

**Say
Merry Christmas,
Pipsqueak!!!**

*the paper
Vol. LIV
Issue V*

Kim's *fall*

OK, Boomer

**Happy
Holidays,
Santa!**





the paper

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

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

our aim

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

"What Christmas villain are you?"

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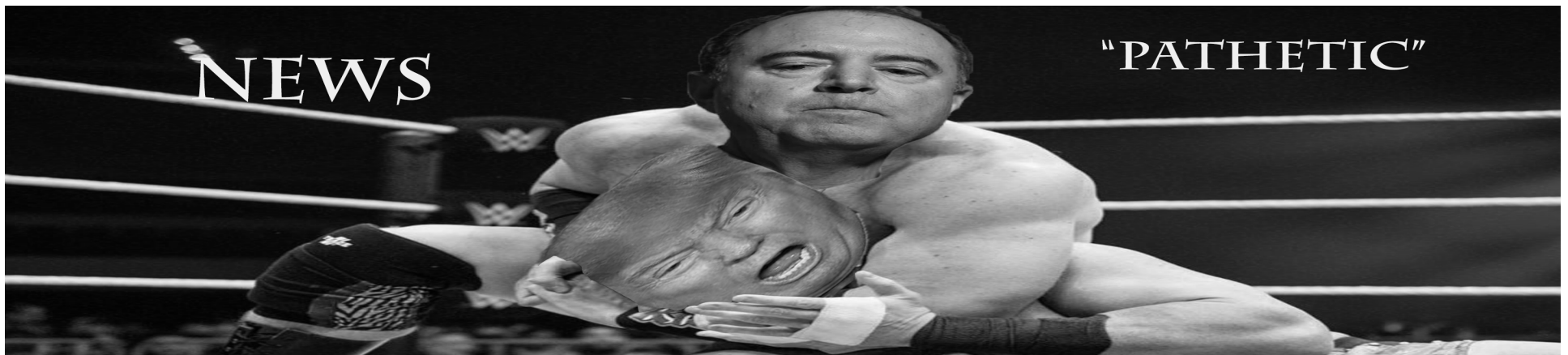
When you were partying I studied the paper

When you were having premarital sex I went to paper meetings

*While you wasted your Tuesdays at the gym in pursuit of vanity
 I hauled my ass to McGinley 2nd at 9 PM*

*And now that the world is on fire and The Ram is at the gate
 you have the audacity to come to us for help?*





Progressive Movement Within Orthodox Church

by George Kite
Copy Legion

On Tuesday, November 19th, experts on sexuality in the Eastern Orthodox Church came together and gave a panel in the Flor Auditorium of the library, talking for nearly two hours about the current state of affairs of LGBTQ+ in the Church. The panel touched on current dialogue, theology, states of affairs, challenges, and the future of Orthodoxy.

The panel was part of the Bridging Voices initiative, which is spearheaded by Fordham University, Exeter University, and the British Council, which aims for discussion on the Orthodox Church and increasing sexuality diversity in the modern world today. The panel was hosted by Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou, the co-director of Orthodox Christian Studies in the theology department. Dr. Papanikolaou started off by presenting the panels, which consisted of Fr. Brandon Gallaher, Rev. John Jillions, Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, and Gregory Tucker. He then presented a video summarizing a conference at Oxford University this August which discussed sexual diversity in the Orthodox Church.

Fr. Gallaher, a married Orthodox priest who specializes in research and dialogue between the Christian West and East in the modern world, began the panel by discussing the issues on LGBTQ+ and the Orthodox Church today, pertaining to the “thaw” Orthodoxy came out of after the fall of the Soviet Union. Because the Orthodox Church

Fordham panel discusses Orthodox Christianity and sexuality

was underground and trying to survive, it wasn't a part of modern movements of the 20th century that other faiths were able to tackle, and is still somewhat trapped in the past. Fr. Gallaher used the apt example of Han Solo frozen in carbonite in comparison to the Orthodox Church. LGBTQ+ issues, he stated, are the most notable of modernity that the Orthodox Church has struggled



with, and is often unaddressed, ignored, or denied an issue at all within the stress. Fr. Gallaher went on to talk about how the Bridging Voices project is aiming to address that in the Orthodox world, with a diversity of voices in with lay, clergy, Catholic, Anglican, and LGBT perspectives.

Ms. Riccardi-Swartz, a NYU sociology graduate who works with the Orthodox Church in America, talked about her research in the U.S. with the relation with Orthodox converts and the right-wing political resurgence, and her interviews with Orthodox converts in the backlash against LGBTQ+

rights in relation to association with the Orthodox Church. She talked about the associate of Orthodoxy and traditionalism with it's appeal to the new right in the Western world, and especially its association with Putin's Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church.

The panel then went to Mr. Tucker, who discussed the dialogue that was going on in the Church and the progress being

made, along with the difficulties faced along the way. He discussed some of the contents of the Oxford conference, the varying voices from liberal and conservative speakers and

the respect and dialogue that came from it. The conference included a wide range of highly conservative clergymen to liberal LGBTQ+ rights activists. He noted that although there was a great divide on issues, great progress was made in fostering understanding. He made a point that conservative defenses against sexuality that relied on keeping with traditionalism became apparent that they did not work, insofar as there is no theological defense for it and that conservative clergy realized this.

Rev. Jillion put most of the discussion into a summarized

point, harking home that the Orthodox Church cannot simply ignore modern understandings on sexuality or else it will become defunct in the Western world. He made it a point to state that being hostile towards LGBTQ+ is not a Christian attitude, and that the need for more vocality in the Orthodox Church is dire. Rev. Jillion is considered one of the leading members of the Church who advocates for LGBTQ+.

The panel ended with a few questions, ranging from the progress the panelists have had with other Orthodox clergy to how the Orthodox Church has been reacting to things like the Oxford conference. One notable question asked about the safety of LGBTQ+ people in environments where dialogue is needed in the Orthodox Church, to which the panelists responded that there was no effort being made for safety and how tragic that was, and more importantly, how much of a hindrance that is to future dialogue.

The Orthodox Church and traditionally Orthodox countries have had a great deal of strife with LGBTQ+, which has only intensified as the modern gay rights movement has gained huge victories around the globe. The panel is a sign that the Orthodox Church needs to face this, and come to terms that LGBTQ+ people can be a part of a faith community, and that they are not an offense to God, but rather a gift.

Dems Continue to Preach the Impeach

by Omkar Ratnaparkhi
Staff Court Reporter

The week of November 18th provided ammunition for the Democrats in their great struggle to impeach President Trump. Although no Oscar-winning performances (i.e. Sen. Lindsey Graham's temper tantrum during the Kavanaugh Hearings) took place, many details indicating a clear quid pro quo relationship between President Trump were stated. In total five witnesses testified in front of the House Intelligence Committee in the past week from a variety of different backgrounds ranging from advisors to the President to the US Ambassador to the European Union. The hearings put House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a strategic bind; do the Democrats conduct more hearings, or do they have enough evidence to move forward with the next steps of impeachment?

The Testimonies

On Tuesday morning two key national security officials provided insight to the defense and intelligence community's reaction to the Trump administration's decision to hold up \$391 million in security aid to Ukraine for 55 days. The two individuals testifying were Army Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, a top Ukraine expert at the National Security Council and Jennifer Williams, an advisor to Vice President Mike Pence. The two witnesses were the first in the public hearings that listened to President Trump's July 25th phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. When LTC Vindman was directly asked if he knew of anybody who supported the decision to withhold aid to Ukraine, he flat out stated, "none." Clearly, the decision had no backing from the Pentagon or the intelligence community. When

A Busy Week For the House Intelligence Committee

asked about President Trump's July 25th call, the words used to describe the event from Vindman and Williams were "wrong" and "unusual and inappropriate." Vindman went on to say that President Trump's requests to open investigations into the Bidens and the Burisma energy company were not just requests but really demands, and these demands had no significant importance to discussions about foreign policy and national security. Both Vindman and Williams continued to express concerns about the President's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani's role in influencing Ukraine's policy.

On Wednesday Gordon Sonlond

implicated the President and others in his administration of ordering himself and others to launch the pressure campaign on Ukraine, and how the vice president and the secretary of state were aware and supported such actions. Sonlond, in his own words, went as far as stating that a "clear quid pro quo" for a White House meeting between President Trump and the President of Ukraine. During his testimony, Sonlond elaborated that the President was not concerned on whether or not the Ukrainian investigation would be completed, but instead simply

the President mainly due to him being a wealthy GOP donor. Hill made it clear that she viewed Republicans as peddling false narratives that Ukraine meddled in the 2016 election instead of Russia. Hill referred to the President's demands for investigations as a political errand that had absolutely nothing to do with national security. Holmes stated that a "clear impression" was made by the decision to withhold nearly \$400 million of aid to Ukraine: "(the aid was) likely intended by the president either as an expression of dissatisfaction with the Ukrainians who had not yet agreed to the Burisma/Biden investigation, or as an effort to increase the pressure on them to do so."

What's Next?

In order to continue through the next steps of impeachment the House Intelligence Committee will have to submit a report of their findings to the House Judiciary Committee which will decide if the evidence presented warrants a floor vote in front of the whole

house. If the votes for impeachment within the next month, then the Senate could hold a trial for impeachment as soon as January. Speaker Pelosi on one hand needs to ensure that inquiries for impeachment do not stretch too far into the 2020 election cycle. However, on the other hand, she needs to ensure that an adequate amount of evidence can be brought to the public eye. When the trial for impeachment is brought to the Senate it will be partisan fight and will most likely be voted down by a Republican majority Senate. However, if the Republican party votes against impeachemnt and is seen by the American public as incompetent and partisan, then Pelosi and the Democrats will set themselves up for success in the 2020 Presidential Election.



the US ambassador to the European Union testified in front of the House Intelligence Committee on the nature of President Trump's Ukraine Policy in regards to his requests for investigations into political rivals. Sonlond's opening statement made it crystal clear that in his opinion the President wished use a pressure campaign in order to launch investigations into the Bidens an other political rivals. Sonlond's opening statement directly

have a public announcement by the Ukrainians in order to destroy the reputations of political enemies.

David Holmes, a career diplomat and Fiona Hill a former Europe and Russia expert at the White House testified on Thursday. Both Holmes and Hill emphasized their lack of partisanship, which contrasted them from Ambassador Sonlond, who was appointed by



From Thunderdome to Dunderdome: The Democratic Debates

by Henry Hittle
Staff Debate Moderator

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, the Democratic National Committee and MSNBC hosted the fifth Democratic presidential debate. It was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in a state that is now seen as a potential swing state after Democrat Stacey Abrams narrowly lost election to the governorship in 2018. Going into the debate, former Vice President Joe Biden held a significant lead in the polls, while Sen. Elizabeth Warren narrowly held the second place position ahead of Sen. Bernie Sanders. Those who were eligible to participate in the debate were Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Tulsi Gabbard, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Steyer, and Andrew Yang. The candidates tackled questions from a variety of different topics, including voter's rights, health care, reproductive rights, climate change, foreign policy, and many others. Of course, one of

Competition thiccens in Dem debates

the biggest issues of the night was the impeachment hearings. Almost every candidate on the stage expressed the belief that Trump had committed an impeachable offense, and they will support an effort to remove him from office. One topic which notably was not discussed heavily in the debate was gun violence and gun control, a hot button issue in America which the Democratic Party has included as a top issue in its platform.

Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, representing the more progressive wing of the party, made the case for their respective "wealth tax" proposals in the form of taxes on assets over a certain threshold in order to combat income inequality. Warren said "when you make it really big, you make the top tenth of the one percent big, pitch in \$0.02 so everybody else gets a chance to make it." Joe Biden touted his record as a Senator and Vice President. The Former VP, however,

made a gaffe when he erroneously said that he, speaking of former Sen. Carol Moseley, is supported by "the only African-American woman elected to the US Senate." Kamala Harris, noting this error, humorously pointed out that she is also a black woman serving in the U.S. Senate. Tulsi Gabbard took aim at the Democratic Party, claiming that they have been "influenced by the foreign policy establishment in Washington represented by Hillary Clinton and others in foreign policy, by the military industrial complex, and other greedy corporate interests." Kamala Harris responded by attacking Gabbard's record in the government, noting events such as her criticizing President Obama on national television, having private meetings with President-elect Donald Trump, and refusing to label Bashar Al-Assad, the dictatorial ruler of Syria, as a war criminal. Amy Klobuchar, Senator from Minnesota, touted her wealth of

experience in the senate, discussing the progressive bills she introduced in the senate in areas such as voting rights. However, some viewers found her apparent shakiness unnerving, with one viewer writing "Klobuchar is literally shaking. I'm worried about her health." Finally, at the end of the night, Andrew Yang, following his campaign theme of a changing global economy, gave an impassioned speech about the future of the American dream which can be summed up in his words "our kids are not all right."

With a crowded field of 17 candidates, each person hoping to be elected to the nation's highest office has the difficult task of creating name recognition and differentiating themselves. The polls show a tightening race, meaning things will only intensify from now until the Iowa caucuses in early February.

Driving into the Future... Or Are We?...

by Noah Kotlarek and Jack Archambault

When you were in 2nd grade, did you ever mess around and doodle in your notebook? Elon Musk did, and we know because he just turned a seven-year-old's drawing of a truck into...a real truck.

Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur and Tesla CEO, revealed Tesla's new Cybertruck on Nov. 21. The Cybertruck is an electric pickup truck that, in addition to having windows that are not rockproof (let alone bulletproof), was either designed by an elementary schooler in 1980 who had never seen a car before, or a kid playing Minecraft in 2019 who has seen a car before, but thinks he can make one that looks better.

But not everyone thinks the Cybertruck looks like the stupidest thing that anybody has ever come up with. News Editor Noah Kotlarek is one of them.

Noah: You can laugh all you want about the Cybertruck and its odd proportions, sharp edges, and weak windows, but you must admire the fact

Two Editors Discuss the new Tesla Cybertruck

that Tesla is going forward with such a daring design. Elon and his team have continued to push the envelope for the benefit of us all. Currently, although there has been some improvement (new Chevrolet Silverado is quite daring), truck designs across brands are all rather similar and conservative: big grille, cabin, and rectangular box. Why must we live in this world of boring automotive design when we could have so much more? Look at the shoes people are wearing, Nike's with huge colorful bubbles, Adidas' with chunky bases, etc. Look at the phones people are using: the huge iPhone 11 Pro with three ridiculously sized cameras, the new foldable Motorola Razr, the Samsung S10 with it's gorgeous wrap around screen. It's time automotive design caught up. The Cybertruck is helping us do just that. Though it is easy to see why people are turned off by the Cybertruck's "progressive" design, it will serve to push the designers of the competitor's trucks to find a happy medium of design: more creative and

adventurous than current status-quo but not as wonky and awkward as the Cybertruck.

I predict that once the Cybertrucks start rolling around public roads people will begin to appreciate them. When an elementary school kid sees a Cybertruck drive by that's what's going to get him excited, not a Ford F-150. The Cybertruck is essential a supercar, its purpose is to be eccentric and over the top, it's not meant to be compared to the standard truck. It's a new thing, and that's great. Creativity, individual thought, making something different and challenging, those are things to be celebrated. So, to the team at Tesla: thank you. But, Jack, you make continue your roast. keep it up and destroy the rest of the truck too.

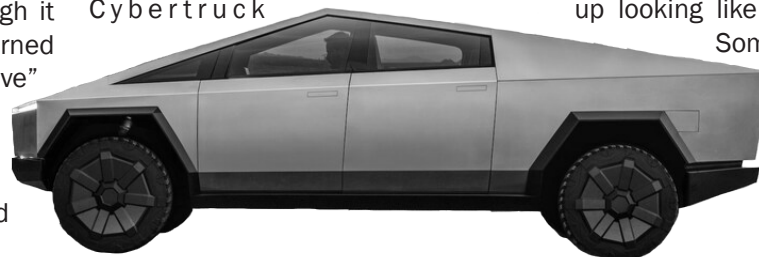
Jack: The best part of the Cybertruck

reveal was when Elon Musk touted the truck's "armored glass". He then had someone throw a metal ball to demonstrate just how tough said glass is. And guess what? The ball bounced off the glass like a pebble! Just kidding, it shattered it! Musk's response? "We'll fix that." You know what, Elon, don't bother. Shattering the glass was a good start, now

Also, the truck might not even be legal. In addition to lacking a pedestrian-friendly front bumper, the Cybertruck doesn't appear to have blinkers or side view mirrors. It must be a metaphor for "never looking back" or some other dumb thing billionaires say.

Finally, the font Musk decided to use for Cybertruck is completely illegible. If you squint and try really hard to make out what it says, it ends up looking like it says CYbeRRTVKK.

Sometimes it's best to just use Times New Roman, or even better, Helvetica.



FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Noah Kotlarek

Fordham to Kill Ram Van Service in Favor of New Zipline

Is economic doom looming? Fordham University declines to share its position but recent cost-cutting measures may indicate the institution's stance. One of the most striking new measures is aimed at reducing inter-campus transportation expenses. Last Tuesday the University's Board announced a fifty percent reduction in the number of Ram Vans to be deployed per 30-minute time slot. To mitigate the reduced flow and scarcity of seats the University's Office of Facilities will begin construction of an inter-campus zipline system over the Christmas Recess. The zipline, which will be the longest in the world, will more than triple the number of students that can travel from Rose Hill to Lincoln Center in half an hour. Currently, plans are to place the Rose Hill zipline platform atop Keating Hall and the Lincoln Center zipline platform atop McKeon Hall.

Students however are concerned, "How will this impact geese migration patterns?" and "Won't it be too cold during the winter months to zipline across the city?" But here is where the plan's true genius shows. Not only will it reduce fuel and driver wages expenditures, it will also increase consumer spending on Fordham branded apparel and jackets. The University bookstore expects a 40% increase in jacket sales. The proposal also comes with its tax benefits, a \$4 million carbon-emissions tax credit issued to the University by the City of New York.

Reduced fuel expenditures, lower employment expenditures, and tax benefits will help to insulate the school from economic downturn. The university's fiscal responsibility is to be applauded

Power to Persevere

by Alexa Cucchiara
Staff Published Author

One woman's struggle told in her own book

"Wait, you wrote a book? That is like 30 essays. Wow, literally a novel... I could never do that," a classmate recently said to me. I chuckled back.

When people think of writing a book, they tend to believe that it is an impossible task. Contrary to their belief, is not beyond the bounds of possibility. It is simply a tedious and time-consuming project that requires dedication, sacrifice, and grit. It took me about nine solid months of brainstorming, revisiting memories, creating stories, and editing, restructuring and reframing chapters. I looked at writing "Power to Persevere" as my side job during the latter part of my junior year here at Fordham University and my full-time job this past summer. Even with the amount of work I put into my book, it was not until just a few days before my manuscript was due to my copy editor for my final major deadline this past September that it all clicked: the title, theme, and purpose. Perseverance is what I wanted to portray.

Now, before I started to write, I had one goal in mind. I wanted to create something I wish I had to read and relate to during my fight for life and could have found comfort in while taking weekly trips to my oncologist's office. I needed something that I could take notes in and ultimately use to help me take action and spark positive change. And yes, you read that correctly. During the first week of what was supposed to be my actual junior year of college, I was diagnosed with a type of blood cancer called Hodgkin's lymphoma. I was 19 years of age, and just a few days after I turned 20, I started chemotherapy. I was physically and mentally unprepared to go through this challenge. I did not want to drop out of school for a whole entire year and put a hold on everything I worked so hard to achieve academically. The thought of fighting for my life was certainly not on my to-do list.

Fast forward months later when chemotherapy was over, the hair on my head grew back like a Chia Pet sprouting its little green leaves, my skin glowed back with olive pigment, and my body strengthened enough to exercise again. All of these small milestones that seemed almost impossible and out of reach were actually conceivable. Within them, I was beginning to remember how it felt to be alive. I was born again and slowly started to appreciate my second chance of life. This was a gift I did not

within time, I began to write about it.

I honestly had no idea how much work went into writing a book. Whenever I became discouraged, I tried to remember the light I saw at the end of the tunnel once chemotherapy ended. There were many times I wanted to quit treatment because I could not stand to see and feel myself deteriorate before my eyes. Between the shots I had to give myself in my stomach, the containers of pills I had to take every day, and four-hour-long drips I had to sit through every other week, my mentality was the only thing that got me through. I had no choice but to find the little strength left in me to keep pushing. My fortitude helped me see that we have to go through the dark days to see the light. I had to be my own advocate and inspire myself to persevere. If I could beat death, I could do anything, and so can you.

What I have learned with writing this book is that you can truly achieve whatever you put your mind to. It will take a lot of patience, trust in divine timing, and diligence, but it will be worth it at the end. With any project I get myself involved in, I always follow Stephen Covey's rule in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* – begin with the end in mind. Remember,

nothing that is worth doing comes easy. Any challenge is an opportunity that presents itself to you to help you grow and mold your soul so you can become a better human. Everything in life is possible. Just believe in yourself and your dreams.

"There is much more to life than we could ever imagine. We have to trust that our tragedies have meaning and purpose in our lives—that they are meant to mold us into the best version of ourselves."

• Power to Persevere, Alexa Nicole Cucchiara



It's the Most Wonderful Time of Disease

by Nora Hogan
Copy Legion

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Chestnuts are roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost is nipping at your nose . . . and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention just issued its now annual warning to not eat any romaine lettuce this holiday season. On November 22nd, the C.D.C. released a statement detailing this most recent E.coli outbreak, which originated from lettuce grown from Salinas, California. The outbreak includes all types of romaine lettuce grown in this region, including prepackaged salads, whole heads of romaine and romaine hearts. 40 people in 16 states have been affected so far and at least 28 people have been hospitalized, since Sept. 24, according to the New York Times. The largest number of cases was reported in Wisconsin, with 10 cases. However, cases have also been reported in Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington.

This year's strain is the same that has caused other E.coli outbreaks linked to romaine lettuce and leafy greens in the past two years, the C.D.C. said. The culprit, E.coli O157: H7, produces a type of toxin that causes painful cramps, bloody

New E.Coli Outbreak in Romaine Lettuce

develop a potentially life-threatening kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome. Young children under 5 years, older adults and people with weakened immune systems are the most likely to be affected by this complication if infected with the strain, according to the C.D.C. Although no deaths have been reported as of yet, at least five people have been reported to have developed this condition.

Swift action is being taken across government agencies to put an end to the contamination. More than 75,000 pounds of prepackaged salads from the New Jersey-based company Missa Bay is being recalled by the Department of Agriculture's Food and Safety and

any products currently on store shelves, according to the C.D.C. Consumers are advised to avoid purchasing or eating romaine lettuce from Salinas until the contamination has been eliminated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a list of 35 recalled products, including brands such as Bonduelle Chef Salad, Marketside Bistro, Signature Cafe and Signature farms.

Convenience salads, like bags of pre washed spinach and chopped romaine, are often struck by outbreaks of foodborne illness. For instance, last year's romaine lettuce E.coli outbreak became the largest E.coli outbreak in more than a decade, affecting more than 200 people total and killing five in three

dozen states. Experts say that this type of product is at greater risk of contamination because it comes in contact with a large



Inspection

Service, as there is evidence to suggest that the lettuce is contaminated with E.coli. The Food and Drug Administration has sent investigators to farms in Salinas to look for the source of contamination. Thankfully, the recalled products have "used by" dates ranging from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, so this voluntary recall most likely does not affect

amount of people and machinery. Anything from unwashed farm workers' hands to flooding of contaminated water in low-lying fields can result in a whole crop being contaminated. After being picked, the greens are moved to a packaging plant, resulting in increased exposure from more workers and equipment. Because products from multiple farms are often packaged in the same facility, the odds of cross-contamination increase even further.

diarrhea and vomiting. 5 to 10 percent of people infected with this strain

Reader Than Fact

by Sebastian Guccione

Toy Company Releases Nonpartisan UNO Deck

In an effort to prevent family members from murdering each other this holiday season, Mattel, the toy company, released a special, "nonpartisan" edition of UNO cards, in which red and blue cards are replaced by orange and purple, the mixture of red and blue. The deck comes with a "veto" card, that you can play to cancel political talk when Aunt Becky starts to talk about the 2020 elections. Not everyone is thrilled about the company's decision. One user, "bradbeall," expressed his frustrations with new deck in a comment on a Fox News article reporting the story:

"Would you be upset if a family member came to visit wearing clothing that was red or blue, depending on your political leanings? Should I sell my Triumph Spitfire because it's blue, or only ever ride my Honda CRF250L because it's red? And, - question of questions - what should I do with my purple Harley Davidson FXSTSi?"

The company insists that UNO brings people together, regardless of political leanings, and that the removal of red and blue cards prevents Republicans and Democrats from getting distracted from the game.

Bolivian Coup Thrusts Country into Political Turmoil

by **Meredith McLaughlin**
Editor-in-Chief

I am the eggman, coup coup cachoo

Bolivia is currently in turmoil due to a recent contested presidential election between incumbent Evo Morales and challenger Carlos Mesa. Morales and his government were accused of interfering with the elections after the vote count was stopped without explanation for 24 hours. After the stop, Morales had gained a greater lead, and ultimately won the election. Morales' opposition called to invalidate the election results, believing them to be tampered. Morales had initially promised to have a second election and to replace the electoral council, but this never came to occur, as the head of the Bolivian Armed Forces "asked" the president to step down. In the wake of Morales' resignation, the second vice president of the Bolivian senate, Jeanine Añez, has taken up the role of acting president, and is promising a second election. There are those within Bolivia and in the international community who see this power shift as a "victory for democracy." However, there are serious concerns about the validity behind the accusations of tampering. That, along with the major spike in anti-indigenous activity and questions into who is benefitting the most from Morales' removal has made this event far from black and white.

The accusations against Morales were reinforced by a report released by the Organisation of American States, who had been monitoring the election. The OAS describes itself as being "established in order to achieve among its member states—as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter—an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial

integrity, and their independence." (oas.org.) Today, the OAS works to support democracy, defend human rights, and encourage free trade in the Americas, among other things. However, during its foundation in the beginning years of the Cold War,



the OAS worked to unify American nations against communism and the far-left. Many left leaning groups believe the OAS has not shed this bias, citing their support for US backed Juan Guaidó's efforts to claim the Venezuelan presidency, as well as their silence on the Chilean government's authoritarian actions to repress protests. The reputation that the OAS is antagonistic against left wing governments is not helped by the fact that the United States maintains a great deal of influence over the organization. The U.S. Agency for International Development justified diverting money to fund 60% of the OAS's budget because

it "promotes U.S. political and economic interests in the Western Hemisphere by countering the influence of anti-U.S. countries such as Venezuela." With this in mind, it is more reasonable to doubt the OAS's "impartiality" in how they judged the Bolivian elections. Even

more concerning is the fact that the OAS has used its influence to change the course of elections in the past. Haiti's elections in 2000 and 2009 both saw OAS intervention, with groups such as the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) claiming the OAS called for election reversals without legal or statistical justification. In regards to Bolivia, CEPR (a left-leaning think tank in Washington, D.C.) believes the OAS again made a call invalidating the Bolivian elections without any evidence. CEPR's own research found that before the 24 hour pause in the quick count, Morales still had a 10 point advantage. CEPR also points out the fact that rural areas, who strongly support Morales but often vote

later due to geographic factors, explain the jump in votes for Morales, something the OAS ignored. Lastly, while the quick count (which is based on a sampling of votes from certain polling stations,) was paused, the official count had not been stopped for "a significant amount of time," according to CEPR. The OAS's failure to account for these facts calls into question the validity of their accusations of vote tampering. Unfortunately, while the OAS's claims might be unfounded, they are still being taken seriously by the press and the world, which has contributed to the dire state Bolivia is in currently.

Since Morales' ousting, Bolivia has seen a rise in anti-indigenous hate crimes, which has more or less been supported by the new government. Jeanine Añez and her party have been vocal in bringing Christianity back into Bolivian politics; after being elected, Añez has been quoted saying "The Bible has returned to the palace!" Videos of the Bolivian police cutting off the indigenous flag from their uniforms have been circulating. He work Morales and his party did to support indigenous people is being threatened by this new trend demonizing indigenous culture. Bolivian protesters in support of indigenous rights and the past election has been met with extreme violence and repression; Añez has exempted the military from criminal repercussions when using force to repress the mostly peaceful protests. With this in mind, can we honestly say what's happening in Bolivia is a "victory for democracy?" Or is it just another in a long list of socialist Latin American countries being destabilized by far right influence?





Conspiracy: VSCO Girls Don't Actually Exist

By Angelina Zervos
Opinions Editor

I bought a pair of Crocs for myself the other day and I believe it was a very informed purchase. I first visited the Crocs website, studied the pair I wanted to purchase, and then I visited a shoe store to try them on and make sure I really wanted them. I tend to be sort of an impulse buyer, but I was particularly careful with this purchase because, to be frank, I thought we were all on the same page that Crocs were ugly. Now that I think about it, lots of things deemed “ugly” in the late 2000s and early 2010s have made a comeback. If you wore anything other than skinny jeans, you were a little... off. I mean, why would you opt for loose-fitting, unflattering “mom” jeans when you could buy a pair of low-rise Hollister super-skinnies? Scrunchies were too retro. If you needed to tie your hair back you had to resort to those thin rubber bands with the metal clasp, and reusable drinkware was not nearly as popular as it is today. Need I remind everyone about the 2012 Tumblr girl, obsessed with buying as many Starbucks drinks off the “secret menu” as they possibly could? If we want to know the root cause of all this plastic straw pollution, I think we should check with them...

As soon as I put those Crocs on, I was reminded of my younger self, who once owned a pair of bright turquoise Crocs that I cherished dearly. Alas, as I grew older, and the more Juicy Couture velour jackets and PINK Victoria's Secret sweats you owned determined your worth in the middle school class system, my crocs soon ended up in the donation pile. Now, about decade later,

We just got tricked into buying a bunch of stuff...

everyone has a pair! Why? Why did I have to split with my Crocs so many years ago? The answer is two words: VSCO girls.

Hear me out: the world's ugliest, overpriced, and most distinct brands all got together and infiltrated the most up-and-coming internet subculture: girls on VSCO. The main offenders being Crocs, Fjällräven Kånken, Birkenstock, and Hydroflask. It's not breaking news that brands often target women as their main consumers, and



what better consumers exist than young, attractive girls willing to take aesthetically pleasing pictures of your products for FREE? I mean, last time I checked, Crocs and Birkenstocks were just about ugliest pairs of shoes known to man, yet just as I'm finished donating my “Jesus Sandals,” as the boys in middle school who made fun of me called them, everyone owns a pair. I don't want the term “suddenly” to be overlooked. This cultural phenomenon

seemingly arose out of thin air. Prior to June 2019, there was no mention of VSCO girls online (I even checked trusty-dusty Urban Dictionary). VSCO the app was still a relatively niche photo editing app. It was definitely popular, but your average social media user did not know what the term “VSCO” referred to.

I'm led to believe that these companies, no longer appreciated by dominating Tumblr subcultures of the 2010s, found a way to seep into everyday fashion and culture. Even

though thin, attractive white girls are the most common face of the VSCO girl aesthetic, the VSCO girl “look” has infiltrated many other, more inclusive, subcultures. The Instagram baddie can be seen rocking a pair of neon colored Crocs with their Adidas track pants, E-boys may pack up their sketch books and eyeliner pencils in a black Fjällräven Kånken, and Kawaii dressers may use pastel-colored scrunchies to tie up their hair. Although we may

imagine a very specific look when we hear the term “VSCO girl,” their so-called “style” has become a part of mainstream fashion and culture.

This brings me back to my theory. It appears that the essence of the VSCO girl relies heavily on maintaining an “aesthetic” wardrobe and lifestyle. While the “save the turtles” slogan is often attached to this aesthetic, there is nothing sustainable about being materialistic. Buying more things simply for the trend is extremely harmful to environment considering that the fashion industry is one of the largest polluters in the world. If the VSCO girl lifestyle was really all about living a carefree, eco-friendly life as portrayed in their prettily edited pictures, there would be less of a consumeristic agenda, which is the exact opposite of what these big companies want. Social media is all about showing off, but in the case of VSCO in particular, where there exists no like count and no comment section, there's more of an unspoken pressure to produce the best possible image, one that can be deemed valuable without a number that indicates its worth. The easiest way to achieve this is by cramming as many name brand products into your photo as possible, especially brands with distinct logos (I'm looking at you, Hydroflask) that adhere to a specific look emanated by many other users of the same platform. I mean seriously, does anyone even know how to pronounce Fjällräven Kånken? How do you fit so much stuff in there? Why did I buy a pair of Crocs? I FELL RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP!

Why You Should Date Me

By Anonymous
Staff Bachelorette

It's unofficially #cuffingszn... the time of year when it's almost Christmas so everyone is their best selves: merry and bright. Plus the weather is cold. The combination of cold weather and warm hearts makes people think they want to start dating someone. If you find yourself suffering from this strange desire too, but you're struggling to find that one perfect person, consider this an official application.

The first reason that came to mind when I was thinking of why you should date me is that I have way too many sweaters, shirts, or hoodies that are only fluffy, soft, and warm on the outside, Not on the inside! I don't know why they make these, and I don't know why I buy them, but it seems like such a waste that I have this extremely fluffy exterior, and NO ONE is taking advantage of it. Let me paint you a picture. If we were "Netflix and Chilling", it would very quickly become "Netflix and No Longer Chilling" because my apparel of would be able to serve multiple purposes for you: a blanket, a pet, a pillow, or whatever you need in these cold cold cuffing szn months in dorm rooms with terrible heat regulation. I'm just saying. It is the first of many things to consider. And if that interests you, do keep reading.

You might have already assumed this, but I have a Netflix account.

I also have a Spotify Premium, and Amazon Prime, and I'm working on

Are you looking for a Fordham companion? Keep reading...

getting Disney Plus. (Just some perks that come with dating me.)

P.S. - If you have too many sweatshirts and are looking for a good home for them... I also have too many sweatshirts so we can help each other find a good home together.

I can also sing almost any song on the spot based on a conversation we are having. If you are talking about "some people," get ready for my interrupting rendition of "If I Ain't Got You". This talent of mine makes walking around campus in the cold enjoyable. Disclaimer: I did not add any positive modifiers to the verb "sing". Because I just sing. Sometimes I hit the notes exceptionally well, like you may actually be pleasantly surprised, but other times I sound like a mediocre drunk karaoke singer at best. I take requests and I can also make up parodies to reflect a situation we are going through. If you like songs

about us eating waffles in the caf to the tune of "pumped up kicks," I'm the one for you! I just want to be a part of the soundtrack to your life.

I don't know about you, but I take my snapchat streaks very seriously. If you are lucky enough to have a streak with me, I will not break it, even if we break up. So, if you're looking for a 22,000 day streak by the time we're 80ish. That is #goals.

I am also a text emphasize, liker, lover; I also tend to love, like and emphasize my own texts. I am a gif enthusiast and a firm believer in their power over words. Sometimes my only response will be me liking your message coupled with a gif of some random child dancing. So, I am a good communicator, obviously.

I like going out and I like staying in. I'm not the best decision maker so whatever you want

to do is probably what we will end up doing, and I am perfectly fine with that.

If you've always wanted to have a cat or dog in college but were either allergic or it didn't seem practical, I have some good news for you. My hair gets everywhere and I love laying on humans too so you would basically be getting the same experience.

Another advantage of dating me is that I not only have a freezer, but I also always have ice cream in my freezer. If you have ice cream but no freezer, I got you. If you have a freezer but no ice cream, I got you, too.

What makes me stand out at Fordham? Hmm... well, I do not have a significant other at home. So.

There is a high probability that you are taller than me. I never eat both halves of my sandwich. I laugh at my own jokes which takes the pressure off of you. I make a big deal out of birthdays (mine and yours) so you will never have to worry about forgetting when mine (or yours) is. I'll take a lottttt of pictures, of food before and after we've eaten it all, of you looking cute, of me looking cute or... not cute, and I will send them all to you.

Lastly, if you date me... you will know who wrote this.



This cld be us
but ur playin



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When Judge Trudy
was all like "Guilty!"
I was all like woah!
Plus I won 20 bucks!
- Kyle, 2018
Defendant



Ranked Voting: Voting 2.0

by Sebastian Guccione
Staff Voting Booth

This past election day on November 5th, New Yorkers voted 'yes' to Ballot Question #1, a proposal that will amend the city's charter to give us a new election voting system called ranked-choice voting (RCV). The proposal passed with 73.54% of the vote and will be effective in January 2021. It is important to note that the proposal will implement RCV only for the primary and special elections for Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council. While ideally RCV would also be applied to the general elections for the aforementioned offices, since NYC is a largely Democratic city, its elections are frequently decided by the Democratic Primary anyway. But before I plead my case in support of RCV, let's break down what exactly it is:

In ranked-choice voting as it was passed in NYC, voters will have the option of ranking up to five candidates in order of preference (still having the option to only vote for one or no candidate). Next, first-choice votes are counted, and if a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, then that candidate wins the election. If there is no majority winner at this stage, then the candidate in last place (meaning the candidate who receives the least first-choice votes) is eliminated, and any voter who had the last place candidate as their first-choice will have their vote transferred to their second-choice candidate, if they have one. This process would then repeat until there are two

What it is, how it works, why it's good, and why it matters

candidates, and whichever candidate receives the most votes wins the election.

This is very different from how primaries for city officials are currently conducted. How it is now, voters select one candidate. The votes are then counted, and if a candidate receives 40% or more of the vote, then they win. If no candidate receives 40% or more of the vote, then another election is held, called a "run-off primary election," consisting of the two candidates who had previously received the most votes. Whichever candidate then receives the most votes in the second "run-off primary



election" wins.

The differences between these two voting systems are several. In RCV there is one election, whereas in the current system, there can be two if no candidate gets 40% of the

vote in the first round, an outcome that is frequently realized. Having two elections poses a number of problems, including a costly second runoff election, with extremely low voter turnout. Bella Wang, a Board of Directors Member of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, has stated that "[h]istorically, Public Advocate runoffs have cost as much as \$13 million with as low as 7% turnout." The low voter turnout of runoff elections has also consistently underrepresented lower-income and minority voters.

RCV also incentivizes candidates to not neglect certain groups of voters, while the current system encourages candidates to focus on their base in an attempt to get to 40% of the vote. This is because under RCV, candidates will be fighting to get the second and third-choice vote of even their political opponents within their party. It promotes the cooperation of a party over aggressive and slanderous campaigns. The flip-side to this however, and what is valid criticism of RCV, is that sometimes aggressive campaigns are the strongest and even only way to fight back against unethical and rich industrial-complexes.

As previously mentioned, RCV is only being implemented for NYC primaries, not general elections, though since NYC is a largely Democratic city, its elections are overwhelmingly

decided by the Democratic Primary. For this reason I urge people who vote Democrat in the general election to officially register to the party and participate in the primary to ensure that their vote is being effective. This same idea extends to before RCV is implemented in 2021 as well.

The fact that New York City, being the most populous city in America, has adopted RCV voting will give a substantial push to efforts dedicated to implementing RCV nationwide. FairVote, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to electoral reform, reports that "[r]anked choice voting has been used for federal elections in Maine and for municipal elections in 13 U.S. cities. It is also slated for use by seven additional cities in their upcoming election cycle - bringing the total number of states using RCV to 10." What's more is that these states, or municipalities in these states, vary ideologically, from California to Texas to Florida to New York. This proves that certain aspects of electoral reform can be bipartisan.

I would like to close this opinion piece by emphasizing that while RCV is a step in the right direction towards a more fair democracy, we still face a disgusting amount of issues when it comes to voting. From low voter participation and registration rates resulting from voter suppression and lack of enthusiasm to gerrymandering and selective disinformation, making it easier for people to vote fairly is an ongoing process that will progress neither smoothly nor effortlessly.

Introducing... **the RoboRamily!**

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- They provide emotional support!
- They prepare food!
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clean up my bolts, human. bow. wow.

Stop crying so loud, human.

i added the recommended amount of cyanide to your latte, human

can you teach me how to long divide

nah, I don't really FEEL like it

Replacing all Fordham faculty and staff by 2021!

Medicare for All

By Shelby Daniel
Staff Medic

At the beginning of June in 2018, major news networks were hit with two back to back celebrity deaths. In the span of days, Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain took their own lives. Both of the public figures' tragedies catalyzed a firestorm on social media, with the constant fuel to the flames being the necessity to normalize conversations about mental health. Something about this didn't sit right with me, though. At the end of the day, two acclaimed artists in their respective fields tragically lost their lives too soon. Two acclaimed artists in their respective fields were unable to find access to the mental health care they needed. It boils down to this: Spade and Bourdain were wealthy, white celebrities that did not get the help they needed in time.

A few months prior to these events, I was informed I had to get a root

"Healthcare as a whole should be a universal human right."

canal my second semester of sophomore year despite having perfect teeth all my life. My parents and dentists were shocked, and in many ways



confused. Eventually, it came to light that the infection necessitating the procedure was the result of an eating disorder. The effects of my ED

caused acid decay in a bottom right molar and led to the infection. The procedure became an urgent priority quickly. Teeth are connected to multiple nerves leading to the brain; if the infection spread further, it could lead to serious brain damage.

I had a nearly \$300 co-pay for the dental surgeon, on top of the cost for the crown and filling. This, coupled with I have lived in a relatively comfortable, white, middle-class family all my life. I also have distinct memories of growing up and being scared to ask my parents for help with my ED, knowing I needed it, because I thought it would make us go "bankrupt." I had that paranoia growing up in a white, middle-class suburb.

Mental healthcare has a profound impact on individual, interpersonal and public relationships. It is a necessity that can, and should be, available to all regardless of your econom-

ic or employment status. I experience multiple different emotions when thinking of the very public examples like Spade and Bourdain and the tangible experiences in my own life. But as 2020 looms closer, all I feel is anger. Anger at the failures of the United States to address and support any and all experiencing various mental health issues. Not to mention the very real connections between mental and physical health that could lead to the requirement of more treatments and more money. Healthcare as a whole should be a universal human right. If the white and wealthy are confronted with the realities of mental illness and poor mental health, it's certain members of marginalized groups confront these realities even more.

You Really Should Go Out and Vote

By Julia Truck
Staff Polling Place

When I was first reminded of my 26th Amendment right to vote at the age of 18, I was sitting in a stuffy classroom, loosely grasping my pencil, and heard the monotonous voice of my teacher. As one of the youngest students in my AP U.S. Government class during my senior year of high school, I could not help but think that my birthday would be in October of my freshman year of college, seemingly a long time away. I did not see the hurry for all the scrambling of students to snatch the voter registration sheets when many of them also had time to spare just like me. It did not take me long, however, to realize that this perceived notion of time was ticking and that soon enough my vote would mean something of value.

As a U.S. citizen, it is possible and a seemingly necessary obligation, to cast your vote when you turn 18. This right stems from the 26th amendment to the constitution which grants this right to U.S. citizens. In previous years, the student vote was not as high and many unfortunately neglected to vote. This posed somewhat of

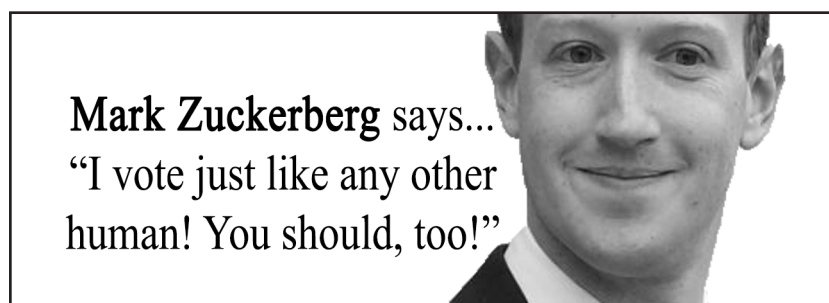
Another article about voting?!?! Yeah, come stop us

an issue since older generations of voters seemed to be dominating the vote, representing ideals preferred by voters whose ideals can be seen as obsolete at times. In recent years, specifically as of 2018, however, the student vote has surged to a higher number. I guess people were really listening to my teacher that day when

to curb this. It has been noted that several Republicans are enacting more roadblocks to voting for college students. This is most likely due to the fact that a growing population of college educated students are liberals, and would most likely vote out Republican incumbents, thus posing a threat to conservative

not there due to debit cards and dorm keys not being issued with signatures. It seems that these additional "precautions" are actually a way to diminish student efforts to cast their vote, which would potentially alter the positions of people running. It is clear that the student vote is seemingly pressurizing Republicans and they feel this as a threat which is pushing them to try and minimize the student vote overall.

Despite the efforts of these politicians, it is nevertheless extremely important for students to go out and vote, and make sure their voice is heard. This is even more important in times such as now with impeachment lurking above the horizon and the 2020 election coming up, an election which will be the first major vote for many 18 year olds. So yes, maybe you have an exam the day of your primary, or a huge sweet 16 party to go to, but remember that elections are for you and who you want to represent your values - so you should go out and vote.



he told us, "Get out and vote! Let your voice be heard and don't let the old people decide your future for you!" Essentially, more and more students are seeing the benefits of voting and are seizing the opportunity to cast their input as a vote.

The only issue is that as the student votes are rising, there also seems to be a high number of politicians trying

politicians. The extra restrictions that the Republicans are posing to the students include additional hindrances such as the need for a valid student ID card specifically for voting, as instituted by some North Carolina Republicans. Similarly, Wisconsin Republicans are requiring poll workers to check for signatures on the ID cards, many of which are

the paper's view

So this is incredibly bittersweet. This is the last issue I am officially an editor on the paper. I know I'll get a better chance to go over all my memories on the paper in the deadits next semester, but I just want to vent some of my thoughts and feelings now so that way when I'm writing the deadit next semester I won't die from sadness like a Victorian widow.

Being an editor on the paper is honestly a once in a lifetime experience. I don't want to sound cliché, but what really makes the paper is the people behind it. I don't think I'll be in a group that is so funny and smart and is so passionate about making something from being funny and smart again. The environment of the paper is always one that prioritizes having fun as much as it does making an issue. Some might say we lack standards, but what I love about the paper is that we just have different standards: we want to have a good time and we want to make something great. The paper's culture is one that is encouraging and wholesome; I've never felt excluded from the group when I started, and throughout my four years here the club has never failed to be welcoming and inclusive. Coming to Fordham I felt completely out of my depth; I had no one to help me out with starting college and being a social person. Joining the paper gave me that. It feels great to be a part of a group that "gets you." Even when I'm feeling down, going to the paper and working on photoshops or writing an article helps pull me back up. If you've been reading the paper you can see how special this publication is. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I have enjoyed making it.

Meredith

Thank you.

I struggle with writing the kind of flowery prose that's probably appropriate for bidding farewell to my favorite thing about my college experience, so I won't try. Instead, I'll just leave with a thank you. Thank you to everyone who has read our paper. Thank you to everyone who has written for our paper. And thank you to everyone at Fordham who has, against their better judgement, allowed the paper to exist for this long. I didn't think I'd end up spending my college years in a basement making memes and writing articles about whatever miscellaneous thoughts pop into my head. I also didn't think I'd spend them waking up at 5 A.M. to go see Good Morning America in the freezing cold only to be kept out by a guy with a unibrow named Peter. And I certainly didn't think I'd be lucky enough to spend them with a group of people whose humor, kindness, and creativity would make every minute in that basement a minute well spent.

But now it's the end, and that's exactly how it should be.

As sad as it is to say goodbye, I know that the paper will be in very capable hands next year and for years to come. The paper will continue to evolve. It will continue to make people laugh and think. It will continue to make mistakes. Most importantly, it will continue to give generations of students a home here at Fordham, as it has for me.

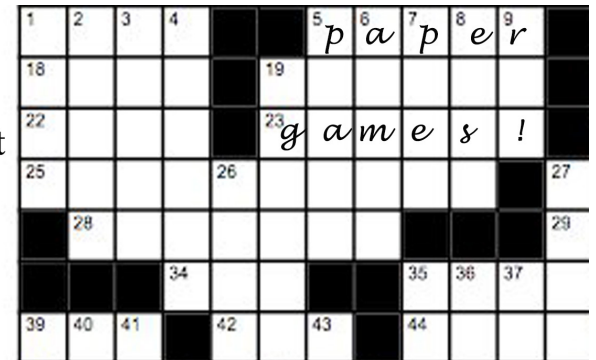
So, keep writing. Keep reading. Keep going to Pugsley's at 3 AM. Keep putting your life on the line by riding the Ram Van. Keep taking a chance on street meat. Keep getting egged, and keep your heads screwed on a little sideways. But most importantly, keep up with the paper.

Jack

Across

5. Fordham's dopest publication

23. Word search and Sudoku, for example



Suits-libs!

Take a stab at our very own paper-libs! If you've done any mad-libs you know how this goes. We've taken out some words from a Facebook post by Daniel "Suits" Morse so YOU can fill it in with your own ideas. We love Suits and we love Mugzy's, but yikes man! For one day, you can become Suit's PR representative and make this post a bit less problematic.

Seriously wake up _____ (1) wtf is happening to our country we got _____ (2) telling American school systems they cant celebrate anything with _____ (3). Then _____ (4) are having private court to _____ (5) our President who i believe is _____ (6) a hell of a _____ (7). We have just plain _____ (8) on our hands we totally lost _____ (9).i for one cant stand it soo im gonna Vote for _____ (10) and see what happens and oh yeah no Pressure from _____ (11) no pressure from noone im just entitled to my _____ (12). Also _____ (13) UP AMERICA OUR VALUES ARE BEING _____ (14)

- 1. Location
- 2. group of people
- 3. other group of people
- 4. a third, different group of people
- 5. verb
- 6. verb ending in -ing.
- 7. noun
- 8. noun
- 9. noun
- 10. a fun person
- 11. country that is not the US.
- 12. noun
- 13. VERB
- 14. VERB



When are we Bringing Back the Primal Scream?

By Anonymous

Staff Stressed Screamer

Every week I get to the point of just wanting to scream. Scream because of all the commitments I've made and realize the little time I actually have to get all of them done. Scream because I just want it to be the weekend already. Scream when I realize that this weekend will have to be a weekend spent catching up on work I should have done during the week. I know I'm not alone. You probably feel this way by the time we hit Wednesday or Thursday every week. You're starting to run out of gas. You're already seeing all the work that we'll have to do for next week. You want to literally crawl into a hole and just hide from all the work. It happens to all of us and the work is going to have to get done.

Enter the Fordham Primal Scream. It was a long-time tradition here at Fordham that every Thursday night at 10:00 PM, everyone had five minutes to let out all of their stress and tension with a full-throated scream, shout, yell, or whatever you want to call it. The Primal Scream would give just enough relief for one to make it through Friday classes and the long-awaited (and deserved) weekend. Nobody was concerned, thinking somebody was hurt, because everyone was doing it. Not only did it relieve stress, it brought everyone living on campus together, even the Jesuits, faculty, and staff.

According to an archived edition of The Ram Newspaper, this tradition of the Primal Scream started during the Spring midterms of 1982 when one student opened up the window of his dorm and started screaming. Others heard it and started joining in and before they knew it, basically the whole university was joining in on The Primal Scream. It went on for years until, sadly, the tradition was lost. According to some faculty and staff who have been at the university for decades, they say this tradition was lost only within the last few years.

I'm not sure why it was discontinued. I can take a few guesses, though. Perhaps the tradition was simply not passed down to the freshmen, thus slowly petering it out as a weekly

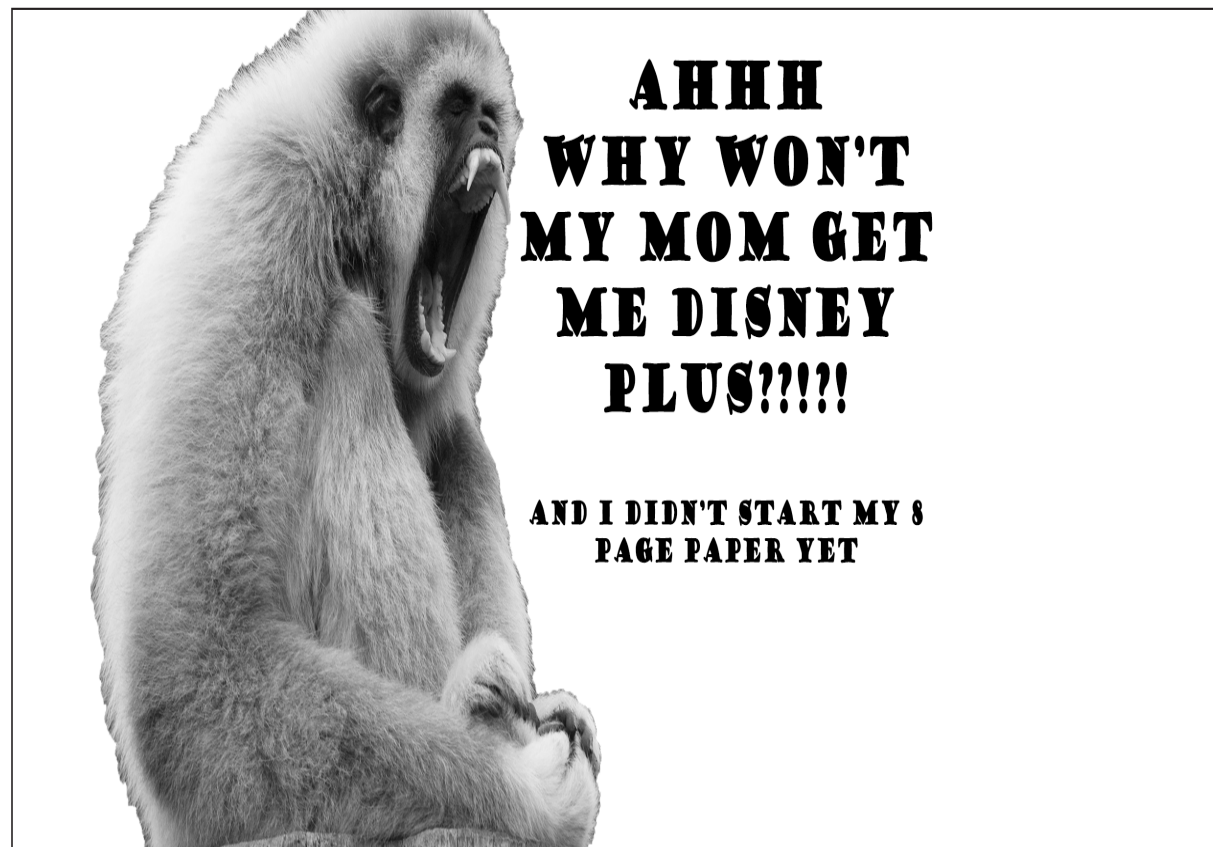
Fordham has lost an important tradition.

ritual. Maybe there were too many complaints about how much of a disruption it was, and so RA's began a crusade to eliminate the practice.

However, my other hypothesis is that maybe some Psych major argued that screaming is just not a healthy way of releasing stress—an argument that might have been the silver bullet for the Primal Scream. If this is what brought about the end of the Scream, I want to counter the argument by pointing out that it's definitely not

it's also a signal of fear for any nearby listener. We scream when we're angry or frustrated with someone. Why? Sometimes we feel that it's the only way to get our point across. Soldiers give a solid yell when charging into battle. Why? It can instill fear in the enemy while drumming up courage in the unit.

Now as it is, I already find myself sighing throughout the week, but sighing is not enough. It's not enough for when I feel the "danger" of



healthy to repress one's feelings of stress and tension. We need to find a way to release all those negative emotions. To suppress them would be like not crying when you feel sad, or not laughing when you find something funny—it's just not natural.

To point out the value of the Primal Scream, I want to point out some examples of the general usefulness of any loud vocalized noise. Tennis players give a solid yell when they swing their rackets to hit the ball. Why? Apparently it lets them exert more power in their swing. We scream when we are surprised or scared. Why? It's our body's way of responding to perceived danger, but

impending due dates. It's not enough for when I'm frustrated with the study materials in front of me. I need that good scream to "get more power into my swing"; to get me pumped up as I charge through the last 10 pages of that 20-page paper. And yet I don't want my scream to be perceived as some signal of imminent danger. I don't want people to think that I just got physically attacked in my room or received some tragic news. I'm just looking to release the pressure valve, and a nice blood-curdling scream is exactly what I need. A solid five minutes is all I'm asking for. Once the allotted time is over, I'll get right back to my work and finish what I need to

do.

Now, I don't want to do this alone. I want to know that I've got allies in this battle against stress. We're all stressed, but we're going to get through this...together! So if you're reading this and want to do some commiserating, I invite you to join me in bringing back the Fordham Primal Scream on Thursday, December 5th, at 10:00 PM. It would be great if we were to gather onto Eddie's to let out the scream. It would create another level of community at Fordham. We scream together during sports games. We cheer together at theater

productions and concerts. Why not unite in the release of our weekly frustrations?

Still, you don't have to go anywhere to do it. You can do it from wherever you are: if you're in your dorm room, open your window and let it out; if you're walking back from the cafeteria, scream on the sidewalk; if you're in the library... it's probably best that you go outside to scream. If you

live off-campus, but are still within the neighborhood, I invite you to just walk on to campus and maybe do it as a group on Eddie's.

If you're not interested, that's fine. I'm not saying we all should do it, especially if you feel you'll get nothing out of it; but please do support those of us who want to! Let's spread the word. I hope to hear the deafly calming sounds of all of us bringing back the Fordham Primal Scream.



Death Stranding Kind of Leaves Us Hanging (But It's Still Worth Playing)

By Gabby Curran
Executive Editor

Warning: Spoilers Ahead

As a future real gamer girl, I could not have been more excited for Hideo Kojima's new game "Death Stranding", released for the PlayStation 4 on November 8th, 2019. I went into the game completely blind, save for watching one trailer; I refused to look up spoilers, gaming tips, or plot points until I'd experienced the game for myself. And experience it, I definitely did.

Now, I'm only about 3 ½ hours into the game, but here is my understanding of the plot thus far: Sam, the player character, works as a porter for a company called Bridges. Some kind of event, known as the Death Stranding, has devastated humanity as we know it. While on a corpse disposal job, Sam and his crew get ambushed by BTs, creatures invisible to most but detectable by a select few individuals including Sam and trigger a so-called "void out", which destroys a nearby city and knocks Sam out. Sam wakes up in a medical facility and is greeted by Deadman (Guillermo del Toro's character), a doctor at Bridges who tells Sam that the president of the former United States is dying and wants to see him. The president, as it turns out, is Sam's estranged mother, who expresses her desire to return America to its former united glory before passing away. We then meet

Sam's sister, Amelie, who is trapped on the west coast of the United States and wishes to carry on her mother's mission. Sam reluctantly agrees to help her and sets off on the game's main quest--that of reconnecting America's cities through something called the chiral network. As for the fetus from the trailer, that's BB, who when connected to a scanner is capable of accurately detecting BTs in any given area.

I'll start with what I like about the game so far. The graphics are phenomenal. The lighting, the facial expressions, the textures, the visual effects...everything in this game looks absolutely stunning. The audio is great, too. Dreamy, moody songs will occasionally play in the background as you run across the ruined landscape of the former United States, but much of the game is silent, save for simple sound effects like Sam breathing, precipitation falling, or the scanner beeping. The lack of score creates an immersive, contemplative ambiance that fits very well with the game's central, morbid themes. The game's controls are fairly intuitive, and the stealth aspect of the game--particularly the "hold your breath" mechanic--does an especially great job of creating tension. The characters, as they stand thus far in the game, are compelling enough and more or less endearing. My favorite characters so

far are Deadman and BB--the former because of his odd yet charming personality, and the latter because of his badass ability to detect enemies as a 28-week-old fetus.

That being said, I have some qualms about the game. The first is the way instructions and tips are relayed to the player. On several occasions, tips and gameplay instructions were given far later than they should've been. For instance, the player can use a scanner to detect packages and, with BB's help, nearby BTs. At one point, the game will give you a legend indicating what the scanner's displayed symbols mean. However, by the time it does, you've already been using the scanner for almost two hours. It would be helpful to have those instructions right off the bat when the scanner is first introduced as a mechanism. The second is that the game's plot throws a lot at you at once. I understand that the game's world is a complex one and the plot has several components to it, but when you have a world that is so drastically different from the one the player is familiar with, the player needs to be eased in. An open-world game that executed this better is Horizon Zero Dawn. The player is introduced to protagonist Aloy as a child, and thus learns about the world around her as she grows up, making tutorials and introductions feel more organic. At the same time, despite the enormous

amount of information heaped onto the player at once, the story doesn't start to make sense until later in the game. This vague kind of storytelling doesn't work for multiple reasons, one of them being that Sam--whom you play as--supposedly knows this world pretty well, more than the player does at this point. There's a strange sense of disconnect--and a sense of disempowerment--when the character you're playing as seems to know more about the game's world than you do. It's one thing to gradually build a story up with hints and clues, but it's quite another to completely overwhelm the player with information that they don't have the tools to understand yet and then have them wander around aimlessly for several hours until everything clicks.

All in all, I know that I'm still very early in the game and that answers will probably become clearer as I play more. But even in an open-world game, having to wait 10-20 hours for the story to make sense or for the game to "get good" is a lot. Despite its flaws, though, the game is a solid one and is still entertaining to play. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys expansive, intricately-constructed open-world games that are more slow-paced than action-packed. As for me, I look forward to playing more of it.

HOROSCOPES

This Week: Signs as Your Teenage Obsession

Aries: Twilight

Beware the Ides...(Stay away from Romans) Don't let them dull your sparkle!

Taurus: Noah Centineo

Your final exam grades will be as strong as Noah's neck.

Gemini: Backstreet Boys

Backstreet's back...or are they? Make up your mind

Cancer: Justin Bieber

Don't need no StarBUCKS!

Leo: SuperWhoLock

Wow, you're so cool and edgy. I bet you still use tumblr in 2019

Virgo: The Hunger Games

Get that bread ;) #TeamPeeta

Libra: Fall Out Boy

Thnks fr th mmrs vn f thy wrnt tht grt :(

Scorpio: My Chemical Romance

Just as you thought you were over your teenage angst, it comes back with a vengeance.

Sagittarius: Jonas Brothers

Keep advocating for climate change you absolute queen.

Capricorn: Shawn Mendes

You will achieve great fame on Tik Tok this week.

Aquarius: The Fault in Our Stars

Okay? Okay. Perhaps "the paper" will be our always.

Pisces: One Direction

Wait to be the only band on this list to not make a comeback. So much for "temporary" break. We were counting on you

Dickinson — The Only Good Thing About Apple TV+

By Abbey Delk
Staff Poet

Emily Dickinson had a thing for Death. No, really, I think it was a crush. Any high school English teacher can point out Dickinson's affinity for the macabre, but in Apple TV Plus's original mini-series *Dickinson*, our favorite poet's relationship with Death has become more romantic and visceral. Particularly striking is the arrival of Death and his carriage at several key moments in the series, an ominous black car pulled by ghostly horses. Death himself is far from the grim hooded figure popular media has favored for decades. Played with an almost tenderness by Whiz Khalifa—yes, you read that right—Death comes off more like the kind-of-edgy and dangerous boyfriend our parents would hate for us to bring home for the holidays. His presence in Dickinson's life evolves over the course of the series' twelve episodes, from wistful fantasy to cruel reality and gives an insight into how our own understanding of death is so inextricably tied to experiences of loss.

Dickinson herself is portrayed by the dazzling Hailee Steinfeld, who proves with this performance, as she has before in *True Grit* and *The Edge of Seventeen*, that she should really devote more time to her incredible acting abilities as opposed to her mediocre music career (sorry, not sorry, Hailee). Steinfeld brings to life a woman who is hard to pin down from cursory readings of her poetry, giving the character a wit and distaste for society's arbitrary standards for femininity that is reminiscent of Jo March. For fans of *Little Women*, Dickinson actually crosses paths with Louisa May Alcott at a holiday party in the 8th episode for a heart-to-heart about being a female writer during a time when women were expected put down the pen and pick up an apron. Especially memorable is Alcott, played by Zosia Mamet, pronouncing that Nathaniel Hawthorne "can eat a dick". This kind of language is not out of place for the style of the show, which chooses to merge the dress of Civil War Era with the foul language and teen angst of the 2010s (not that I think teens were ever not full

MCR take a seat, we stan an emo queen

of angst). If you want a traditional period drama, keep walking because this show probably isn't for you. But if you're down for a little experimentation and up for merging the political and social climate of the 19th century with the discourse of today, you're in for a treat.

Dickinson does a great deal to tease a full life of pain and pleasure from the poet's written words. Here we get an example of queer love between Emily and her brother's fiancé that exists outside of modern labels. There is passion and romantic friendship and definitely sex, but the relationships is never analyzed heavily enough by the characters to cause any kind of anguish of identity.



The writers are too busy having Emily grapple with her identity as poet to leave much time for her to struggle with her sexual orientation, and I, for one, did not mind the ambiguity. This seems to be a trend in newer media—think HBO's *Euphoria*—of allowing relationships between characters speak for themselves without the need to categorize every instance of romantic attraction.

The arc of the series follows Dickinson's struggle to be accepted as a true poet, especially by her closest friends and family. From the first episode, it is clear that she identifies as a writer and has no qualms sharing her aspirations with others. She does not shy away from the title of "poet", but uses it regularly to present herself to the world. The most crushing moments for her as a character almost always accompany a family member's refusal to acknowledge this identity

or outright denial of her passion—particularly painful is a moment in which her brother (Adrian Enscoe) growls, "The only real poems are the ones in books!" This is a sore spot for Dickinson, whose father refuses to allow her to publish any of her works under her own name for fear the it will bring shame on the family name. This forces Emily to defend her identity as a poet without the name recognition to back it up. Her resilience in her refusal to be ignored as a serious writer is one of the most vibrant aspects of her character. She is the kind of stubborn, juicy heroine so many of us cannot help but love. Her greatest moment comes in the last minutes of Season 1, when she tells her father, "I am a poet...and there is nothing you can do to stop me."

I would be amiss not to mention the supporting cast, who all do their part in bringing a lightness and humor to the story of a poet so focused on the grim and morbid. Her mother (Jane Krakowski) and her younger sister Lavinia (Anna Baryshnikov) provide a more traditionally femininity counter to Emily's more "mannish" aspirations and mannerisms, but not without a hilarity and self-assurance that is refreshing in portrayals of domestic women of this era. One of the funniest (yet also deeply sad) moments of the series is the hiring of a maid for the family and Mrs. Dickinson's struggle to find an identity outside of the upkeep of the house. Her solution seems to tend towards the alcoholic and dramatic—honestly, if we get a second season, I hope we get a more satisfying resolution to Mrs. Dickinson's crisis of identity. She deserves better—give her a hobby or an illicit affair or something. Also, John Mulaney shows up as Henry David Thoreau, and it's exactly as weird and funny as you'd expect.

You should watch this show. If you love poetry, you'll dig it. If you don't? You should still watch. It is, more than anything else, the story of a creative, passionate woman, and who doesn't love those? If you don't have Apple TV Plus, just get the free 7-day trial and binge the whole thing. You won't regret it.

the paper's Guide to Illegal Streaming

By the paper Staff

Do you ever feel like you're being suffocated by streaming services? Like their cold, slimy, sharp hands are holding you down and making it impossible for you to escape their clutches? Like they've replaced your shoelaces with barbed wire and then tied your shoelaces together so that you trip, and then when you try to untie your shoelaces to be able to walk again your fingers get pricked? Like they've trapped you in a glass box with 500 hornets with one can of hornet spray, but there's no hornet spray in the can and instead it's tree sap which makes the hornets sexually aroused?

Us too.

Gee, wouldn't it be nice if there were some way to stream all these shows and movies for free? To avoid paying \$7 a month for Disney+? To stick it to the man? Luckily for us, there is. We asked our editors for their best tips and tricks for streaming the old-fashioned way: illegally. We proudly present the paper's guide to illegal streaming.

Jack: The first step is to use Bing instead of Google. Yes, Bing still exists, and unlike Google it doesn't filter out as many search results. For example, the first three results when you search "goodfellas full movie" on Bing are all from offshore streaming sites. The same search on Google yields the IMDb page for *Goodfellas*, followed by a Netflix and Amazon link. Also, if you search "reddit live tv streams", you can find streams for any channel, any time. You're welcome.

George: My tastes are much more sophisticated than my fellow staff at the paper. Being a connoisseur of exquisite anime, I use the online site www.9anime.to to catch up on most of my anime. This is a wonderful site because it doesn't bombard you with ads for things that you really don't wanna see. It's great in that it typically streams anime through the paid streaming service Crunchyroll but makes it free to watch and free

We are the solution, not the problem

of ads (Crunchyroll will play ads in the middle of streaming). One issue I will state is that it will occasionally open a pop-up for when you're trying to click a play button or another button that is a real button, but otherwise this site is great. Shoutout to the Kingdom of Tonga for having the internet domain .to, forever helping weebz get their anime fix before withdrawal kicks in.

Noah: If you wish to avoid fishy foreign websites, pornographic pop-up ads, dismal downloads, and



general malaise, Dropbox via Reddit is a safe option. Simply type into your search engine "movie name free Reddit." If you are lucky, a link to a Google Drive or Dropbox will appear with the movie file. Though this option is not available for most movies if you happen to have good fortune my technique generally provides a heightened level of cyber-safety and video quality. All of these techniques come with their own set of risks and drawbacks. There is simply no substitute for hard work and full payment.

Gabby: 123movies, guys. 123movies. Also, Putlocker.

Meredith: I've been scouring the web for years to find a way to access the sweet, sweet shows and movies I unfortunately miss because I refuse to watch cable or shell out for all of the streaming services. It's Netflix's fault, once they removed "Monk" from their library I had to turn to crime. But fortunately streaming has become its own worst enemy. The advent of Disney+ has caused circles I frequent online to start furiously sharing their favorite piracy websites, and now I shall share this boon with you. "gowatchseries.fm" has all the "Monk" you need, and more. I watched all of "Chernobyl" last week - do you think I'm spending money on HBO? I'd rather die! I don't know if my computer has any viruses; definitely use this with adblocker and be quick to the draw. This is one of those sites that when you click on it, it opens a pop up before it does literally anything, so be ready to click that close button. For all the hoops you might have to jump through, it's worth it.

Katelyn: Listen closely, if you have a Dell laptop, do not use couchtuner. You will get 700 viruses

and get yelled at by your mom and end up crying in the middle of Best Buy. Just don't do it. I'm sorry, mom. I just wanted to watch "Downton Abbey" without paying for Amazon Prime. Sue me.

Zahir: Get lots of ad blockers and use incognito windows, those porn sites will not stop sending you messages and your mom will start asking questions, and your grandma will ask what those two boys are doing on the computer and you will have to give the talk to your cousin and worst of all, your dad will be the least mad and that's kinda scary.

EVENTS

What: Macbeth

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: December 6th, 7th and 8th @2pm (maybe)

How much: Free

Why: Two of our very talented editors are performing in the M-word show - please show support!

What: Lessons and Carols

Where: St. Paul the Apostle Church (LC) and University Church (RH)

When: December 7th @8pm (LC) and December 8th @2:30pm and 4pm (RH)

How much: Free

Why: Two of our other very talented editors are performing festive holiday carols - It's a 10/10 time.

What: David Lynch Art Exhibition

Where: Sperone Westwater Gallery 257 Bowery New York 10002

When: November 1st - December 21st; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm

How much: Can't find info

Why: David Lynch is a sick director and this limited time exhibition is one you shouldn't miss out on!

Cats: The Movie Gives “Hell on Earth” A New Meaning

By Katelyn Cody

Copy Chief

It's the most wonderful time of the year. I should be frolicking around in a pile of leaves, drinking hot chocolate, and preparing for Christmas; but instead, I am being haunted by CGI humanoid cats in the lead up to the release of the movie version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1981 musical, "Cats."

"Cats" is easily my least favorite piece of theater; it might be my least favorite thing in existence. Not only do I hate it, I am absolutely terrified of it. When I was little, my grandparents had a VHS tape (yep, I'm old) of "Barney and Friends" that I loved to watch. However, in order to get to the good stuff, you had to suffer through a commercial for a taped version of the London production of "Cats", and I would cry through it until finally, someone realized they could just fast forward and I'd be fine. That commercial plagued me and I have not known peace since.

The new trailer for the upcoming

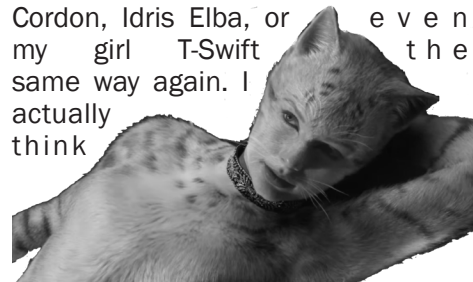
Why? Who asked for this? Not us...

movie was released on Tuesday, November 19th and it's bringing back a lot of painful memories (haha "memories," get it? The most famous song from the show is "Memory"). Normally, I would do everything in my power to avoid anything having to do with this movie, but because I love "the paper" so much, I took one for the team and watched it. This version of the show was actually slightly less terrifying to me, although it did not make me hate it any less. I think that because the movie is animated, it is not as unnerving as having actual human beings dressed in skin-tight cat suits, but the whole humanoid-look is still present.

I actually saw the Broadway revival during my freshman year because my dorm had cheap tickets and I thought it would help me overcome this bizarre fear. It didn't help. It might have even made it worse because in the stage production, the stage had been built up to connect to the mezzanine so the actors could go

into the audience. So there I was, innocent little college freshman trying to enjoy the perks of seeing Broadway shows that come with going to school in the city, confronted with a nightmare-inducing humanoid cat-thing crawling on the seats less than ten feet away from me. That is the image I see in my head every time I pass an advertisement for the movie.

The trailer made sure to highlight the film's star-studded cast as a way to get people to watch this monstrosity, since a wide-range of celebrities in the cast is about the only thing this movie has going for it. I personally don't think it helps, because I will never be able to look at James Cordon, Idris Elba, or even my girl T-Swift the same way again. I actually think



that Taylor Swift has betrayed the cat-lady community by being in this movie.

It has also come to my attention that Taylor Swift co-wrote a new song for the movie with Webber, the original composer, and it was released as a single last week. Again, I took one for the team and listened to it, and all I have to say is Taylor, honey, what are you doing? You could be doing so much better with your life other than associating with this nightmare masquerading as a motion picture. And you, the reader, probably have much better things to do with your life than watch this.

10/10 would not recommend watching this movie. I reviewed the trailer because there is absolutely no way that I would pay my hard-earned money to watch this movie, even if it was just to review it for "the paper". I love this publication, but not enough to put myself through that.

Season 2 Appears to Be End of the F***ing Series

By Katelynn Browne

Arts Editor

I first began "The End of the F***ing World" in late March of 2018 when I had the worst cold of my life. (I was sick for all of that spring/Easter break combo which sucked). I was immediately hooked, and watched pretty much all of it in one sitting since I had nothing better to do. And then the show ended on a huge cliffhanger. At first, I was enraged at the seemingly abrupt end, but as I sat with it a bit longer, I realized that this was a great ending to a great show.

So, when season 2 was randomly dropped on Netflix a few weeks ago, I was unsure of what to expect. I often feel Netflix will overextend a show's life to capitalize on viewership rather than ensure a quality show. (For example, I think Stranger Things should probably have ended at season 2). And, with low expectation, I dove into the second season. And again, I was immediately hooked.

The show opens with a new character, Bonnie, detailing her hyper-controlled upbringing by her abusive mother. This leaves Bonnie,

Our lamentful arts editor reviews End of the F***ing World Season 2

unbeknownst to her, craving genuine affection and approval from another person, and thus vulnerable to manipulation from Dr. Clive Koch, the serial killer that James and Alyssa

In prison, she discovers that Dr. Koch has been murdered by James and Alyssa, and she plots her revenge on the two.

Bonnie's revenge ultimately drives Alyssa and James back together after 2 year, who were formerly separated due to the beach incident (and Alyssa's mom making James break up with Alyssa). While James seems to be kinder (no longer numb), Alyssa battles the traumatic effects



murdered in Season 1. Bonnie and Dr. Koch pursue a relationship, one Bonnie believes to be monogamous. She later discovers another girl from her college at Dr. Koch's home and believes him to be cheating on her until he explains that the girl was plotting to ruin his career with rape allegations. This causes Bonnie to kill the girl, for which she goes to prison.

of her near rape and witnessing the murder of Dr. Koch. This causes her to jump into marrying her boyfriend in an attempt to feel something. Ultimately, she realizes that she is unable of loving someone in the way that they deserve.

Season 2 approaches people processing and dealing with trauma in an interesting way, specifically with

Alyssa and Bonnie. Alyssa internalizes her trauma, seemingly feels empty and can't understand why. Bonnie, on the other hand, externalizes her trauma by seeking her revenge. She first tries to kill others, and after attempts to kill herself because she feels she can't live a life with so much pain. However, Alyssa and James explain to her that it's possible and worth it, despite it being hard.

Even James deals with trauma in an interesting way—he clings to his through the physical manifestation of his father's ashes.

The heavy stuff aside, season 2 has its humorous moments and all-in-all proved to be an excellent addition to the first season. It answered all of the questions we were left with at the end of season 1, without creating any new cliffhangers or strong need for another season. The ending felt neat and tidy, and the show feels complete. And I'm quite happy with it as it is. I don't feel there will be another season, but knowing Netflix, who's to say. I highly recommend the entire show.

Zahir Watched *Watchmen* but Who Watched Zahir?

By Zahir Quader

Features and Lists Editor

Who watches the watchmen? I watch the *Watchmen*, or more accurately I watch *Watchmen* the TV show that is, there is also a comic but that is a whole different story (Read the comics—it helps the show make 1,000 times more sense.) Anyway, the TV show *Watchmen* takes place about 30 years after the conclusion of the original comic series and picks up in a world scarred by its events. It is not all fiction though, as many real world events also impact the story and give us a look at some parts of American history that our teachers in high school didn't like to talk about. The main protagonist of the series is Sister Night who along with her fellow police officers have donned masks and in some cases costumes due to some tragic events that occurred in their city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Follow her journey as she encounters faces old and new as we explore life in the aftermath of the comic series.

Created by Damon Lindoff, the creator of the leftovers, he picks off where Alan Moore left the original heroes years before. This show is full of twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat as you consistently wonder what is going to happen next.

There are some issues though; for example, this show is definitely made for those who have read the comics. There are so many references, casual comics, and Easter eggs that go over the average viewer's head. While I have read the comics, there were many moments where I had to pause and go on a twenty-minute Wikipedia deep-dive just to understand a two second comment. This caused me to pause many times an episode just so I could understand a casual com-

It's not *The Truman Show*; It's the Zahir Show Now.

ment that, while is super exciting to many comic book nerds, makes little to no sense or has any relevance to the plot as a whole. These constant Easter eggs and references, while exciting and fun for those with a history or familiarity with the franchise, for the average viewer it just makes the show confusing and there are many

the sky, President Robert Redford, or 51st state of Vietnam, this entire world is quite wonky (though again reading the comics makes the situations make a lot more sense). Still there are so many things that are just plain weird that just leave you confused and with a dash of WTF sprinkled in.

trying to live their lives as the doomsday clock slowly ticks to midnight and the powder keg that is Tulsa is set to explode.

This show is full of everything a good TV show needs, trauma, romance, betrayal and mystery. It truly brings the world of *Watchmen* to life and introduces it to a new generation and refreshes it for those who experienced it before, it takes you back to the past and brings one of the most beloved series back to the public sphere.

Watchmen is a series that shows a darker side of the superhero genre. It explores how insane it is for people to do extrajudicial violence. The trauma that drives one to do what they do and the impact it has on the world around them and how it continues this cycle. It shows how a loss of purpose can impact one's lives and drive them to do things they usually would not do and the biggest message of all what is lost will always be found.

In general, this series is very interesting and a great successor to the comic series, with tons of fun Easter eggs and references that will give every *Watchmen* fan loads of excitement. Contrastingly however it is kind of hard to go into this series blind as understanding the lore and events of the original graphic novel are extremely necessary for anyone to follow the story properly. Essentially this series is amazing to watch but, is quite confusing for those who do not understand where it is coming from.



moments where the average audience member would simply be kicked in the head with some random events that seemingly come out of nowhere. *Watchmen* is a great show with many twists and turns but enjoyment is heavily dependent on familiarity with the source material.

Even without knowing the source material, the world itself has many strange and weird occurrences that make it different, yet also familiar. From random squids raining from

The acting is quite good as everyone fits their part perfectly. With a solid cast of actors such as Jeremy Irons they fit their roles very well and truly immerse you in this damaged world. In many ways it makes subtle nods to problems in our own world from Alt-rightism, racism, historical violence, police brutality, governmental abuse of power and so much more. (Pun Intended). In a world scarred by so much trauma and violence this series also focuses on how people are just



Merry Christmas From THE PAPER

Who is **Naughty** and Who is **NICE!**

Naughty

Jack - INSULTED SANTA'S MOM

GABBY - SHE KNOWS WHY

ZAHIR - TOO HOT

GEORGE - NOT PC

KATELYNN - TOO MANY Ns

LIV - SHE WASN'T HERE

MARTY - LOOK AT HIM

SHELBY - SKETCH AF

JULIA - NOT CHILD

HENRY - I DON'T REMEMBER

ABBEY - CRABBY



NICE

MEREDITH - BECAUSE

KATELYN - EXCELLENT CE

ASHLEY - DOESN'T DO MUCH

CHRISTIAN - NEEDS THIS

ANGELINA - SHE ASKED NICELY

NOAH - BAGEL BOI

NORA - BALANCE

OMKAR - COOL NAME

ALEXA - NETO BURRITO

SEBASTIAN - BEST BOY

TAYLOR - SUPER SWIFT



FEATURES AND LISTS:

HOLIDAY Edition

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Just Like Mariah Carey I have decided to sing a song to our editors. I don't want a lot for Christmas (I don't celebrate it #Wallah4Allah) but, our editors all want something special underneath the missile toes. At least I hope it is something like that because if I read one more sad boi article I will smash this computer right now. So let's see what happens! Our question of the issue is "All I want for Christmas is _____!"

Fuck You Peter by a Vengeful Man

All I want for Hanukkah is to go see Good Morning America. Ever since we were RUDELy denied ACCESS last March by a staffer named PETER because we arrived too LATE, it has been my mission to prove my dominance over Peter by getting into the show. Peter, if you're reading this, I'd like my priority tickets, please. And don't worry, I'll be there by 4:30 AM, sharp.

Imma Sad Boi by a Dead Man

I've now reached that certain age where you stop caring about all the stuff you get and start worrying about being content with your life and the people around you. Honestly, I just want to be happy with my life situation this Christmas. I want to be sure I know what I'm doing with my life, have a stable, healthy, relationship, and decent grades. I'm sure that's too much to ask cause usually most people never get all of those and they always lack one or all so I'm not exactly holding out hope, but maybe that's fine. Being just ok isn't necessarily a bad thing, but just to go through the motions of good enough wouldn't be so bad.

Toetally Not Creepy by a Man of Culture

Listen, I'm a normal guy. I use aftershave, I exclusively eat hotdogs with mustard on them, and play with my Hot Wheels on Friday nights.

But every now and then, I like to get a little freaky, ya know? I asked my girlfriend to send me feet pics, but she said no, so I asked my ex-girlfriend, who also said no. I would ask my sister, but my last name isn't Lannister. There's just something about dem toes that gets me going like nothing else does, ya feel me? If you don't, that's okay. Could I just get a pic of your big toe though? Text me: 800-888-8888.

Not Much as Changed by a Sane Person

All I have ever wanted for is the heart and body of Nick Jonas. Specifically, Year 3000 Nick Jonas. Its is my jam! Nick Jonas has been my husband since I was 12 and I don't see that changing. (That bitch Priyanka is just a phase I give it 2-3 years tops.) He is my love and my life. I have his body pillow, all his used tissues and I haven't washed my hand since the 2008 meet and great. I love him and I would die for him!

Jar Jar by Jar Jar

Mesa want Jar Jar! him so sexy he so muy muy! Hesa the besta! No Constesta!

Bladez Baby by the Coolest Person in Cool Town

All I want for Christmas is rollerblades. I feel so trapped, so confined by my mortal limbs. I can't stand taking hours to walk to places on my feeble legs. They're so weak. I'M so weak. But rollerblades are humanity's response to our own evolutionary inadequacy. With wheels on our feet, we can conveniently travel further and faster than ever before. Once Santa brings me my rollerblades, I'll be able to fulfil the dreams of my ancestors to get places fast. People will see how dope I look on the blades, and soon everyone will be blading with me. So I guess what I really want is an impactful social revolution surrounding rollerblading.



Harry Styles
“Watermelon Sugar”
Olivia Langenberg

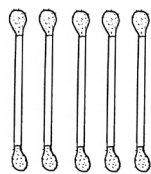


Hot girl summer will never end so long as Harry Styles continues releasing music. Fans were elated to hear the next single from his sophomore album *Fine Line*, which he debuted on Saturday Night Live last week. It sets a different tone from the first single, “Lights Up,” in which he croons, “Do you know who you are?” over and over. “Watermelon Sugar” is much more of a radio bop, with seemingly simple lyrics: “Tastes like strawberries on a summer evenin’..”

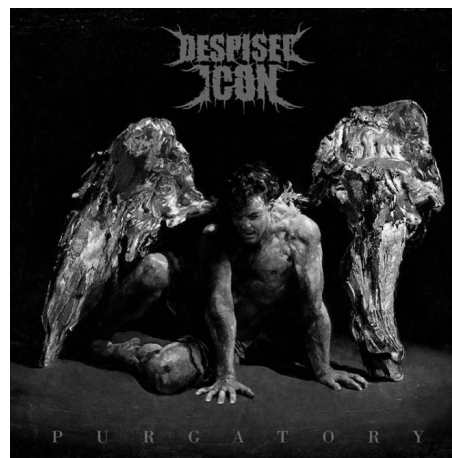
HOWEVER, many wondered if Harry was being cheeky with it. Zane Lowe of Beats 1 asked him if the sweet fruity tune was actually about oral sex, to which he responded “Oh, is that what it’s about?” Cute. As if anyone could forget his *Rolling Stone* cover where he admitted that his upcoming album was all about “having sex and feeling sad.” Styles must have a thing for fruit symbolism, considering the track “Kiwi” from his first album, alongside another track from *Fine Line* called

“Cherry.” He commented on it in a tweet that looked like it came straight from a fan: “Kiwi walked so Watermelon Sugar could run.” Indeed, sir. “Watermelon Sugar” is an elevated “Kiwi” in the sense that it is *incredibly* catchy and less upfront about its sexual theme.

I’ve never felt like more of an aggressive stan than that last paragraph there... Referencing not one but THREE Harry quotes in a short review? I need to get a grip. Unfortunately, it seems as though that will never happen. To absolutely no one’s surprise, I’m stoked for Harry’s album, which is due to release on December 13. He also admitted to experimenting with psychedelics while making the album, so I’m intrigued to see what came of that. Bold of him to release a summer song in November, but then again, Harry breathes and the stans go wild (myself included). Can you really blame us though? The man has it all. Don’t believe me? Watch the SNL episode he hosted. If his delightful charm doesn’t get you, the flared pants certainly will.



Despised Icon
Purgatory
Christian Decker

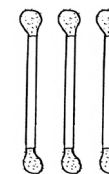


Deathcore is one of those metal genres that I have a love-hate relationship with. On the one hand the crushing riffs and breakdowns can really induce amazing headbanging fits, on the other hand sometimes every deathcore song can sound the same. Despised Icon’s newest album *Purgatory* fits both of these categories of deathcore albums. Something really cool about the album is that it starts off with an acoustic intro, “Dernier Souffle,” which is not something I’m used to from these kinds of bands. Besides their sometimes repetitive nature, the songs hit you like a freakin’ truck, and make for some pretty good workout music when you’re in the mood.

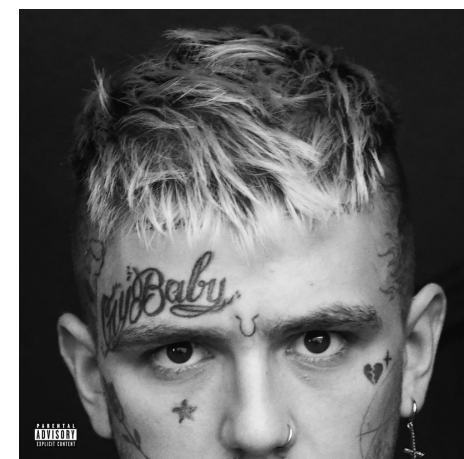
The title track comes out of nowhere after the slow acoustic intro. Riffs made to crack your skull combine with vocals that have both growling and screams, which sounds a lot like some of the post-hardcore stuff I’ve heard. “Slow Burning” later breaks your concentration from whatever you were doing to shake it up with some more funky riffs to head bang to.

Then there’s this weird song that has more screaming than growling called “Snake in the Grass,” which I think is about a toxic ex? I’m not really sure it’s a really weird song that is kind of placed in there and I’m not sure I entirely like it. That being said the rest of the songs seem to fit together pretty well. They just kind of seem to blend together. The lack of cool guitar solos doesn’t exactly help that fact either. All in all, it’s not a bad album but could use a few little tweaks to make it that much better.

Favorite Track: “Purgatory”



Lil Peep
Everybody’s Everything



I was surprised when I heard that Lil Peep had a new, posthumously released album on November 15th, which also was exactly two years after he passed away. The album is called *Everybody’s Everything* and it was released with a documentary film by the same name as a sort of soundtrack. I haven’t seen the film yet, which is in theaters. It seems to have been well received, especially by his fanbase, and even has a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes.

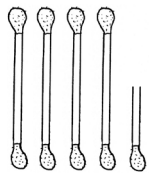
I admittedly was never a hardcore Peep fan but I listened casually and liked a lot of his music; he meant a lot to my friends so he was always around. The album is a mixture of new songs and old songs that were never officially released. I can’t imagine the pressure his producers were under to finish the album well, but overall I’d say they did a great job. It wasn’t overproduced, which I think is pretty common for posthumous releases where the artist didn’t have influence over the entire process.

The heaviest part of the album for me was the song, “walk away as the door slams (acoustic)” featuring Lil Tracy. It’s an acoustic version of the song by the same name that he

Christmas Bops!

released in 2016. It was the last song on the album, and was such an emotionally evoking way to end it. Making an already great song into an acoustic version as the final track was a bold move that paid off. It really isolated the emotion in his vocals that you don't normally pay as much attention to. Also, the acoustic guitar really stripped things down to an aching level of softness. This makes me want to see the film even more, because I can only imagine how my feelings towards the album would be compounded by the nostalgia of the documentary, especially during the last scene that accompanies the last song.

Favorite Track: "walk away as the door slams"



Frank Ocean
"DHL" & "In My Room"
Noah Kotlarek



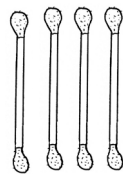
Frank Ocean has recently released two singles. The first, "DHL," named after the German third-party logistics firm provides a refreshing yet familiar flavor of Frank Ocean. The tune's simple bouncy yet restrained beat paired with Frank Ocean's tight and relaxed delivery makes for an echoey and reflective track. Frank Ocean's vocals sound as if he isn't trying. This doesn't mean he sounds sloppy. Rather, he makes it sound easy.

Though "DHL" is new to the public it isn't new to Ocean: "Think it's new it ain't new Old files just turned two yea it flew yea Still sound like it's coming soon." Here Ocean intertwines logistics and the song itself. "DHL" sounds like it could be a leak of his new upcoming work as in "album coming soon" or like a package that is coming soon and flew via cargo plane. You should listen to this song after a long day, it will relax you but listen to long and you may feel melancholy.

"In My Room" was released shortly afterwards on November 1st. Whereas "DHL" is spacey, loose, and seemingly gibberish, "In My Room" is more energized and focused. The content as well is also less cryptic. Ocean raps about his lover spending nights in his bedroom and how Frank doesn't put on a front for people, "You won't flinch when camera's flashing, flashing Not fake laid back, no it's natural."

Whereas "DHL" leaves you meditative and melancholy, "In My Room" will make you feel neutral The song goes by quickly and isn't memorable, not that it's bad. It's nice. "In My Room" is nice, that's the best way to put it. "DHL" is one of his strongest works, but "In My Room" is just a song. It could make for a nice little filler song or interlude on a full album.

Favorite Track: "DHL"



The Script
Sunsets & Full Moons
Ashley Wright



december 4, 2019

Maybe it's because I'm Irish myself or maybe I just like listening to depressing lyrics combined with upbeat melodies, but lately I've grown in appreciation for Irish pop musicians. From Hozier and now to The Script, I just can't help myself. And yes, I did just admit to unironically liking The Script. Shocking to some and unthinkable to others, but I have it on good authority that I'm not the only Script fan out there. In fact, the band has released three complete albums in the last five years—the latest of which is titled *Sunsets & Full Moons*.

Over the last decade or so, The Script's music has all had a very similar sound. Like Coldplay, you know a Script song when you hear it. This album, however, seemed to take the Script's signature sound and strip it of any originality or creativity that makes the albums stand out from each other. *Sunsets & Full Moons* is visually striking, going by cover art alone. Unfortunately, the actual content of the album was unable to deliver a similarly positive first reaction.

Of the nine songs on the album, at least 3 feel repetitive, cheesy, and frankly just boring. I, for one, don't need another song about the girl who broke your heart because she didn't even understand how to love herself. The Script's turn from pop-rock to more mainstream pop was one that worked for the most part, but it's beginning to seem like their music is no longer a creative process and is a formulaic one instead. However, the album did have some good songs as well. I personally really like "Run Through Walls" and "Underdog." But on an album this short, there should really be more standouts and less filler songs.

Favorite Track: "Underdog"



1. *Last Christmas - Wham!*

2. *Little Saint Nick - The Beach Boys*

3. *Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel*

4. *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas - Frank Sinatra*

5. *Christmas in Hollis - Run-D.M.C.*

6. *Jingle Bell Rock - Hall and Oates*

7. *Blue Christmas - Elvis Presley*

8. *Mr. Heatmiser - Big Bad Voodoo Daddy*

9. *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch - Thurl Ravenscroft*

10. *I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus - RuPaul*

2010's Glow-Up: Paper Editors



You can say it. We got hot.