. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi also joined the ladies in white and offered her fair share of eyerolls.

President Trump briefly interacted with the Democratic Congresswomen, playfully remarking, “You weren’t supposed to do that,” when the female representatives stood to applaud after the President reported the increase in female employment. He then added, “All Americans can be proud that we have more women in the workforce than ever before.” After praising increased female employment rates, however, President Trump delved into his call to action regarding abortion laws. Trump made

Democrats remain unimpressed

an emotional reaction to New York’s recent change in legislation allowing late-term abortions for women if medical complications are present. He stated, “These are living, feeling, beautiful babies, who will never share their love and dreams with the world,” and went on to encourage Congress to pass a law banning late-term abortions nationwide.

Stacey Abrams addressed President Trump’s statement on abortion in the Democratic Party’s response: “America achieves a measure of reproductive justice in Roe v. Wade, but we must never forget, it is immoral to allow politicians to harm women and families to advance a political agenda.” According to Lawrence Hurley with Reuters, Abrams shed light on the fact that President Donald Trump’s political opinions on abortion

regarding women’s rights. When promoting his infamous border wall, he stated, “One in three women is sexually assaulted on the long journey north.” Danielle Kurtzleben with NPR, however, argues that his comments were likely a simple tactic used to promote his anti-immigration policies under the guise of concern for victims of sexual assault.

Immigration policy taking up a large portion of the speech, President Trump went on to emphasize that human traffickers and sex traffickers “take advantage of” loose border security, subjecting women to a life of “modern-day slavery.”

On a similar note, President Trump announced that the federal government will be “launching the first ever government-wide initiative focused on economic empowerment for women in developing countries.” The economic initiative was reportedly spearheaded by Ivanka Trump who announced the launch for the program in an article for WSJ. She writes, “W-GDP (Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative) establishes an innovative new fund at the U.S. Agency for International Development to support proposals that enable women to succeed in the economy. The president has directed USAID to allocate an initial \$50 million for this new fund.” Although lacking detail, the plan is focused on increasing female entrepreneurship to stimulate economic growth.

Overall, the State of the Union address was a major point of contention for women. Hot off the heels of the annual Women’s March and the election of 102 female representatives to Congress, the Democratic Party’s women in white showed up to make a statement that they will be a force to be reckoned with. Although moments of bipartisanship and promising statements of initiatives to promote female-driven economic growth earned applause, President Trump’s address was peppered with anti-choice rhetoric that left many Congresswomen unimpressed.

have fluctuated in the past and have only seemingly become anti-choice to gain support from his conservative voter base.

Social media moguls were quick to jump on Trump’s claims about abortion. Notably, Kamala Harris tweeted, “Politicians should not tell women what to do with their bodies. #SOTU.” On the other side of the aisle, columnist, Kimberley Strassel tweeted, “Wow. That is quite the message. Democrats, including all those women in white, sit motionless at the call to restrict late-term abortion—which polls show 70-80% of public disapproves. Who is out of step with the country? #SOTU.”

In an attempt to win over his female audience, Trump made several obscure claims in his address

D-Mac and J-Mac Say 'No' to Trump's Big Macs

By Jack Archambault
Editor-in-Chief

Some players may visit Obama instead

Several members of the Super Bowl-champion New England Patriots are not interested in free “hamberders”. Just weeks after President Trump welcomed the Clemson Tigers football team to the White House with a fast food feast during the government shutdown, three Patriots players have expressed their intentions to skip the traditional visit. But don't get it twisted – this decision has nothing to do with counting calories and everything to do with Trump.

So far, three Patriots players, safeties Devin McCourty and Duron Harmon

'04, '05, '15, and '17. The '02 and '15 visits, hosted by Presidents Bush and Obama, respectively, each saw nearly 50 players show up. The other three were attended by closer to 35 players. Time also may have played a role in these figures, as the '02 visit came after the franchise's first Super Bowl victory and the '15 visit came after its first in 10 years. When asked in 2017 about why some players chose not to visit the White House, Patriots VP of Media Relations Stacey James said some players did not see the need to attend twice in three years. Even quarterback Tom Brady chose

“Hey Obama, man, come holler at me. We love you over here.”

Yes, athletes skipping the White House visit was a regular occurrence before Trump assumed office. The difference between then and now is that now, race is the main factor. Of the 15 Warriors who rejected Trump's invitation before he even extended it, 14 were black. Of the 57 black players on Clemson's roster, just 15 visited the White House. Trump's rescinded the Eagles' invitation because he disagreed with many players' decision to protest police brutality against black Americans by kneeling for the national anthem (never mind the fact that no Eagles players actually knelt for the anthem). Correlation does not always imply causation, but when the sitting President has been endorsed by David Duke and has called white nationalists “fine people”, it's easy to see why black athletes might not want to pay him a visit.

Amid these declined invitations to visit the White House and all the bungled attempts by Trump to blame them on anything other than his extreme unpopularity among black Americans, it is easy to lose sight of what these White House visits really are: PR opportunities that are not as important as anyone makes them seem. At these visits, the President yuks it up with the owner and players, takes a few pictures, and everyone forgets it ever happened. If the McCourty twins don't like Trump, they shouldn't be forced to go meet him. If Harmon would rather kick it with Obama, that's fine too.

Besides, it's not as though the purpose of these visits is for Bill Belichick to help Trump break down strategies for intervention in Syria like he's scheming a way to contain Todd Gurley.

thinking

Actually, with this President's track record, maybe it is. You might want to make the trip, Mr. Belichick, the President might need the help of someone who knows a thing or two about winning.



and cornerback Jason McCourty, have said they will not visit the White House with the team.

“They don't want me in the White House,” Harmon told TMZ in the aftermath of the Patriots' 13-3 win over the Rams on February 3.

This is the same reason Devin McCourty and former running back LeGarrette Blount gave in 2017 for refusing to visit after the team's win in Super Bowl LI. Said McCourty at that time, “I don't feel accepted in the White House. With the president having so many strong opinions and prejudices, I believe certain people might feel accepted there while others won't.”

Skipping the White House visit is nothing new for athletes, so is the decision these three are making (with more sure to follow) really such a big deal? Well, yes and no.

The Patriots have made five previous visits to the White House, in 2002,

not to attend in '15 or '17, citing family matters as the reason for his absence.

The Patriots have won a lot. It is perfectly reasonable to expect that some players have White House fatigue. But ever since Trump took office there has been more to it than that, as an event that was once relatively harmless has turned into a yearly reckoning on the intersection of sports, politics, patriotism, and racism. It seems every year we finally stop just short of asking Brady for his thoughts on combating cyberterrorism.

Just last year the Philadelphia Eagles were disinvited from the White House after it was revealed that only 10 players were planning on attending. Trump also “disinvited” the NBA champion Golden State Warriors when no players were planning on attending. So what did the Warriors do? On January 24, they went to visit Obama instead. Duron Harmon also likes the sound of that idea, saying,

Reader

Than

Fact

by Gabby Curran

*You Can Now Listen to Toto's
“Africa” On Repeat in the Afri-
can Desert*

If by some miracle you haven't heard “Africa” by Toto played enough for your liking, you can now travel to the Namib Desert in Namibia, Africa, and listen to it on an eternal loop. Artist Max Siedentopf, who calls Namibia home, is the mastermind behind the concept, which he calls “Toto Forever.” Inspired by the song's recent surge in popularity, particularly Weezer's cover of it for the 2018 film Aquaman, Siedentopf wanted to “pay the song the ultimate homage and physically exhibit ‘Africa’ in Africa.” His installation consists of six solar-powered speakers hooked up to an MP3 player that continuously blasts Toto's iconic anthem. Because the speakers run on renewable energy, the song can play on an endless loop without needing much upkeep. T“The Namibian Desert—which is, with 55 million years, the oldest desert in the world—seemed to be the perfect spot for this [installation],” Siedentopf told NPR. He also said that he “hopes the song will play for another 55 million years.” As for the naysayers who might not be as avid fans of the song as the Internet is, Siedentopf had this to say to BBC: “[Some] love it and some say it's the worst sound installation ever. I think that's a great compliment.” The installation is on display at an undisclosed location in the desert, so fans may have difficulty seeing it in person. Nevertheless, knowing that it is out there, somewhere, is all that really matters to cure what's deep

Mueller Investigation Explained

By Noah Kotlarek
Copy Editor

The Trump-Russia scandal goes further than you may think

As the Mueller Probe nears its close, Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee announced on February 6 that the committee would be opening up a new investigation on Russian interloping in the 2016 presidential election and on Trump's international business interests. The investigation aims to find out if Trump's decisions as President are being guided by his financial or personal interests. Perhaps the Russians have information on Trump that he would not like leaked.

The goal of this article is to explain what the investigations on Trump and his ties to Russia are and to define the people involved. First, we will begin with the Mueller Probe, also known as the Special Counsel Investigation. This investigation, which started on May 17, 2017, is designed to determine if the Trump Campaign and the Kremlin (Russian government) conspired to influence the 2016 US Presidential Election and is headed by Robert Mueller, former director of the FBI. More specifically, the investigation looks to see if the hundreds of "fake" social media accounts created by Russia to create disdain for Hillary Clinton and the leakage of DNC emails was created in collusion with Trump. This investigation has led to a couple of indictments and several convictions. The most notable being the conviction of Paul Manafort. Manafort was Trump's campaign chairman during the summer of 2016 and has had a long history of lobbying for foreign governments in the US. From 2004 to 2010 he worked as a campaign adviser to Viktor Yanukovich, the president of Ukraine and friend of Putin. From 2007 to 2008, Russian

investor Oleg Deripaska loaned Manafort \$10 million in exchange for pro-Russian lobbying in American and European politics, business, and media coverage. Finally, from 2010 to 2014 Manafort received \$60 million from Ukrainian oligarchs. Manafort's prize for his lobbying service went to funding the purchase of his \$15,000 ostrich skin hoodie



and the maintenance of his letter M-shaped flowerbed in the backyard of his Bridgehampton estate.

Now back to the investigation announced by Sen. Schiff last Wednesday... The Committee will be working closely with Mueller. On February 6, the Committee voted to send fifty transcripts from its Russia investigation to Mueller on top of the transcript from its Roger Stone interview. Roger Stone was a casino lobbyist for Trump in the 1990s and then briefly served on Trump's campaign team in 2015. During Trump's campaign, he was in communication with Guccifer 2.0, the Russian avatar who claimed to

have hacked into the DNC and leaked the Democratic National Committee's emails (some of which seem to reveal the Democrats intentionally sabotaged Bernie Sanders's campaign) and John Podesta's - Hillary Clinton's election Chairman - emails to WikiLeaks, via Twitter private messaging. On January 25, 2019, Mr. Stone was arrested and charged for witness tampering

and obstructing an official proceeding by lying to Mueller's special counsel investigation.

Trump was not too pleased to hear Senator Schiff's announcement. He took to Twitter, the State of the Union, and the Roosevelt Room to blast Schiff's investigation. To Trump, Schiff is "just a political hack trying to build a name for himself." At the State of the Union address on the February 6, Trump expressed his opposition to "ridiculous partisan investigations" which he feels are a continuation of the "presidential harassment" that he has been the victim of.

Later in the week, Schiff hired former National Security Council members -

some who Trump believes were working for him - to assist in his investigation. This news was not pleasing to Trump's ears, "I hear... committee heads will [be] stealing people who work at White House!" Schiff responded, "If the President is worried about our hiring any former administration people, maybe he should work on being a better employer." Schiff clarified the debate, stating that he had not hired anyone who was directly working at the White House.

In July, Sen. Schiff was seen meeting with Glenn Simpson, an executive of Fusion GPS (the company that performed opposition research on Romney for the DNC and is researching Trump and Russian collusion). Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA) claims that this is evidence of Schiff colluding with an anti-Trump research company and is unfair for the investigation.

As for now, Democrats plan on continuing to leverage the power of the subpoena to progress their investigation. On Friday, January 8, General Whitaker, an insider in the Mueller investigation, testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where he was pelleted with questions asking if he talked to Trump about the investigation and/or disclosed confidential information that Trump could use to protect himself. Whitaker denied any communication with the President regarding the Mueller investigation.

At this point the outlook is not so bright for the President. For many, it is quite evident that Trump was assisted by Russia to secure his victory in 2016. But on February 9, Trump tweeted, "The Dems are trying to win an election in 2020 that they know they cannot legitimately win!" Interesting.





The Future House-Husbands of Goose

by Erin Kirkpatrick
Staff Single Lady

Nice guys don't finish last, but they do get in the way of my life. As an 18 year old single girl, I have made quite a few mistakes in love. It would be much more uncommon if I hadn't, and everyone should know that freshman year of college is not the best place for relationships other than friendship. My problem, however, is not with the overly masculine boys hanging around Goose on Friday nights looking for someone to have fun with, but the overly masculine boys who think it's their business to save girls from themselves.

It is true that there are many douchebag freshman boys at Fordham University, but something that is seldom talked about is the opposite group of boys who, despite the aforementioned group, do everything in their power to appear as the complete opposite. Obviously I don't have a problem with the "nice boys" who think they "finish last," but I do have a problem with the obvious hypocrisy of them thinking that it's their job to keep girls safe, because sometimes their version of safe is not ours.

This leads me to the aptly named "savior complex," sometimes referred to as a "messiah complex." I've had way too much experience with men of this sort. In some cases it would be my ex-boyfriend mansplaining the world to me and believing he was granting me the keys to the good life, or his best friend who was dating the biggest mess of a girl I'd ever seen, who believed that spending all of his time with her was the only thing saving her from her depression. When she'd make a scene or faint at parties for

Savior complexes abound at local bar

this reason or that, he'd be right by her side for hours helping her through it. While he was doing what he thought was morally correct, it was obvious he got something way deeper out of it. He felt like a savior, the most noble of men, someone that deserved love and respect from everyone around him for doing such a selfless, thankless task.

People with a savior complex don't

want their seemingly morally correct influences. While everyone likes feeling protected, sometimes people like to make mistakes, especially when it comes to romantic entanglements of the freshman year variety.

The point I am trying to make is that girls don't need their male friends to act like older brothers. Especially considering all of the older brothers I

as they have the ability to understand that kissing does not mean romantic interest. She also knows that he is the only one doing something wrong, as she has not promised anyone monogamy. And even more important than that, if she wants to kiss the boy please, please do not cock block her in the name of "protection."

So, if you see a girl talking to the boy who's been talking to all the other girls in the grade, you don't need to remind her that he's douchebag and try to talk her into moving away from him, she probably knows. She not blind. And maybe, just maybe, she knows how to make decisions for herself.

So, if you see that a girl and her friends are drunk and having a good time, don't "watch over them" for the night. Can you imagine a group of drunk girlfriends being tasked to watch over a handful of equally drunk boys? No. The same rule applies.

Maybe there are some girls who actually do need intervention and that's what I'm missing here, but all I'm saying is that I promise you most adults are responsible enough to make decisions for themselves. Watching out for your friends is always good, but getting in the way or judging your girlfriends for doing things that guys do all the time is obviously incorrect. Being the hero may be fun, but if it gets in the way of clear choices being made by someone else, your savior complex is becoming a problem. So guys, respect the fact that girls can make bad choices too, please.



see any problem with stepping in on situations that they think they can affect positively. The problem with this is they either help someone who actually can't help themselves, who will then never learn to take care of themselves, or they try to help someone like my friends and I who do not appreciate help, nor

know fully respect the poor decisions there sisters make and see no problem with fucking up in college, as college is the single best time to fuck up.

So, if you see a girl kissing the boy with a girlfriend from back home, know that they probably don't care. They don't need to be protected from him,

Free 21 Savage. Abolish ICE.

by Andrew Millman
Opinions Editor

On Sunday, February 3, ICE agents arrested rapper 21 Savage, accusing him of being a British citizen who was in the country unlawfully. This came as a shock to many fans of the rapper, including myself, and the internet had great fun in mocking this little-known fact about the Atlanta-based rapper. An ICE spokesperson took the aggressive and unusual step of saying, in a statement, that 21 Savage's "whole public persona is false."

ICE has alleged that 21 came to the United States illegally with his family when he was thirteen and that a prior drug-related conviction, characterizing him as a felon. However, details later emerged that proved this to be untrue. 21 Savage came to the United States when he was seven years-old, like many Dreamers covered under DACA, with his co-managers attesting that they knew him in elementary school. His parents overstayed their visas when he was a child. Second, 21 Savage was arrested for a felony in 2015, but was never convicted and the arrest was later expunged from his record. He had applied for a U-Visa, which is for anyone who has been the victim of a crime while in the United States (an incident he has discussed in his music), four years ago, and the visa application is still being processed. This is emblematic of this country's backlogged immigration system that means many in limbo with their futures uncertain.

21 Savage's arrest is emblematic of how ICE operates

The Department of Homeland Security has known about 21 Savage's immigration status for at least two years and known his address, but only now has ICE decided to apprehend the rapper after he publicly criticized the agency on The Tonight Show during the performance of his song "A Lot." In



that performance, 21 rapped "went through some things, but I couldn't imagine my kids stuck at the border." 21 Savage is currently being held in detention without bail, although he should be eligible for bail under federal laws. He is being held in 23-hour lockdown and his lawyers assert that these conditions, coupled with ICE's spreading of misinformation, are meant to coerce him into accepting deportation instead of contesting it in immigration court, where he should be given relief from removal.

The mistreatment of 21 Savage is not anomalous for ICE. This is the same agency that separates

young migrant children from their families and sends them to internment camps in inhumane conditions. They even have a history of targeting political opponents and Dreamers that have spoken to the media. They wait outside places of worship and schools to apprehend undocumented immigrants. They set

up a fake university to trick more undocumented immigrants. Over the past several years, over a thousand sexual abuse complaints have been filed against ICE, but only 2% have been investigated. They even make children as young as toddlers

go through immigration court proceedings without a guardian or legal representation, which John Oliver parodied on a recent episode of his show Last Week Tonight.

ICE should be dismantled. The agency was only founded in 2003 as part of the then-new Department of Homeland Security, taking the authority for immigration enforcement away from the Department of Justice. This transfer reframed immigration as a national security issue instead of a domestic issue, with dire consequences for immigrants and human rights. This positioning allows Trump and his

allies to justify their xenophobic rhetoric and policies. It should be noted that ICE is not responsible for border security, which Trump purports to care so much about. Customs and Border Patrol is responsible for that. ICE is only a deportation force responsible for tearing apart families and communities, often through unconstitutional means. Returning immigration enforcement to the Justice Department and ending the most authoritarian agency in the federal government will go a long way to undoing the damage that has been done to the immigrant community and by extension the entire country.

21 Savage should eventually be able to remain in this country. He has the law, along with legal resources and the public notoriety that come with his status, on his side. Jay-Z, who took similar actions to free Meek Mill from an unfair imprisonment, has hired a top lawyer for 21 to secure bond for him and fight this legal battle. However, it is important to remember that there are millions of people in the same position that do not have 21's status. For them, ICE is a constant threat and oppressive tool of state violence. ICE was bad before Trump, but so far the Trump presidency has emboldened the agency to become far worse, in a manner that should concern everyone, especially those worried about government overreach and authoritarianism.



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Halftime show leaves millions of Americans confused about memes

by Katelynn Browne
Arts Editor

The Super Bowl: one of the few occasions in which the American people come together as one in order to enjoy the spectacle that is American football. People are drawn to the Super Bowl for several reasons; of course, there's people who are genuinely fans of the sport. Then, there's those of us who like to watch corporations actually put work into their advertisements and make clever commercials. And, finally, some people just really enjoy watching the halftime show.

In the past, we've seen some incredible halftime shows. Take for example, Beyoncé's halftime show in 2015, shaking the nation with her overtly pro-black performance, causing controversy as well as furthering discussions regarding police brutality and the unfair treatment of black Americans in the 21st century. Or, while less politically charged, but equally as memorable, recall Lady Gaga's halftime show in 2017, where she swung in on a rope from the top of the stadium. It is thus safe to say that Super Bowl Halftime shows have the ability to cause national conversations on politics and civil rights, or at the very least create a lasting impression.

After Justin Timberlake's pretty God-awful 2018 halftime performance, we, as a nation had thought that the bar dropped pretty low. Tragically, we were wrong. We were so far from wrong. Because 2019's halftime show was the train-wreck that shook

There was no "Sweet Victory" for Adam Levine and Maroons 2-7

the nation, terrified anyone from the ages of 13-30, and confused the fuck out of middle-aged people everywhere.

Before I completely dive into this travesty, I would like to provide as much context as possible (as if any amount of context could justify or explain what happened on that fateful day).

In 2018, the beloved creator of



the hit cartoon series *SpongeBob SquarePants*, Stephen Hillenburg, passed away. In 2001, there was an episode of *SpongeBob* called "Band Geeks" wherein Squidward Tentacles forms a marching band in order to prove to his frenemy, Squilliam Fancyson, that he's as capable as Squilliam in leading a band. Squilliam then gives Squidward the opportunity to play at the "Bubble Bowl" (which is

literally the Super Bowl). Squidward quickly discovers that his marching band is grossly underprepared to perform, with Patrick Star asking "is mayonnaise an instrument?" But, at the last minute, *SpongeBob* and the gang come through and perform "Sweet Victory," which is so well done that Squilliam suffers cardiac arrest from shock, and the day is saved. It's an iconic scene, prevalent in the minds of anyone who has watched *SpongeBob* growing up.

After Hillenberg's death, there were ruminations of this scene to be somehow incorporated into the 2019 halftime show, which sparked a lot of excitement amongst people my age. It was thought to be a wonderful way to honor a man who has brought entertainment and joy to hundreds of thousands of children throughout the last two decades.

However, what followed at the Super Bowl can only be described a gross misunderstanding of what the Youth find entertaining and how to respectfully honor a brilliant and beloved creator.

Firstly, Maroon 5's performance was downright atrocious. I'm pretty sure they pre-record the singing portions of these performances and if that was the case, it makes matters worse. On top of their completely underwhelming vocals, Adam Levine

removed his jacket, threw it into the crowd, and then came back out with another jacket on. Then, I blinked and suddenly he was shirtless, his pasty and badly-tattooed torso, front and center on my television, burning "CALIFORNIA" into the darkest crevices of my subconscious. Before I could comprehend the magnitude of the situation unfolding before me, I was blind, and I no longer knew where I was or what the point of anything was.

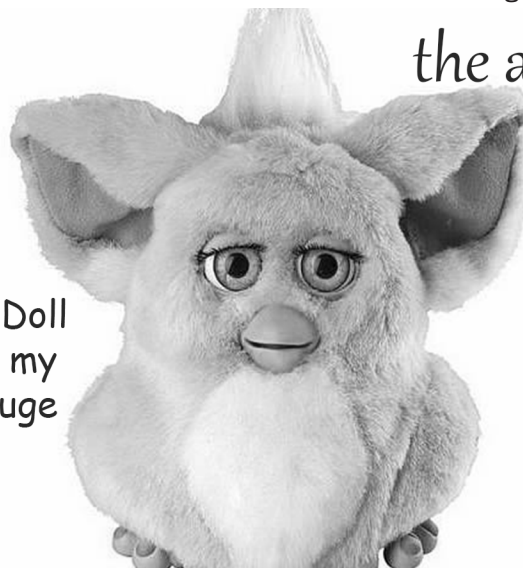
If you thought that was bad, it gets worse. In between the part where Adam Levine took off his jacket and the part where Adam Levine single-handedly killed God with his bare chest on national television, they used Squidward and the beginning of the beloved animation of "Sweet Victory" to introduce "SICKO MODE" by Travis Scott. It was single-handedly the most jarring thing I've ever witnessed on television, and I remember when Lady Gaga made out with Mayor Bloomberg when the ball dropped in 2012.

I witnessed this whiplash-inducing transition with my middle-aged immigrant father, who asked me to explain to him what was happening, and to be quite honest, I was equally as dumbfounded. I was also offended. America was left speechless, as Travis Scott's cussing was quieted on national television; no one knew what was happening, causing the country to enter a temporary state of anarchy, leaving one question on everyone's mind: why?

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The Midwest is Great, Don't Chya Know

by Erin Stehler

Staff Nick Carraway

Yes, being a Midwesterner is exactly the painful existence it is made out to be. Days are short and cold, so essentially we wake up, pretend to be happy and polite, and then go right back to bed. Here on the east coast we are ridiculed for our ways. Somebody my first week here actually asked me if I lived in a tent in the woods, and my roommate recently admitted she wondered if I had electricity in my house when we connected over the summer ... online. Weird encounters aside, people feel it okay to speak to us with drawn out vowels and exaggerated accents. I'm not one to be offended, but on behalf of us flyover states west of Chicago, stop it.

The first and probably least important thing I'd like to address is duck-duck-greyduck, or as most people outside of Minnesota insist it be called, duck-duck-goose. From its Scandinavian origin it literally translates to "grey duck". Y'all just assumed it was

You know what the Midwest is? Young and Restless about Prejudice

a goose because there is no wildlife out here and you probably cannot fathom a color of duck that doesn't appear on Google images. Plus, duck-duck-greyduck is way more fun. As you go around the circle smacking



your friends on the head with all the power a seven-year-old can muster, you get to call out colors of ducks. You call that girl pink duck because you know she hates pink, and you call your friend green duck because he has green light-up sketchers and so on until you decide it's time. Grey duck. The

addition of the colors really adds to the creative choice of the 'it' person. Anyways, it's more fun and I will fight everyone about it until the day I die.

Another thing that really grinds my gears are the things we get accused of eating. I'd like to take a moment to say to the rest of the country, not all of us are out here eating weird shit. I'm talking especially about Buzzfeed. No, I don't eat casserole for every meal, I'm not even sure I've ever had it before, much less the infamous "tater tot hotdish". And that "salad" shit with marshmallows and jello... if you eat that you're a monster. We don't want you. Go down south with that yee-haw shit. That's not salad. We don't eat that. That said, I stand by puppy chow and muddy buddies can rot in hell.

The east coast really just thinks of us as a frozen wasteland, which is honestly fair for Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas (basically the rectangle ones for those of you who don't know anything west of Pennsylvania). But

believe it or not, there is actually civilization in the rest of the Midwest. All I'm trying to say is it's not just unbearably cold – it also gets unbearably hot. We get both extremes. Yes, it was -30° before wind-chill in Minnesota last week, but that won't stop us from wearing shorts and walking our dogs. Y'all really tried to get class cancelled when it was 10° and sunny. Zip up your Canada Goose and go to class.

Basically, the Midwest is only slightly different than you probably picture it to be. We have cities, we have cars, sometimes we even have traffic. On behalf of the Midwest I'd just really like to say... You can have Chicago. It is not the Midwest. We do not claim it. Northeast, do what you will with it. Also it's always colder in Minnesota than in Chicago, so they can quit it with "Chiberia". All I ask is that next time you have something to say about the Midwest, please take a second to remember that we do not want to hear it.

Breaking News: Local Young-Adult Male Really Into Video Games

by Christian Decker

News Editor

Growing up as a pretty consistent gamer (though in recent years I haven't had much time anymore), I've always enjoyed playing the strategy games. One of my first games was Pokémon Fire Red for the Gameboy. Although Pokémon is an RPG, there are so many strategy elements. Perhaps that's why I've found a home playing 4x games.

What are 4x games, you ask? The 4xs are explore, expand, exploit, and exterminate. In these games you play as an empire, taking control of your civilization and building wonder's, training armies, exploring, and interacting with other nations and empires. One of the first 4x games I played was Civilization Revolution, which was a game for the DS that spawned out of the long list of Civilization games that came out for PC. At the time I wasn't very good at the basic concept of the game, so I mostly just spammed a bunch of military units and steam rolled everyone in my path.

That's part of the fun in 4x games though: you CAN choose to just

annihilate everyone in your path. You'll soon see however, that your actions have consequences. Having a lot of soldiers at once drains your treasury, and often, other nations won't look to kindly upon your warmongering.

One of the best things about 4x games is that there's so much



variety. The Civilization series allows you to play as iconic leaders of different nations through the ages and build real life wonders that help contribute to your civilization. You

don't even have to fight if you don't want to, there are plenty of victory options for you to choose from, and often depending on your civ there are some that are more geared to certain victories than other's. For example, the Mongols get horse archers, which are perfect if you're going for early game domination.

I've recently been having a lot of fun with the Amplitude games, Endless Legend, and Endless Space, 2 specifically. What's cool about both of these games is that they exist in the same shared universe, one that takes place in space, spanning entire galaxies and planets, and the other in a more high fantasy setting taking place on one planet called Auriga. What Amplitude has managed to do with these games is astounding. Each faction feels completely unique, with different technologies to research and unique units and playstyles that are just really fun to explore and try out. For example, in Endless Legend, there's a faction called the Broken Lords, that are spirits trapped in suits of

armor. Since they don't eat anything, you don't generate a food resource, rather you actually have to build your population rather than having it naturally generate. Another example are the Cultists. They can build only one city, but they generate more resources by spending a resource called influence to convert minor factions to the cult, which provide you mercenary units over time. In Endless Space, there's an entire faction called Horatio, which is literally just one guy who found ancient cloning technology and cloned himself over and over again. Beauty and perfection are the top status indicators in this empire.

What makes these games great though, is that you don't need a supercomputer to play them. They're mostly turned based, so you don't need to be doing a million things at once. Even if the graphics suck, you still get the gist and the feel of the game. I just hope that more people play and try to take me on sometime!

the paper's view

I have a simple rule for knowing whose food is who's in my apartment. If it's peanut butter, it's Joe's. If it's supposed to make you look like prime Arnold Schwarzenegger, it's Devin's. If it's something only a seven-year-old would recognize as food, it's Robbie's. And if it's food – real, edible food – it's Brian's.

Somehow, Brian is the only one in our apartment who can cook. Or should I say, Brian *was* the only one in our apartment who could cook. After realizing that I might need one or two more life skills under my belt, I decided to learn how to cook pasta. This has resulted in two things: 1. My mom offering to buy me a “slotted spoon” no fewer than eight times. I guess this would be for scooping pasta or vegetables out of the water. Considering we own a total of two regular spoons, I tell her a slotted spoon is pretty far down on the list of kitchen utensils we need. 2. My Google search history is currently clogged with things like, “Do you turn off the heat when you put the pasta in the water?” and, “How to cut up cauliflower”.

Of course, these are questions with common sense answers. I could have thought of the answers in two seconds and saved my thumbs the strain of typing. Instead, I went to the internet. I miss the pre-internet brain I never had. When doing something I had never done before (cook) I found myself absolutely petrified of doing it wrong. What I'm trying to say is this: don't be afraid of doing it wrong. Not just cooking pasta, but everything. We often feel like everyone else has it figured out and there's some path that we need to follow step by step. There isn't. Go out and don't be afraid to screw up. Trust me, I write for the paper, and nobody screws up more than us.

Jack

Happy Valentine's Day, readers! Hope you're all getting the best deals on chocolate boxes at your local Walgreens during this very special holiday. I know I will be. Everyone knows that the best part of Valentine's Day is the merch, because let's face it—you've got all year to tell people you love them.

Still, it's important to stop and express how grateful we are for the things we have in our lives. I give Fordham a lot of shit for the way it's run. I stand behind most of what I've said—I strongly believe that Fordham's administration does the university a disservice in its disorganization and poor communication skills. But there's a lot about Fordham I love, too. So in honor of Valentine's Day, why don't we go through a short list of the things Fordham does right.

First of all, Fordham's professors are for the most part wonderful, intelligent, knowledgeable, and caring individuals who genuinely want to see their students succeed. I'd go as far as to say that the professors I've had here at Fordham have affected me more profoundly than the teachers I've had for years back in high school. Fordham's campus is beautiful, too. Walking around it always helps me calm down and clear my mind, especially if I'm feeling overwhelmed by all of the assignments I have to do. The sheer amount of clubs and activities Fordham has to offer guarantees that whatever hobby you have, you'll probably be able to indulge in it without having to leave campus. And, of course, the people I've met here have been incredible. Sure, there's douchebags, but that's the case everywhere. I've formed relationships here that trump those I've made in my 12 years in grade school.

When I complain about Fordham, people get the impression that I really hate it here. But that's just not the case. As James Baldwin once said, “I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.” In the same way, I criticize Fordham not because I don't want to attend, but because I love being here.

Peace,
Gabby

Ask Brett & Bryttneigh

Giving advice to the Less Fortunate

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

Brett: I've got options, man. Here's my plan: I'm sending ram-grams to five girls as a surprise Thursday morning. Dude, it's going to be so romantic. Then, those same five girls will be getting condom-grams that night [editor's note: the paper does not condone harassment through ramblergrams or SAGES]. Six months ago, I reserved a table at White Castle and the hottest girl to respond will be getting that super-fucking-romantic night. I'm kinda on the DL right now, because I sprained my ankle going for a dunk in my intramural basketball game last week (dude, I was like so close to the rim). My bro Brent came up with the great idea to play the game drunk so we, the Jersey Boys (Brent, Brandon, Brendan, Brad, and Bradley, Brent, and me) finished off two Natty Daddy packs before our game. Do I regret it? Fuck no, bro. Now, I've got one of those sick scooters to get around campus.

Bryttneigh: I'm going through another rough patch with my manz Bryce because he wouldn't let me model for his new merch line. He's never posted a pic of me on insta and he has like 5k followers. He didn't get me my fucking Cartier bracelet. I mean, we're on a break, but I still deserve it. So, this Valentine's Day is going to be a Galentine's Day, thanks Leslie Knope! We're going to get box-wine-drunk and play Thank U, Next on repeat. I'm bring some rando I matched with on Tinder yesterday. Then, I'm going to text Bryce “break up with your girlfriend, I'm bored.”

What's your advice for finding a significant other?

Brett: You gotta go out, man. Those NARPs (Non-Athletic Regular Persons) who never go out, how do they expect to get with any girls? Right now, I'm thinking of giving up on 52 in 52, because I want to get serious with that one girl. I think her name was Brittney or something. We had some, like, serious eye contact at Mugz. Suits told me I should totally smash.

Bryttneigh: Well, Bryce has been my only SO and we don't really have like a label or whatever. He keeps telling me he's going to leave that bitch Brianna, but it's been four years. My friends and family were really up my ass when I first got with Bryce, because he's a “deadbeat” or whatever. He never went to college, but he bought a Tai Lopez package and learned everything he needs to know about business (eat your heart out, Gabelli boys). He's alright, I guess. He's like my Roy while I'm waiting for my Jim to come along.

If you have any questions for Brett & Bryttneigh, email *the paper* at paper.fordham@gmail.com

Serial Killer Culture is Bad, Guys

by Ashley Wright
Arts Editor

A real problem in the true crime community

At risk of sounding like everyone's technology-hating dads, the instantaneous accessibility offered by the internet is both a blessing and a curse. From boybands to politicians, it has never been easier for the masses to group together with likeminded people in order to spread their toxic ideas. This leads to many negative consequences, but the most relevant is that it tends to lead people to blur the lines between reality and fantasy or personal belief—especially when it comes to discussions surrounding real people.

While this phenomenon is not unique to any one community or fanbase, it can be found at an unprecedented level in what is commonly known as the “true crime community”. Primarily there are two types of people that make up the true crime community. These factions may inform serial killer culture together, but their practices and beliefs make the two clearly distinguishable.

In my experience, the first group tends to be composed by people who, by their own admission, are fascinated with the horror and unpredictability that comes with the knowledge that seemingly “regular” people are capable of committing such atrocious acts of violence. This group often leans towards horror fans, who simply prefer real-life to fiction, or scientifically curious minds, simply seeking to learn more about the human experience. While crime should never be viewed as entertainment for entertainment's sake, this is where the divide is made clearest. The first group may be interested in serial killers and the like, but they are defined by their respect for the victims and disgust towards the perpetrators.

On the complete opposite side lies the other half of the true crime community. For some reason incomprehensible to me, these fans of the culture seem to idolize the criminals they discuss. Many social media and online platforms try to curb this group, but their unsettling opinions regarding real crimes that affected real people can still be

found fairly easily. Not only does this communicate a stark disrespect for the victims and their families, but it also gives those in the first group a bad name. Learning about true crime is, understandably, not for everyone. As a result, many people only learn about the community from an outsider's perspective and often times can confuse everyone for the few who don't seem to understand where the line between interest and

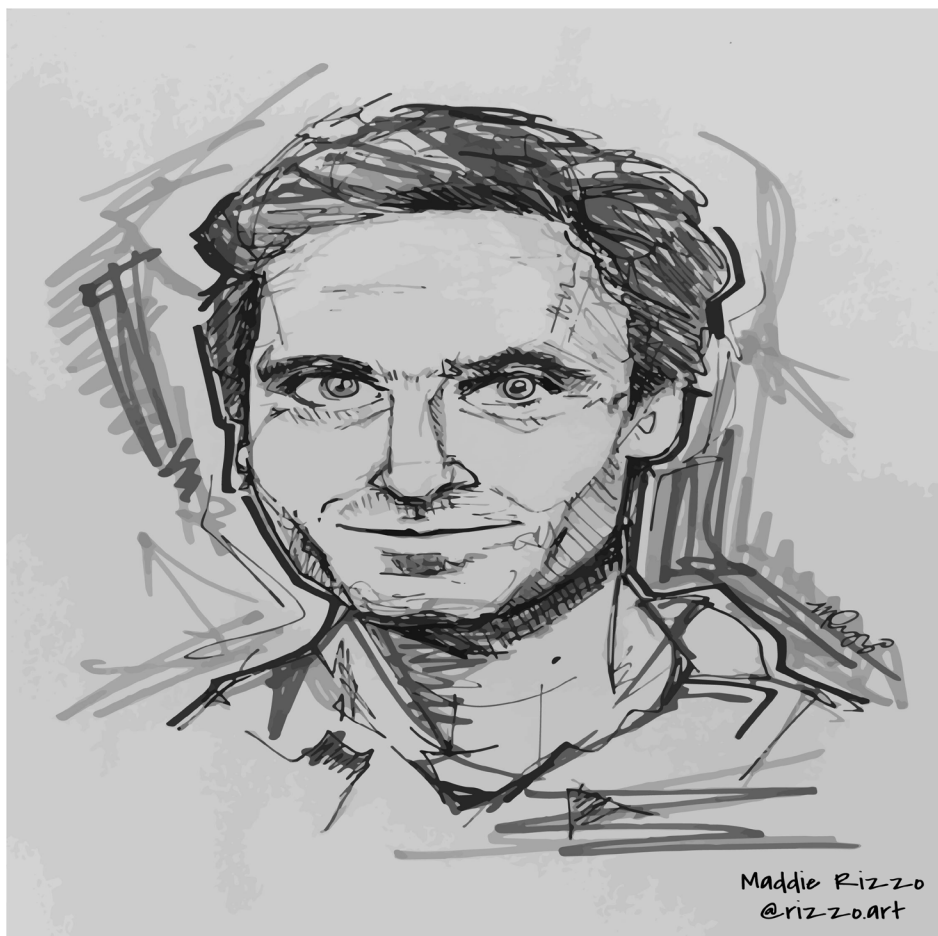
is the controversy surrounding the future Ted Bundy biopic, *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile* set to come out later this year.

Given the unnatural nature of many of these stories, it is understandable that not everyone will understand how to properly share them with the masses. The key is to place the focus and reverence on the victims, not the killers. In the cases of the films mentioned above,

always so black-and-white. Anyone who is even casually aware of the case of Ted Bundy knows that some of his defining attributes were his ability to keep many of those close to him unaware of his true nature and the fact that his appearance was considered normal, if not attractive. However, a deeper look into his person will show that he was not some charming, debonair man hiding a dark secret like the protagonist of a Charlotte Bronte novel. His ruse consisted of faking an injury or feigning needing help from women, so that he could blitz attack them as a result of his inferiority complex regarding them. So, while it may be appropriate to cast heartthrob Zac Efron in the role, it should be made clear to the viewers that he is in no circumstances the kind of man you want to meet and at the very least should invoke a sense of disgust for what he did. It is also important that instead of making him the center of attention, that focus and reverence is given to the poor women who were undeservingly attacked by him.

The tricky thing with the true crime community, is that you can't police what people are drawn to. However, if you frame the narrative in a way that venerates terrible people and demeans the victims they hurt then you are undeniably part of the problem. If you want to explore the complexities of a “misunderstood anti-hero” all you have to do is fictionalize it. This way you are not rewarding anyone for real, true crimes committed.

All of this is to say, next time you feel yourself sympathizing with the Columbine shooters, maybe you should switch over to *You* or *American Horror Story* or any one of the dozens of options for you to get your fill of disturbing, yet attractive, young men without the worry that there's a real family somewhere left mourning while you fawn over a monster. At the end of the day, they are all just monsters and it doesn't change anything because they don't look like one.



idolization is.

This divide is becoming increasingly clearer as serial killer/true crime culture seems to move away from hidden online message boards toward mainstream media. Almost every streaming platform now has a designated “true crime” section, or at the very least offers a selection of gruesome documentaries to choose from. Some of these, like Lifetime's *I Am Elizabeth Smart* should be recognized as respectful, informative ways to tell the stories of victims. Other attempts at the market have been notably misguided, however. A prime example of this

this principle is outlined nicely. In the Elizabeth Smart story, never once is her abductor painted as misunderstood or someone to model yourself after. Instead Elizabeth's bravery is consistently highlighted, and she is never once blamed or belittled for the crime done to her. In fact, there are many times where Elizabeth is able to share her story in her words.

While the Ted Bundy film has not come out yet, and I do not feel it would be right for me to judge it as though it has, it has highlighted some important issues that accompany telling true crime stories that aren't



Big Mouth Goes Big for Valentine's Day

by Andrew Millman
Opinions Editor

After two hilarious seasons, Netflix's *Big Mouth* came out with a Valentine's Day special, a double episode that promised to double the raunchy humor that audiences have become accustomed to from the show. If you haven't seen *Big Mouth* yet, first of all, how dare you? But for a brief overview, it's an animated show created by comedians John Mulaney and Nick Kroll about a bunch of tweens going through puberty, with some of the funniest people ever as voice actors. Mulaney and Kroll play the two main characters, Andrew and Nick, respectively. Maya Rudolph, Fred Armisen, Jordan Peele, and David Thewlis are all standouts. The show has a knack for bringing up the worst experiences of middle school that you've repressed to the darkest corners of your subconscious. Of course, I'm totally not speaking from experience here. This is just what I hear from other people, honestly.

The Valentine's Day special picks up where the second season left off, but you don't have to have watched the previous seasons to understand what's going on. Be warned, the show can get grotesquely absurd and has a penchant for breaking out in two or three too many musical numbers, but other than that I cannot express how fantastic this show is. Nothing beats Nick's older brother Judd telling their father, "Dad, your breath smells like pussy," to which Fred Armisen responds, "It always does, son." Everyone's favorite

Because nothing says romance like a bunch of awkward preteens

character, Connie, is now Nick's hormone monstress, as he's developed "sensitive nipples" because he's "a sensitive boy" and cries in front of his friends for the first time. Fired from his middle school gym teacher job, beloved idiot and everyone's second

his erstwhile girlfriend Missy back and decides to play it cool instead of his normally dorky self. This leads him to become the embodiment of toxic masculinity, horribly flailing and failing at his goal. Nick is still underdeveloped and wants a real date for the

"screams bottom," is used to masking his true feelings. He's the only out kid at his school and that has begun to weigh on him. He mocks others to deflect from his own loneliness. Meanwhile, Jay struggles to balance his two relationships, both with pillows (like I said, grotesquely absurd).

Most of the main characters get a fourth-wall-breaking, straight-to-camera interview with their hormone monsters, detailing when and how they met each other. For example, Andrew's pubescence started while he was watching *Under the Tuscan Sun*, watching Diane Lane. Jordan Peele voices the ghost of Duke Ellington, who's infatuated with the ghost of Whitney Houston, who's infatuated with the ghost of Nina Simone, who's infatuated with the ghost of Burt Reynolds (too soon).

The Valentine's Special is just what I needed. The third season is not expected to be out for about six more months, and honestly, it's my favorite show right now. Mulaney and Kroll offered a much-needed break from all these assignment due dates that are suddenly popping up out of nowhere for me, even though all the due dates are definitely on the class syllabi. Who needs to do a five-page essay when I could watch this for the third time?



favorite character Coach Steve is now "Walgreens Greeter Coach Steve." He constructs a girlfriend out of a heart toy with automated I-love-you responses, along with Reese's cups, Werther's originals, and spoons, called "Reese's Wertherspoons."

The kids are all feeling lonely on this Valentine's Day - very relatable for the single among us. Andrew wants

day, instead of his parents' traditional and creepy annual dinner date with him, what Connie accurately calls an "Oedipal Arrangement." Jenny is still against her mother's relationship with Cantor Dinah and, in her loneliness, seeks to mock the holiday with Matthew, a fellow lonely heart masked with cynicism. Matthew, who remarks early on that his shirt from Topman

HOROSCOPES

This Week:

The Signs as Rom-Coms

Aries: 10 Things I Hate About You

This is the calm before the storm. Tread carefully, my friend.

Taurus: Shrek

Remember, inner beauty is more important than outer beauty. Think of onions.

Gemini: Love Actually

oh my god they were roommates.

Cancer: The Notebook

Red Roses Too.

Leo: Fateful Findings

Keep in mind: 50% off chocolate on Feb. 15th.

Virgo: Leap Year

Buy L Ron Hubbard's book. Scientology may help you during this troubling time.

Libra: 13 Going on 30

Sometimes the only love you need is self-love.

Scorpio: Amelie

"Because Bill Clinton never forgets a bitch ever."

Sagittarius: Pretty Woman

tbh ur cute but we dont talk :/

Capricorn: Sleepless in Seattle

Please take a nap.

Aquarius: She's All That

But you ain't.

Pisces: Clueless

Identity theft is not a joke Jim.

RimWorld is a Damn Good Game

by George Kite

Staff Gamer Boi

Out of the thousands of games on Steam, very few have made it to the best reviewed. Among the highest rated are true classics like *Counter-Strike*, *Portal*, *Factorio*, and *Terraria*. Number 8 on that list is *RimWorld* - with 37,000 positive reviews for a total of a 95% positive rating. Such a video game doesn't just accidentally warrant such high praise. So too have I played *RimWorld* for a great deal and enjoyed it. Explaining why it's such a good game can't be summarized by just describing it - you yourself need to experience the game.

RimWorld is a top down management game, where you control colonists on a settlement on a foreign planet far in the future. The ultimate goal of the game is to build a spaceship and escape, but the vast majority of the game you will be ensuring your colonists survive. Your colonists allow your colony to function - no colonists means game over. Living can be unforgiving and brutal. You must hunt wildlife and grow enough food, defend against people raiding your colony, ward off sickness, fire, cold snaps and heat waves. You must ensure your colonists' needs are met, or else have them go insane.

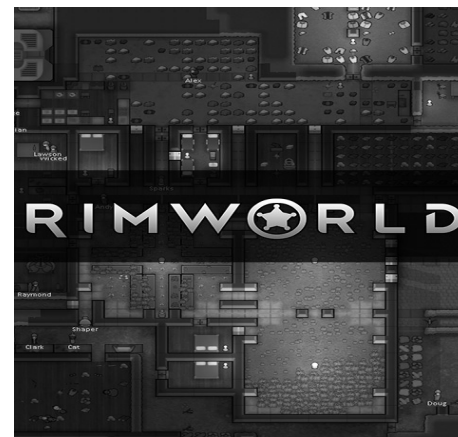
All people and environments in the game are randomly generated, so no colony is the exact same. Every person that joins your colony is unique - they each have certain skills, looks, and traits, so that no single colonist is the same. Traits and skills define your colonists; they determine what they can and can't do, what their needs are, and other quirks. Some colonists can be very difficult - some might be nudists and wear nothing when a blizzard hits, some might be drug addicts, some might be cannibals. But some colonists can be real blessings, too. Excellent doctors, skilled artists, and intelligent scientists can all help you prosper. Good and bad traits often overlap - your top-notch cook might also be incapable of defending your colony.

Take for example my colonist, Collin. Collin is a 18-year-old man, though his years in cryosleep make him 76 years-old chronologically. Collin grew up on as an orphan on an industrial planet, but escaped

"*RimWorld* is dank" says Staff Gamer Boi, George

from the factories once he became old enough to leave. One of the first colonists to crash-land on the colony, he is a jack-of-all-trades. I consider Collin the "leader" of my colony because he has the highest social skill, so he handles all things diplomatic, like trading and negotiating with other colonies and tribes on the planet. He is also a quick sleeper, so he's often the first one up, making him one of the most productive colonists. Without Collin, my colony would certainly be worse off, and probably dead.

Then there's Sacriel. Sacriel is a 48



year-old man, who is chronologically 120. He's one of the more interesting, and more difficult colonists. He grew up in a primitive tribe that lived in caves, spending most of his time in the underground. As such, he is completely fine living and working in the dark. When he grew up, he became a taxonomist, become skilled dealing with plants and animals. As such, Sacriel is our main farmer - he can plant and harvest like no one else. My colony would starve without him. However, he doesn't get along with any of the colonists. Sacriel is a psychopath - he doesn't really have emotions, and is totally unphased when people die or other horrific things happen. On top of that, he has an annoying voice. Other colonists just don't like him. As such, he is prone to fights and insults other colonists often.

The needs of your colonists will be the your top priority when it comes to ordering around your colonists. You have to set priorities for what your colonists do - the better your colonist is at something, the higher the priority. You need to make sure they're happy, too. Surviving sucks, and dire

situations can break your colonists. If they break, they stop working and do things like hide in their room, break things, binge out on food or drugs, or even attack other colonists. But there are plenty of things you can do to make them happy - making nice rooms, having good food, pets, and other sources of recreation help them, and can even inspire them to work harder.

RimWorld in itself is a brutal game. Your first crop of the spring can be devastated by a random cold snap, plunging your colony into hunger. Your colonists can randomly contract debilitating diseases, or even cancer. One lucky raider made a vital shot on your best builder, leaving a heart transplant needed. You took one of the raiders prisoner - do you decide to brutally take the prisoner's heart and transplant it to your builder? Or you decide to grow and sell drugs to finance buying an artificial heart instead?

But the things you can do in *RimWorld* are vast and fun. You can create and decorate buildings and furniture out of any material - yes, you can make a room with a solid gold bed, a steel floor, a uranium bedside table, a marble plant pot, and a jade dresser. You can create swords, clubs, pistols, and laser guns to defend your colony. You can outfit your colonists with nearly anything - cowboy hats, alpaca wool pants, camel parkas, or if you're feeling especially psychopathic, a human leather button-down shirt.

The thing is, in the end, your colony will probably fail. Only those with huge deal of experience typically win. But that's what makes the game fun - win or lose, you created a life for your colonists and numerous stories you can tell your friends. This is a game that is endlessly re-playable. You can sink endless hours into *Rimworld*. Although you can set the game to be easy, it's much more fun when it's challenging - it makes your accomplishments much sweeter and entertaining. *RimWorld* is one of my favorite games, and I highly recommend it to anyone. It's \$34 on Steam, but can often be bought for much cheaper during Steam Sales. You will not regret buying this game.

FOX's Production of *RENT* Disappoints

by Katelyn Cody
Copy Editor

The latest in a string of beloved musicals broadcast on live TV took place on Sunday, January 2th, with FOX's production of the 1996 rock musical, *RENT*. *RENT* tells the story of a group of young artists living in the Alphabet City neighborhood of New York City struggling to make ends meet while also dealing with the AIDS crisis.

After weeks of anticipation from passive theater fans and Rent-heads alike, the production that was broadcast was not quite the one we were expecting. After actor Brennin Hunt, who played Rodger, broke his foot during the last 15 minutes of the final dress rehearsal, the production team decided to use a recording of the dress rehearsal. However, the final scene of the show was reblocked and broadcast live with Hunt sitting down. But the show must go on. Unfortunately for the

audience and actors alike that show was just a dress rehearsal and while most dress rehearsals are supposed to be final show level quality, it was obvious that several of the actors were marking their parts in order to save their voices and energy for the final production. Such was the case of Valentina, who played the iconic part of Angel Dumott Schunard. The part is incredibly demanding and it was clear that she was saving her voice for Sunday night. Thus, you might say that the major casting conundrum was the lack of understudies.

As for the actual cast members, I loved Jordan Fisher as Mark and thought that he truly carried the show. On the other hand, I disliked the casting of Tinashe as Mimi. While her performance was okay, I couldn't look past the fact that she's not Latina. Mimi is the only character in the show whose race is actually written into her part; there are several lines she sings referencing Latinx culture and there is a voicemail her mom leaves

Who's more disappointed? Fans or my parents?

her in Spanish. I don't know if this was an oversight on the producers' parts, but I wish more attention had been paid to her casting. Another aspect of casting that gave me mixed feelings was the inclusion of Keala Settle in the ensemble. I absolutely adore her. I loved her in the *Greatest Showman* and *Waitress*, and while I thoroughly enjoyed her performance as a soloist, I thought that she didn't get the credit she deserved. And the production



team acknowledges her talents just judging by the amount of solos they gave her.

Another detail that got on my nerves was my ability to sing along. If you know *RENT*, you know that it is not the most PG of musicals. In order to get around that fact there were a fair amount of changes to the show's lyrics. It wasn't so much the fact that they changed some things that annoyed me, but what they chose to change. Just one example, that might be representative of FOX as a company, was that the word "dildo" was censored, but "fags" was not. It got to a point where I couldn't sing along during one of the most iconic songs, "La Vie Boheme" because entire verses had been rewritten. Additionally, the producer's choice to include the musical number "Contact" was shocking to me as it an incredibly sexually explicit song and most "family-friendly" (i.e. high school edition) productions of *RENT* omit it.

However, this production

was not entirely disappointing. I think the highlight of the show was Brandon Victor Dixon's (who played Collins) performance of "I'll Cover You (Reprise)." That song is easily the most emotional song of the show, and possibly one of the most emotional songs in all of musical theater, and Dixon executed it beautifully. The other enjoyable highlight of the show for me was the inclusion of the original Broadway cast during the final scene. It was heartwarming for to see the entire cast together after having listened to the album for the past eight years.

If you felt robbed of the experience of watching *RENT* live, then I highly recommend checking out *RENT: Filmed Live on Broadway*. The final performance of the Broadway show in 2008 was filmed and released as a movie. Personally I would have preferred it if the producers had just broadcast the live concert version of the show that was put on for people who already had tickets to the live production and then came back to do the actual show when Hunt's foot heals. Or, even better, they should have gotten understudies. While it is disappointing that the viewers were not given the show they thought they were getting, it was probably even more disappointing for the actors who worked incredibly hard for months only to not put on the final production and have their performances measured by the quality of a prerecorded dress rehearsal.

EVENTS

What: Feelin' Sheepish with Black Sheep

Where: Black Box Theatre in Collins

When: Monday, February 18th @8pm

How much: Free

Why: Share poetry about your love life. What could be better than that, my dudes and dudettes :)

What: Rod's Movie Night: *Scott Pilgrim VS The World*

Where: Rodrigue's Coffeehouse

When: Wednesday February 13th @8pm

How much: Free

Why: *Scott Pilgrim VS The World* is a really good movie and you should frickin see it!!!

What: CAB Build-a-Bear

Where: McGinley Lobby

When: February 14th 1-3pm

How much: Free

Why: Because you can build a bear for free that's a really good reason to go to anything y'know, like n'yah??

One of America's Most Notorious Serial Killers Featured in *The Ted Bundy Files*

by Zahir Quader

Features & Lists Editor

Truly charming, truly vicious, and truly evil, Ted Bundy was one of the most notorious serial killer of our time. A man of many faces, Bundy's killing spree over the course of four years took the lives of over thirty women and spanned across seven states.

People often wondered what was going on in his head, how could any person do something so brutal? Well these questions can be answered with a recently released Netflix documentary, *The Ted Bundy Files*.

Delve into actual audio of Ted Bundy as he explains his mindset and what drove him to do what he did. Listen as this killer recounts his life story and hear the dark confidence in his voice as narrates his life story. Hear the tales from the investigators, officers, reporters and lawyers, all of whom were affected by his killing spree one way or another. His voice, calm and calculated, is eerily disturbing as it

A wolf in sheep's clothing

rings through the tape recorder.

On the surface he seems like any other person, yet when he begins to talk about the victims and other crimes, his tone changes. As he talks in the third person, it becomes colder, dark, and sinister. When he talks about what went down, he talks about a person whose mind is driven by an urge.

The tapes take you back to the beginning of the crimes, from the first disappearance to the final conviction. The narrative takes you on a journey as you not only hear Bundy's views of the situation, but follow the investigators as they are baffled by the actions of one of America's most notorious serial killers. Showing not only the cunning of a true psychopath but the extreme incompetence of law enforcement to find him.

Failing to coordinate with each other and the lack of forensics data, and other mistakes allowed Bundy to continue his massacre nearly unimpeded. The

pride of these officers outweighed the situations as they withheld evidence from each other, preventing anyone from connecting the dots.

The complete incompetence of the police departments in investigations is not the only issue, however. Once they finally caught Bundy, they allowed him to escape not once but twice. The first time they left Bundy alone and he jumped out the window and escaped for almost a week. Once the police force had apprehended him they placed Ted Bundy back in his cell, where he escaped again, this time all the way to Florida. Only in the 1970s could a serial killer escape from imprisonment twice and make his way across the entire country. If any of the security standards were even remotely similar to what they are today he would have been caught day one.

The big thing to reiterate though is how Bundy was unlike any other serial killer of that time. He did not seem deranged

or disturbed in anyway. Ted Bundy on the surface was a normal, functional, human being. In *The Ted Bundy Files* you can hear it in the way he talks. There is no strange awkwardness or creepy vibe, at least on the surface. He was confident, intelligent, and charismatic. No one could see the darkness lurking beneath the surface. He was unlike any other killer anybody had seen before. Many even doubted he did the crimes. Throughout the trial and up until his execution he maintained his innocence with a fervor. To even get the interviews for the documentary he demanded his case file be reopened.

Ted Bundy's killing spree was something unseen in America during this time. *The Ted Bundy Files* are a true insight into the mind and history of one of America's most notorious serial killers and the mark he left on the world.

Death Metal—The Music Genre You've Been Missing Out On

by Christian Decker

News Editor

You thought I was done with shoving metal down all your throats, but you were mistaken. I know what you're thinking, how could death metal possibly reach a mainstream audience. Cannibal Corpse isn't exactly radio friendly and their song titles and imagery turn some people off almost immediately. But the thing is, the more progressive elements of the death metal scene can transcend these negative stereotypes. So what if the songs are long? The musicianship and quality of sound are unparalleled.

I first got the idea for writing this article while listening to the album "Citadel", by progressive death metal outfit, Ne Obliviscaris. Let me just tell you, this is transcendent music. Only three of the songs on the album have actual lyrics, but my god they pack a punch. The beautiful clean vocals mixed in with the ever-present death growling, makes for an astounding juxtaposition. The guitar work is amazing; with clear inspiration from classical composers and in the aching sorrowful minor key that makes such an amaz-

Please, for the love of God, stop requesting Mo Bamba

ing compliment for this kind of music. Did I mention that all their songs have violin solos? Let me tell you, listening to the violin play a beautiful minor solo and then listening to the guitar play the same thing is just mind-blowing. Don't even get me started on "Urn," their latest album.

Earlier last year, progressive death metal group Rivers of Nihil released what I think was possibly the best album of 2018, bar none. The band uses painful growling vocals with some intermingled cleans in many of the songs, along with more minor guitar riffs to create this atmosphere of fall and winter that feels so melancholic, but amazingly heavy at the same time. The guys somehow even managed to put saxophone solos in some of the songs and it somehow fits perfectly.

The talent and practice that it takes to make such masterpieces like that, is not easily found. I know it's very easy for the music industry to make cookie-cutter acts that have a very

simple and digestible formula, but I think it has really destroyed music as a whole, at least in the public eye. I'm sorry, but if you think "Mo Bamba" is a good song, you have a shit taste in music, you don't have to like metal to admit it's bad.

These same people can go to an art museum and admire a fucking Jackson Pollock "painting." Indie snobs look down upon it because all the lyrical themes aren't about smoking after sex and the artist knows more than three chords.

However, I digress; most of these criticisms lie with the harsher sounding death metal, and often-black metal subcategories. My point is that that bands like Be'lakor, Insomnium -the bands I mentioned before- and others have the potential to be greatly appreciated if people can get past eh vocals, which honestly are still impressive. I mean Ulcerate, is literally just one guy doing all the instruments, it's frankly criminal that he's in the dark while the freaking Chainsmokers are performing at the Grammy's with a mini ass keyboard. I'm not asking people to abandon other genres of music, but just to give more of an appreciation to the talents of artists not in their niche.



What disappoints me is that too often now, record companies and award shows, even the public at large, refuse to acknowledge the artists who work disgustingly hard at their craft, because they can't recognize different forms of art. Honestly, most people I've talked to literally just cannot deal with the growling, that's about it.

The Assassination of Gianni Versace: A Tale of an American Tragedy

by Angelina Zervos

Opinions Editor

FX released its second season of the *American Crime Story* anthology, *The Assassination of Gianni Versace*. Before I continue, if you have not watched the series, please do so; critics have agreed that its cinematography, writing, and performances are truly outstanding, which have allowed the series to gain such attention and even land wins at the Emmy and Golden Globe award ceremonies. Back to the analysis:

While the series bares Versace's name, its storyline focuses on the life of Andrew Cunanan, a handsome, cunning, young man who would later become known world-wide as Gianni Versace's killer. This can be seen as problematic, especially after the Versace family deemed the show a "work of fiction" that did not portray the truth regarding Gianni Versace's relationships and livelihood. However, perhaps Ryan Murphy, the show's director, wanted the title to be reminiscent of the media's handling of the Cunanan serial murders, which did not gain national attention until Versace's death, despite Cunanan's place on the FBI's Top 10 Most Wanted list. The emphasis on Versace, although the show does explore his struggles with HIV, cancer, and homophobia, mirrors how

the paper's obsession with murder series continues

his death allowed light to be shone on Cunanan's previous victims just as the Versace name drew in viewers to learn more about one of the largest failed manhunts in American history (life imitates art?).



The season tackles a wide range of issues, some better than others. Similar to how *The People v. O.J. Simpson*, *American Crime Story's* first season, undertook matters

concerning race within the U.S., the Assassination of Gianni Versace does the same with the gay community. While this is its main narrative, it also touches upon poverty and the self-made identity perpetuated by the American Dream. The show also explores the U.S. military's treatment of homosexuality under President Bill Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy with the story of Cunanan's first victim Jeff Trails, a former navy officer. All of this done while sequencing the life of Andrew Cunanan and his relation to his victims.

The show relates the story backwards, beginning with Versace's assassination, which would be Cunanan's

final murder. The opening scene is one of, if not the most, dramatic, artistically pleasing scene of the entire season. Viewers are introduced to Gianni Versace, played by the uncanny Édgar Ramírez, as he awakes in his mansion, dressing in designer robes and standing on his balcony looking over Miami's shoreline. Nearby, a dirty, frantic Andrew Cunanan, played by Darren Criss, plots Versace's death. It is a visible parallel between wealth and poverty, excess and destitution, sanity and madness, which are prevalent themes throughout the entirety of the show.

Andrew Cunanan was a gifted boy seen as a child prodigy and treated as such by his father; he was a child so assured of his greatness that he formed an obsession with the finer things of life: art, fashion, architecture, etc. Yet as a closeted gay man who was scorned by his neglected siblings, misunderstood by his mentally ill mother, and later abandoned by his con-artist father, success and riches were far from sight. Cunanan turned to drug dealing and prostitution until he was able to find a "partner" who allowed him to live in his California mansion with an allowance in exchange for his company.

Cunanan was living a fantasy; friends and witnesses recall his tendency to fabricate elaborate lies surrounding his lifestyle, including his relationship with fashion designer Gianni Versace. The series benefits by telling Cunanan's story in reverse, as each episode reveals the birth of each lie embedded into his biography; however, this is

also where concern about the show's truthfulness arose. The Versace family deny any association between Gianni and Cunanan, as does the family of Lee Miglan, successful Chicago real estate developer who was murdered by and alleged had a sexual relationship with Cunanan. Additionally, the circumstances surrounding Cunanan's second murder of former lover David Madson are widely unknown, although Madson's family believe he was taken hostage by Cunanan and later killed.

I too found myself tangled within the fantasy world of Cunanan, and was left questioning: why did Cunanan kill Versace? With the aesthetically pleasing cinematography, dramatic soundtrack, and enthralling performances, it was hard to not get caught up in the melodramatic portrayal of Cunanan's life. While the facts surrounding Cunanan's actual life experiences, relationships, and the circumstances surrounding his murders may have been muddled, the underlying message of the series is that of an extreme parallel: Versace was everything Cunanan wanted to be, Versace was everything Cunanan was not. The show attempts to frame an array of narratives from the gay community, which was so neglected by police and the mainstream media that murderers like Cunanan were able to remain fugitive for so long. While it may have bent or imagined the truth in order for dramatic purposes, it shed light on forgotten stories that deserve to be told.



Prince George?
where did you get so
SHITFACED
???

How Hot Are YOU Are You a Hot Piece or A COLD CUCUMBER



1. What is the Best Junk Food?

- a. Ice Cream
- b. COOOOOKIES
- c. The Rock
- d. Flamin Hot Cheetos

2. Best Zoolander Face?

- a. Le Tigre
- b. Magnum
- c. Ferrari
- d. Blue Steel

3. Favorite Weather?

- a. Snow
- b. Rain
- c. Tropical Island
- d. HOT AF!

4. Coolest GOT Character?

- a. John Snow
- b. Arya
- c. Jaime
- d. Daenerys

5. Most Badass Mountain?

- a. Everest
- b. Kilimanjaro
- c. Mt. Fuji
- d. Krakatoa



Key
A = +2
B = +5
C = +8
D = +10

6. This beat be?

- a. Chill
- b. Cool
- c. Hot
- d. Fire

7. Hottest Music Group?

- a. *NSYNC
- b. Backstreet Boys
- c. Spice Girls
- d. Destiny's Child

8. Coolest Animal?

- a. Polar Bear
- b. Penguin
- c. Tiger
- d. DRAGON!!!!

9. Hottest Disney Character?

- a. Elsa
- b. Aladin
- c. Mulan
- d. Johnny Storm

10. Do You Think You are Hot?

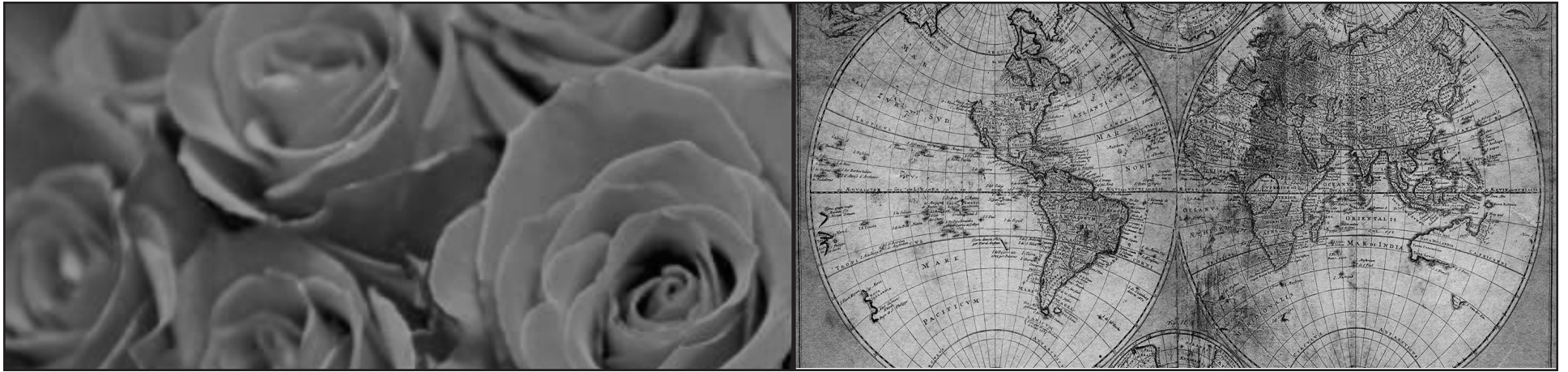
- a. I'm a cold cold Sum Bitch
- b. I'm Alright
- c. I'm pretty hot ;P
- d. I'm Fire, BABY

1-25 YOU ARE A COLD CUCUMBER WITH VIENS OF ICE AND SHOULD PROBABLY PUT ON SOME SOCKS

26-50 You are a bit on THE COLDER SIDE but a not QUITE ICY CHILL

51-75 You are a bit warm just take some medicine and you will be fine

76-100 You are A Hot Piece and should probably seek medical attention for severe burns



Love is Hot and These Historical Hotties are on Fire

Sup Bro dudes Ya Boi is back again with the questions and this time I have asked our editors to share the love. The big question of the month.... Which historical hottie would you want as a Valentine's date?

**YAAAS Queen
by a Lover of the French**

For Valentine's Day, I would like to go on a hot date with Marie Antionette. Firstly, I imagine that she would invite me into her palace with open arms for a dreamy, romantic day filled with fashion, food, and fun. The day would begin with Marie dressing me in one of her luxurious gowns, a pair of satin slippers, and a powdered wig that would complement hers. Next, we would read poetry in the garden as we feast on fresh fruit and pastries (you know, while the rest of France is undergoing revolution). As the sun sets we would go out in a little rowboat to chat and cool down. This is entirely

based off of Kirsten Dunst's portrayal of Marie; I would also like to go on a date with Kirsten.

**Double A
by a Patriot**

The thing about first ladies is that they don't get the recognition that they deserve. Abigail Adams single-handedly saved the portrait of George Washington in the White House when the British burned it down during the War of 1812. Who wouldn't wanna go on a date with her? I mean, John Adams certainly did, she kept his head on straight before the revolution. Her famous quote as John was going to the Constitutional Convention was to "remember the ladies". Of course he didn't which is pretty shitty, but what are you gonna do? One of the first women in the White House to really take the role of First Lady to heart and get as much as she could get done, like Dolly Madison would later on, and much

more recently with Michelle Obama. Honestly wining and dining her would be pretty cool.

**The Total Package
by a Poet**

If given the opportunity, I would definitely take Arthur Rimbaud out on a date. He's cute, he's bisexual, he's French, and he's a symbolic poet who enjoyed drinking absinthe—what more could you want from a Valentine's Day date? I read a few of his poems when I was an angsty literature student in high school and have been in love with him ever since. He was so handsome that a young Leonardo DiCaprio played him in the 1995 biopic *Total Eclipse*. If that's not evidence that a man was attractive, I don't know what is. Plus, he drank absinthe to get inspired for his poems. He was also in a relationship with Paul Verlaine at a time when homosexual relationships were highly frowned upon.

That took guts. While he unfortunately faded into obscurity as he got older, many of the poems he wrote as a young lad still slap so hard. Sure, they're melodramatic sometimes, but at least they're creative. And what 20-something-year-old poet in late-19th-century France wasn't melodramatic? Anyway. Sign me up for a date with this historical hottie; he's a cinnamon roll who deserves all the loving in the world.

**My True Love
by a Freak**

For the longest time I have had a massive crush on the Roman Emperor Caligula. Not only was he a freak on the street but he was a freak in the sheets. Like, he would be down for anything... and I mean ANYTHING. Not only that but, as Emperor he would be able to give me whatever I want. He's the perfect man. He's down for anything and has the resources to back it up. If that isn't the perfect man, nobody is.



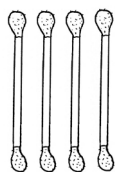
“Ready to Let Go”
Cage the Elephant
Angelina Zervos



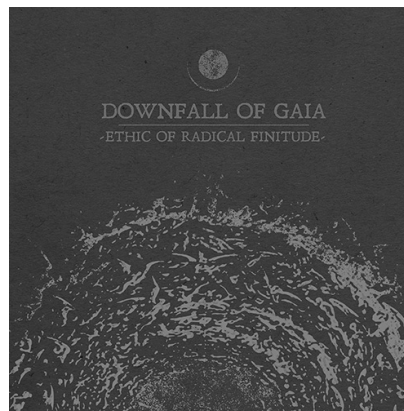
Cage the Elephant finally released their newest single “Ready to Let Go” after a three-year hiatus from music making. The band is back and better than ever! While this is only a sneak peek into their upcoming album, the single is definitely on-brand. The song perpetuates Cage the Elephant’s fusion of vintage rock and classic rhythm and blues. It appears that the band has returned to its grittier, garage band sound that can be found on their 2013 album *Melophobia*, and definitely strays away from the surfer rock vibe given off from their 2015 album *Tell Me I’m Pretty*.

“Ready to Let Go” is on the heavier side, but still sounds extremely bluesy, combined with an eerie, mysterious sounding bridge. The lyrics are also familiar to most Cage the Elephant’s songs: simple, repetitive, and not too profound, which perhaps is the most disappointing aspect of the single. Not to say that the band has neglected to mature its lyrical complexity; instead, they

song narrates a trip to Pompeii that sparks the realization for a divorce—interesting, to say the least. Hopefully their other releases will provide some more reflective lines that fans were given a glimpse of with *Melophobia*. There are no notable guitar solos or spoken (shouted) monologues present either, which are Cage the Elephant Easter eggs that they like to place in certain songs. However, it’s a great song overall: moody, badass, and a little bit spooky. Listen to it on full volume while working out for your New Year’s Resolution, as you walk to your least favorite class, or while you are angry. It will definitely enhance your experience.



Ethic of Radical Finitude
Downfall Of Gaia
Christian Decker

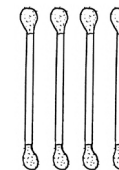


What strikes me about this album is the complexity and simultaneous indescribability of the different musical genres and elements in the album. To me, the album can only be described along the lines of progressive black metal. *Ethic of Radical Finitude* combines elements of typical black metal, tremolo picking, and blast beats, with its more nuanced and underground subgenres. The vocals and overall sound of the album scream depressive suicidal black metal to me, with the atmosphere reminding me so much of the many atmospheric black metal songs I’ve listened to.

The album starts off with a very simple instrumental song called “Seduced By...” it helps really build up the tension and the atmosphere of the album. That song gives way to the shrieks and guitar screeching of “The Grotesque Illusion of Being,” which then continues on for about another 5 minutes of soul crushing black metal. By far the most engrossing song on the album is the 9-minute epic “Guided Through a Starless Night.” I can’t even begin to tell you that although today was bright and sunny, this song made me feel incredibly melancholy. I mean the sheer depressive force of this song was enough to make me feel utterly hopeless.

Somehow it still sounded beautiful despite the harshness. At the end of the song, there’s a spoken word section that wonderfully contrasts the rest of the song, with lyrics I really didn’t understand completely because it was all some sort of metaphor. But man was it absolutely depressing, so much gloom and doom it kind of hurt to listen to. Overall though, the album is a really cool spin on traditional atmospheric black metal.

Favorite track: “Guided Through a Starless Night”



“Gucci Rock N Rolla”
Snakehips, Rivers Cuomo, KYLE
Natalie Bartfay



The new single by Snakehips, “Gucci Rock N Rolla,” is bad for a variety of reasons but its worst offense is that it’s just so boring. In trying to produce a formulaic Top 40 hit, Snakehips provide no payoff to the listener – the hooks fall flat, the vocal lines are uncreative, and the song overall does not build to any meaningful conclusion.

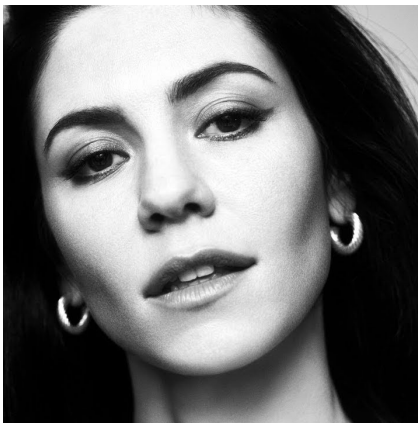
Snakehips is a British production duo who cut their teeth doing remixes and since 2015 have been charting in the UK, most notably with the Chance the Rapper and Tinashe-featuring single “All My Friends.” “Gucci Rock N Rolla” is the newest addition to the stream of singles they’ve produced, establishing them as B-list producers of the hip-hop influenced pop that dominates the charts. On this track, they team up with the always eager and innocuous rapper Kyle of “iSpy” fame and buoy the song with the vocal stylings of Weezer frontman, Rivers Cuomo. Cuomo has a history of showing up on random pop-rap songs like the 2010 hit “Magic” by (notorious flat-earther) B.O.B., and just like on those previous features, he does not contribute anything special to this track. If he’s trying to remain relevant,

why doesn't he make a decent Weezer record for a change, huh?

"Gucci Rock N Rolla" isn't all bad. At its core, it's a boppy and light pop track that's goofy lyrics make it lighthearted and inoffensive, especially during the fun Kyle feature. So what if – for these same reasons – "Gucci Rock N Rolla" would do well on a Forever 21 playlist or as part of any new Disney Channel star's repertoire? However, the poor songwriting and forgettable performances on this track, in combination with the strange overall mix of it which leaves it sounding unfinished, doom "Gucci Rock N Rolla" to be quickly forgotten by the masses. Good riddance.



"Handmade Heaven"
MARINA
Katellynn Browne

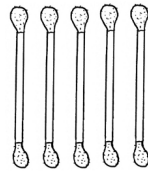


Most of you may know her as Marina and the Diamonds, but with the release of her new single, "Handmade Heaven," Marina Diamandis is now officially going by MARINA. This is the first release of music by the artist in almost four years, aside from two collaborations with Clean Bandit, "Disconnect" and "Baby," which also features "Despacito" singer Luis Fonsi.

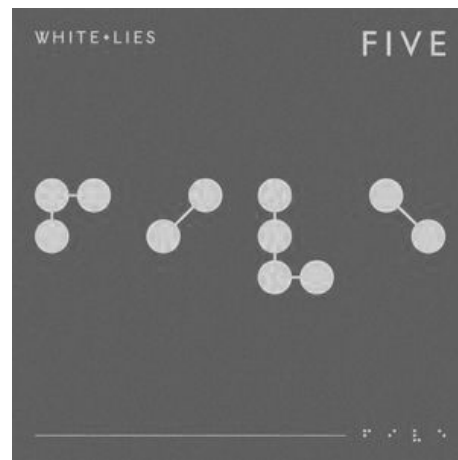
If you remember Marina in her more "golden age" in the 2010s, you may recall a lot of upbeat, sarcastic and witty pop music. However, once she dropped the album *Froot*, she seems to have geared herself towards making softer, more mature sounding music. While her music has always had a level of introspection, *Froot*

and "Handmade Heaven" seem more personal and raw, as opposed to the fun-loving Electra Heart persona, which poked fun at her personal issues/societal problems.

"Handmade Heaven," as a single sounds quite similar to the *Froot* era and, in particular, the song "Solitaire." Lyrically, "Handmade Heaven" opens with the narrator of the song feeling she lacks direction; she envies animals who have an instinctual calling to their purpose. However, once we approach the chorus it becomes apparent the narrator has come to an understanding that she can choose her own destiny and craft a handmade heaven for herself. The meaning behind this song makes it quite lovely, and, paired with Marina's stunning vocals and soft instrumentals, it



FIVE
White Lies
Marty Gatto



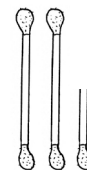
White Lies, a post-punk new wave outfit, around since 2009, has released their latest album since 2017's *Friends*. *FIVE* by White Lies starts with a new age, surreal echoing beat and a clear, sonorous male voice in the track "Time to Give." More electronics come next, causing the listener feel like she is landing on another planet. However, the lyrics make it seem like

the planet the listener lands on deals, oddly enough, with relationship advice. The sound continues with "Never Alone," escaping into a truer new-wave groove yet trapped still by the incongruous, strange tone of inspiration or grandiosity seen from the likes of Muse.

It seems that *FIVE*, while a fascinating example of post-punk and new wave influences, does not deliver in the lyric department. Similar to, dare I say, the failures of "Imagine Dragons," though certainly trying harder than them, White Lies has moments of cleverness and catchiness in its beats, but fails to put them into anything but aesthetic. That is, the creative electronics and cosmic vocals are all fine, but the lyrics seem painfully meaningless.

Nevertheless, *FIVE* still manages to blast the listener to another planet and for that I appreciate the album. The sound is all consuming and, while I don't appreciate such lyrics as "four kids with a cat might as well be five" throttled at me as if from the mouth of a Christian New Wave Rock band, I appreciate the interesting digressions. I appreciate the guitar and electro solos that aren't cluttered by other elements or shitty lyrics. I appreciate, like I said, these moments of clarity, and I hope to see more of them from White Lies.

Favorite track: "Time to Give"



Lovers and Loners Playlist

1. "I Touch Myself" - Divinyls
2. "Everlong" - Foo Fighters
3. "S&M" - Rihanna
4. "All Girls are the Same" - Juice WRLD
5. "Best Friend" - Rex Orange County
6. "My Love" - Justin Timberlake
7. "Sunflower" - Post Malone, Swae Lee
8. "One Less Girl in the World" - Justin Bieber
9. "Love Shack" - B52s
10. "I Don't Know How To Love Him" - Jesus Christ Superstar
11. "Satellite of Love" - Lou Reed
12. "Lets Stay Together" - Al Green



**THIS VALENTINE'S DAY, GET YOUR WOMAN
SOMETHING SHE'LL REALLY APPRECIATE...**



*Wow, honey!
Turns out
you were a
human being
all along!*

**BASIC
HUMAN
DECENCY!**



***Except Amazon.**