



THE DISPATCH

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

"THE BEACON OF TRUTH SINCE 1974"

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SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



KIARA GELBMAN

Well it's that time of year again... Holiday Season! Between the days off of school and all the holidays just before the new year, there is much to be excited about. However, I know the holiday season can sometimes be overwhelming, so to keep your holiday spirits up, here is a five step survival guide to get through the holiday season.

Travel Hacks: Between the packed flights and busy roads, everything is hectic about holiday traveling. Whether you're flying or driving, make sure to expect delays and be prepared. To keep your mind from spinning as fast as a dreidel, try downloading your favorite music and movies and looking at the scenery you pass. Most importantly, if you are flying bring earplugs to tune out any crying babies.

Christmas Break Assignment Hacks: We all know the struggle of the day before break when you are given a sleigh full of work. If you don't want all that work hanging over you like a mistletoe, get it done right away. However, if you decide not to be like a kid on Christmas morning and tear into your work all at once, try spreading it out. If your mind stays in the North Pole the whole time and you forget to do any work, keep the holiday energy high and tell your teacher that a reindeer

ate your homework. You might not get credit, but hopefully the teacher will appreciate the creativity.

Present Hacks: If you do not want your holiday present to be waiting on long lines while listening to the same songs on repeat, make sure to shop ahead of time! However, if the holidays sneak up on you and you cannot shop ahead of time, you can always shop online or master the art of regifting. Let Santa take care of the rest.

Ugly Sweater Hacks: There's always an event where an ugly holiday sweater is required. Make sure to be prepared and get your sweater ahead of time either online or at a nearby store. Remember not only Christmas sweaters can light up your holiday, you can also have a lat-ke fun by getting a Hanukkah sweater!

Christmas Music Hacks: If you love to go straight from Halloween fear to Christmas cheer, this is the perfect time of year for you. However if you try and hide from those same Christmas songs every year, try finding some new Christmas music, always having earbuds ready and if all else fails just embrace the spirit and sing along.

Keep these holiday tips in mind as we approach the holidays. They will allow you to relax, grab a cup of hot chocolate and watch the chaos all around you.

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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1500 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, *The Dispatch* will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

OP-ED

PROCRASTINATION: HOW TO SPEND YOUR BREAK NHD FREE

ERIN YE

December vacation has dawned upon us, and we might actually get some proper sleep for the first time since the end of November vacation. The holidays: hot beverages (first and foremost), family time, Christmas music, and an escape from the schoolwork that's been creeping beneath our skin for weeks. We've finally caught a break.

**"To be fair, your
procrastination
doesn't make you a
bad student."**

Wait. Did you finish your NHD project? If you're reading this article within eyesight or earshot of one of our lovely history teachers here at Huntington, feel free to nod and make yourself out to be a dutiful student. You, my friend, are not fooling me.

A Character Analysis of the Procrastinator

To be fair, your procrastination doesn't make you a bad student. Increased stress has a scientific tendency to increase performance. Say you finish editing your paper at 11:59 on the day of the deadline: this may not be an ideal situation, but it also might be a solid paper that you're writing up. This is not applause for your procrastination. National History Day is a pretty big deal around here, and I've heard the stories of the students who finish their project in the class period before AP World, or the guy whose entire project was a rock. Those presentations probably aren't going to Hofstra, or receiving a passing grade, for that matter. There's balance when it comes to doing assignments; some stress is probably meant to be, but the type of stress that comes with beginning a project the night before it's due is a different, more dangerous situation.

You're also not alone. Around twenty percent of people identified themselves as chronic procrastinators in a recent survey, and 87% of teens admitted

to procrastinating on schoolwork. This means that at Huntington, up to 1392 of our 1600 students are putting off important tasks right now, and waiting to buy their Christmas presents on Christmas Eve. I won't call you out, but if you think I'm talking about you, I probably am.

You might not even be lazy. Procrastination comes from the Latin word *crass*, which means tomorrow. You're not doing your NHD work because you'd rather do something else you find to be of more fun or importance. Eventually, you'll begin to feel guilty, but even that's not enough to reel you in until it's far too late. Your brain cares a lot more about your present self than your future self because the cost of your choices now won't appear until later. Now though, the price you're paying is having to type up your bibliography in your room while everybody else is enjoying their winter break.

What You Can Do to Stop (or Start)

When it comes down to it, procrastination is a mindset more than anything else. If you decide that you're tired of having to pull an all-nighter every time something that matters comes up, you can take action to change your ways. To begin, tell yourself that you want to take action rather than need to. Rather than saying "I need to finish that dumb history project," think, "I want to be finished and fulfilled with NHD." Something as simple as a change in perspective can yield significant impact.

If you know that you want to start, yet the urge to commence hasn't dawned upon you, consider counting down from 5 and beginning your work at 0. Once the process has reached an opening, it's far less likely to stop. Once the ball is rolling, only an outside force can stop it. Newton's first law applies to cognitive science as well. Obviously, don't do this if you intend to continue lying...

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...in bed once you get to zero, feeling smug about how you tricked your own brain. Get it together. You have lots to do, and once the start is done, everything else seemingly falls into place.

So now you've started, but you've got a mountain to climb. Research has shown that the progress principle, the idea that you've made an impact on meaningful work,

greatly boost optimism and inspiration throughout your day. To maximize productivity levels, set small goals for yourself so that you're given more chances to achieve them. If your brain is constantly releasing serotonin and dopamine, you won't want to stop what you're doing. Think, you might actually enjoy doing your work.

The Conclusion to Your Stalling Ways

You've decided that you were done with your old habits, that you were ready to start weeks before the deadline and commit to procrastination-free life. Congratulations, you're now set to go forth, conquer the world. Enjoy all of the new-found free time you have that's not tainted with guilt and be sure to begin your quest to world domination now, so as not to procrastinate on that, too.

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GOING BACK INTO TIME WITH HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

BRIGID HANNON

Let's go back in time and learn more about the history of how our school became Huntington High School. In 1793, 43 citizens pledged to find the funds to raise a school building to help the young people in the Huntington community to get a high school education. Huntington High School has been sending young graduates to really good colleges in the United States to find every career field out there.

It all started out as a two-story building built across the Old First Church called The Huntington Academy. The school is now owned by the Town Hall. In 1857 on April 13, the New York Legislature made a law that created the Union School District, which is the first district in the state to offer public education above eighth grade. The first meeting was served by George A. Scudder, Smith Woodhull, Brewster Conklin, William A. Conant, James P. Jones and Henry G. Scudder who were local businessmen and were also residents of Huntington. In April 1858 the Huntington Academy was destroyed; the Union School on the same day was built. The school offered education through twelfth grade. The building opened in November 1858 with Algernon S. Higgins as the first principal. Higgins was also a teacher who taught many of the subjects that were offered in the school. At the time 220 students were enrolled at the school. The Huntington Board of Education accepted the rights and agreements of the Union School. The trustees said "there shall be one high school, grammar school, intermediate school and as many primary schools of locality of the primary pupils may require." During a Board

of Education meeting with a popular vote the Union School started offering free education in 1864. In 1897, the Union School changed its name to Huntington High School.

Our school mascot is what makes us who we are. Everyone would like to know what led to our school's mascot. Well the Blue devils mascot belonged to the Trinity College which is now Duke College. A man named Bill Class came to Hunting-



ton in 1929 and became the first athletic director. Bill, a Cortland graduate, created an athletics program. There was a group of sport teams that existed when he arrived. Bill also added an inner sports program for boys and girls. The school was known as "blue and white," but Bill wanted the teams to be something more. Mr. Class did some research and he decided that he liked Duke's mascot. So he ran it with Robert L. Simpson who was the principal at

the time. Mr. Simpson liked it too, so the Athletic Council allowed it. From the school year 1944/45 many of the teams called themselves the Blue Devils. At the time America was involved in World War II. While Huntington decided on Blue Devils as the nickname, it also has a patriotic meaning to it which was a big thing during that time. There was a monument for the French Army Mountain Infantry Division Chasseurs Alpins known as "Les Diable Bleus."

Huntington Union School District played an important role in Huntington education. According to many archives, education started on February 11, in 1657. The first school building was built in 1660, and other schools were built after that. The Huntington Academy was built in 1794, and closed in 1856-57. Huntington High School opened in 1857 with grades of 1-12. As the town grew, free education became more popular. The new Huntington High School was built in 1909-10 on the same site as the other school. Its name was changed to R.L. Simpson High School. Huntington in the early years had a graduation tradition. They would have the high school graduation in July at the First Presbyterian Church. In 1893, the event was switched to the Huntington Opera House, but it was soon changed back to the church. In 1911 graduation was held on Tuesdays, but in 1925 it was held on Mondays. Graduation was held in the auditorium for decades. In 1981 the ceremony was held outside on Sunday afternoon. For the first time in 2003, they held the graduation at 6 p.m. on the football field. Today's graduation ceremony is held at 6 p.m. on a weekday on the football field.

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100 VS. 101: GRADE CULTURE

MELISA TORRES

College applications have become the looming shadow that hangs over the senior class's head. Many are packing their resumes with extracurricular activities, leadership roles, high standardized testing scores, and their transcripts with

"The difference of a double digit GPA versus a triple digit GPA is the make or break point for some students..."

a high GPA. The first quarter has come to an end and the students who are applying to competitive schools are cracking down on their grade point averages. The difference of a double digit GPA versus a triple digit GPA is the make or break point for some students, and it has come into question whether this type of grade culture is good or bad for schools around the country. What exactly are the factors that contribute to this grade culture, what do students do in order to receive higher grades, and most importantly how does it affect students?

It is no secret that students have a higher chance to be accepted into competitive universities if they have high GPAs, but is it the greatest factor? Plenty of colleges look at applications holistically, meaning they

look at the entire application, and not just grades. However, students are told from a young age that getting good grades means getting into prestige colleges.

A positive relationship was shown between self esteem and high academic achievement in a study done by Mohammad Aryana in 2010. This study was conducted between 100 students, 50 boys and 50 girls. Students are finding themselves associating their self worth with their grades and this can drastically damage their self esteem. Some parents contribute to this by having an iron grip on their children's gradebooks, rushing to contact the teacher if one grade is out of place. This can place unnecessary stress on the students and their teachers, reinforcing this toxic culture. Students are driven to keep an eye on their grades because if even one homework is missing, it becomes the end. It is simply not possible for students to keep their grades high if they fill up their course load with honors and advanced placement classes. Some cannot handle

the combined stress of their extracurriculars and workload where they would give up sleep just to finish one assignment. This can cause them to burnout and give students chronic stress, shown in a study published in *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Students that are vying for a place at elite universities plan for rigorous course loads, even going so far as to taking six advanced placement courses for the weighted grade average and giving up lunch periods in the process. Are students really learning if they build their schedules around the classes that give them the highest grade point average rather than what they are actually interested in? Some students are aware that they may not do well at all in AP classes, but fill their schedules with them because it will look good on their transcript and not because they want to challenge themselves. This builds a toxic mindset where some students simply just want high grades and do not learn. As the marking period ends, students find themselves calculat-

ing their grade point averages and asking teachers for assignments that can help boost their grades to place on the high honor roll. The highly "coveted" titles of valedictorian and salutatorian make for tense competition between the top students because the difference of one point matters. This can apply to the corporate world as well, as people try to outdo each other for a chance at a promotion, encouraging the toxic culture in the real world.

Studies find that this culture does not only apply to high schools but even translates to colleges, especially elite ones. Before even reaching college, many find themselves burnt out and dealing with mental health problems because of the stress. Some never find a way to cope and resort to substance abuse. Anxiety, depression, and relationship problems can arise from chronic stress which can affect academic performance and become a full cycle. As the years pass by, studies find that levels of stress, anxiety, and depression increase. Teachers can

find themselves helpless as they watch students tear themselves apart over grades. How can they change the stressful culture if they seem to be a part of the problem as well?

While this toxic culture is a huge issue, it applies to a minority of students. If you look at an advanced placement class versus a regents class, you can see the huge difference in atmospheres. Since advanced placement classes are more rigorous, grades are given more weight on transcripts, making it even more vital for students to receive high grades. Some students in regents classes may find themselves dejected with their grades if they feel their grades are not "good" enough. However, grades are only one part of the college application and should not deter students. The gap between the unprivileged and privileged only widens. It is even more difficult for students to rise up into advanced placement courses if they are not on the honors track from the beginning...

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...it seems as though they are “doomed” from the start.

It is very despairing to see students losing their heads over grades

that simply won't matter in the long run. This can only be repeated over and over again, but students must realize and take the advice of adults that grades do not determine your self worth, or your

path in life. Grades matter, but they are not worth the many mental health problems students face. Rest assured - you students out there, worrying over your grades, will find yourselves forgetting

about that test grade in the next ten years. Define yourself by what you do and not with numbers on a transcript. Take a walk, look at the blue sky, and breathe. Find creative outlets to help cope with

stress, such as writing or coloring. Look at pictures of cats, or dogs if you're more of a dog person. Believe in yourself, Huntington High School.

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WORLD AIDS DAY 2018: WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE IN TERMS OF PREVENTION AND AWARENESS?

KERRIE JOYCE

December 1 is World AIDS Day, and was designated so in December of 1988 as a day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of the HIV, and a day of mourning for those lost from the often fatal disease. Although the pandemic was much more prevalent and concerning in the 1980s, the disease has not disappeared. In fact, approximately 36.9 million people worldwide were living with HIV in 2017, and 1.8 million people became newly infected with HIV. Since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981, 77.3 million people have been infected with HIV, and 35.4 million people have died of AIDS-related illness. While in the 80s hope for HIV+ patients was very slim, in recent years many new advancements in medicine and education of safe sex have made the illness more rare and treatable.

Thanks to these advancements in medicine, an HIV+

diagnosis is no longer the death sentence that it was in the 80s. These medical advancements include the introduction of antiretroviral drugs in 1996, the most popular and effective treatment being a combination of drugs known as (HAART). HAART was an extremely expensive drug that most patients couldn't afford. However more affordable, generic antiretrovirals have been released and are very successful in treating the illness by binding to the HIV enzyme called reverse transcriptase which is essential to the viral replication process, and therefore blocking HIV from making copies of itself. In schools, sex-education has become more advanced with federal regulations for what students need to be taught, mainly focusing on the use of condoms as the most effective way to prevent the spread of STDs, including HIV, and pregnancy.

As we ask ourselves what more can be done to raise awareness and pre-

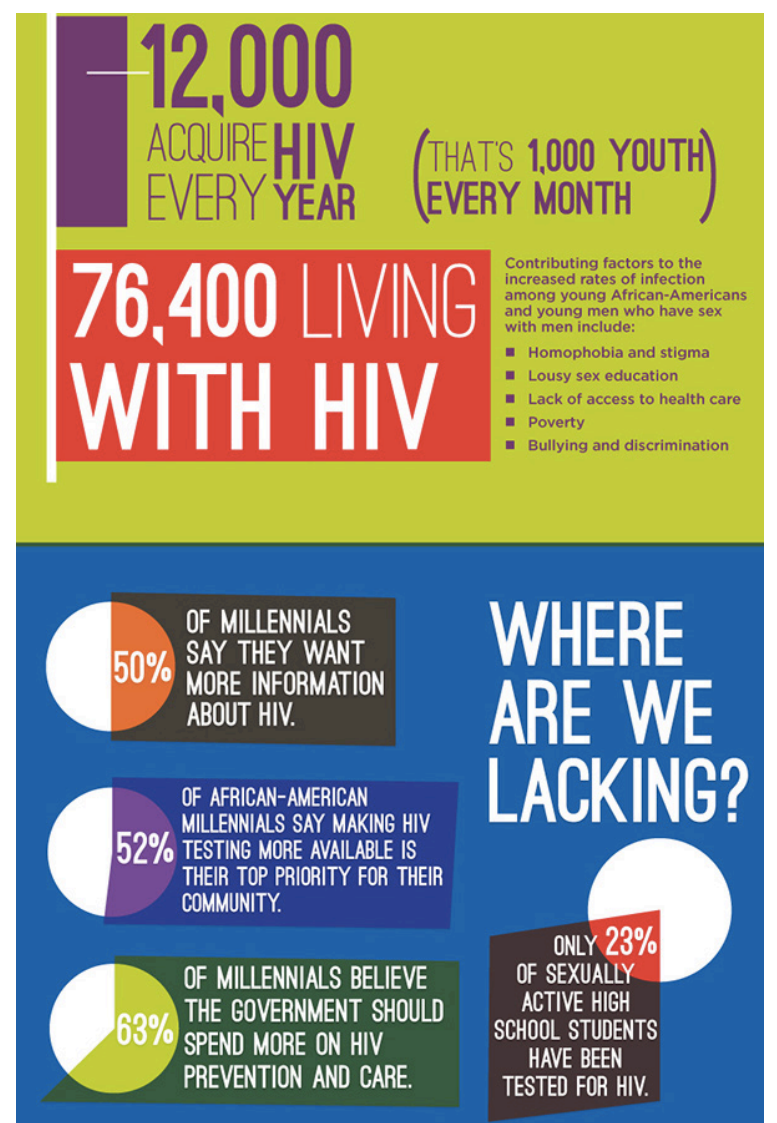
vent the spread of this illness, we must think in terms of prevention and awareness. One idea which I polled HHS students and graduates on through the HHS Dispatch Instagram, is whether or not schools should hand out condoms to students. 81% of responses said that condoms should be provided to students in school whether in health classes, the nurse's office or other means. While this is a good idea in theory, schools have tried to do this and ran into many issues, and there are federal regulations for what schools can and cannot provide. The main issue that schools ran into with this is students puncturing condoms and placing them back where they were being distributed. This not only raised safety issues, it created legal issues for schools because as they provided the condoms for students, and they were punctured, the schools could be found legally liable for the incident. While there are some issues with it, providing condoms to

students as education about safe sex is greatly beneficial, and if it could be worked out in a way with no legal or safety issues, we should try our best to do it. Our health classes teach a full sex education course including instructions on the use of condoms and education on why they are so necessary in prevention of HIV and many other STDs.

Overall, HIV is still an epidemic and is far from gone, but medicine and educa-

tion has come a long way in lessening the prevalence of the illness. This World AIDS Day, you can show your support by wearing the red ribbon, post on social media to raise awareness among your followers, and post graphs and statistics to raise awareness.

*All facts and statistics sourced from World Health Organization, International Partnership for Microbicides, and the UN AIDS Organization.



INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM: WHAT IS IT?

COLETTE BARRON

In today's society, the existence of diversity is visible. Some individuals advocate for diversity, while others do not. Diversity is also considerably involved in feminism as well. Surprisingly, in today's society, there is resistance towards diversity in the feminist movement.

A majority of individuals may view feminism in contrasting ways. Many may

"...feminism does not just apply to a specific race or sexual orientation. It applies to every single woman despite their apparent differences."

stereotype that feminism only applies to a certain majority of women. Those who stereotype believe that feminism only applies to women of a certain race, religion, sexual orientation, and appear-

ance. Since the early 1900s feminism has erupted into about four waves. The first, being women's right to vote, the second, being women's fight for equal pay and the third, diversity among women. Today, feminism is currently in its fourth wave. This wave specifically being, the awareness of sexual harassment. However, it is time to resort back to the third wave - diversity among women.

An absurd amount of women have placed their own standards on what type of women should be treated "equal." For women to place "standards" upon other women is absolutely absurd. As women, we have all been a part of our own lifelong struggle. It is apparent that women are the customary target for sexual assault. This does not concern race, sexual orientation, or religion.

Diversity and various identities among different women is called in-



tersectional feminism. Specifically, intersectional feminism is the understanding of women's overlapping identities. These different identities can be viewed upon race, religion, sexual orientation, income, etc. It is time for us as women to step up and to recognize the diversity around us. We, as women, are all the same despite our identities. It is important that all women step up as one. We also need to realize the disadvantages that several women face. Women

of a specific race, religion, or sexuality may be heavily penalized compared to women of a different race or religion. For example, Hispanic women are penalized both for their gender and race. While Caucasian women are penalized for their gender, but not their race. Those who are women but also minorities deal with additional discrimination compared to those who are not minorities. The same applies to women who obtain a sexual orientation other

than heterosexual. Women are also occasionally penalized if they receive a lower pay or income compared to other women.

Moreover, feminism does not just apply to a specific race or sexual orientation. It applies to every single woman despite their apparent differences. It is time that intersectional feminism is recognized in order for different individual perspectives to unfold.

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AMAZON DEVELOPS NEW FEATURE THAT WILL PREDICT YOUR PURCHASES BEFORE YOU MAKE THEM

EMERSON FORBES

Amazon, once a beacon of hope for those who loved shopping but despised leaving their homes has become a drag on the people it once spared from the great out-

doors. There are at least a dozen obstacles that one must suffer through in order to successfully complete a purchase. Fortunately, this is no longer the case. Earlier today, Jeff Bezos himself announced that a new Amazon feature will

soon be released that will allow Amazon to predict your purchases before you make them. The consensus among most people seems to be that this new feature will help everyday citizens avoid the unnecessarily long process of ordering on Amazon.

According to Chloe, a twenty-year-old residing in Newfield, "This feature is definitely an answered prayer. I see this as a huge step in the right direction for Amazon. I recently wrote a series of letters to Amazon Headquarters following an or-

der that did not meet my expectations. I ordered a product at 2 pm from work, and I clearly stated that the product must be at my house by the time I was home. Much to my dismay, I arrived at my house...

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...thirty minutes later and I did not see any packages anywhere on the property. It took nearly FORTY HOURS after I ordered my product for it to arrive! When it finally did, it was carelessly placed by my mailbox, which is at least thirty yards from my front door. Keep in mind that it is wintertime, and Amazon expected me to endure temperatures hovering in the mid-thirties and retrieve my late delivery myself!"

This is just one example in a long list

of crushing burdens imposed on Amazon's customers. Another is the vast array of choices and user reviews customers must suffer through in order to make a proper purchase. Why can't Amazon just tell us what's best for its users? At first glance, it seemed as though this upcoming feature would answer these problems, but this is not entirely the case.

Amazon has recently hinted towards some slight problems that could occur when this new feature is activated. Sam Gilbert, a Coordinat-

ing Officer at Amazon Headquarters, had this to say. "The main issue our subjects are freaking out about is this whole idea of mind reading. To answer the most common concern, mind control is and always will be a possibility. If you really think about it, mind control is something Americans are very familiar with. How else to explain, other than mind control, the proliferation of the fidget spinner, which dominated the lists of top-selling toys just last year. There's a lot of options out there if you



are looking for shoddy merchandise. Basically, what we are saying here at Amazon is stop kidding yourselves and accept your place in life as our subjects."

Well, there it

is folks. Amazon has revealed its true colors as our corporate overload interested only in sucking our paychecks dry. Are we supposed to just accept this? I know I do.

THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: A DEVASTATING RECORD-BREAKER

CASSIDY CASABONA

The ongoing fires in California have forced people to leave everything behind and run from the horrific conditions they have created.

People's lives are completely changing with the traumatic wildfires occurring in Northern and Southern California. According to CBS, there have been a total of 71 deaths, with more expected, from the catastrophic Camp Fire in the North. The Camp Fire has burned 148,000 acres and is marked as the deadliest wildfire in California's history. The fire, being 52 percent contained, has left 1,110 people to be unaccounted for in the month of November. The Woolsey Fire in the

South has caused 3 fatalities and has burned 98,362 acres, but thankfully it is close to being put out, as it is 82 percent contained. Although these numbers change every day, it is clear that the wildfires have done a devastating amount of damage.

Smoke from these fires has gotten so severe, that schools have closed and flights have been cancelled. California currently has the worst air quality in the world due to these fires. The smoke can cause serious health effects, including respiratory problems and cancer for those who are frequently exposed to the smoke.

Many people express their sympathy to the thousands who have lost their houses, as the fire continues to spread.

Firefighters are taking all lengths to try to stop the fires, but in the meantime people are urged to evacuate and take several safety precautions.

Trump Visits California to Discuss the Fires

On Saturday November 17, President Donald Trump traveled to California after the amount of deaths increased. During his visit, Trump met with the Governor, Jerry Brown, and Governor-elect, Gavin

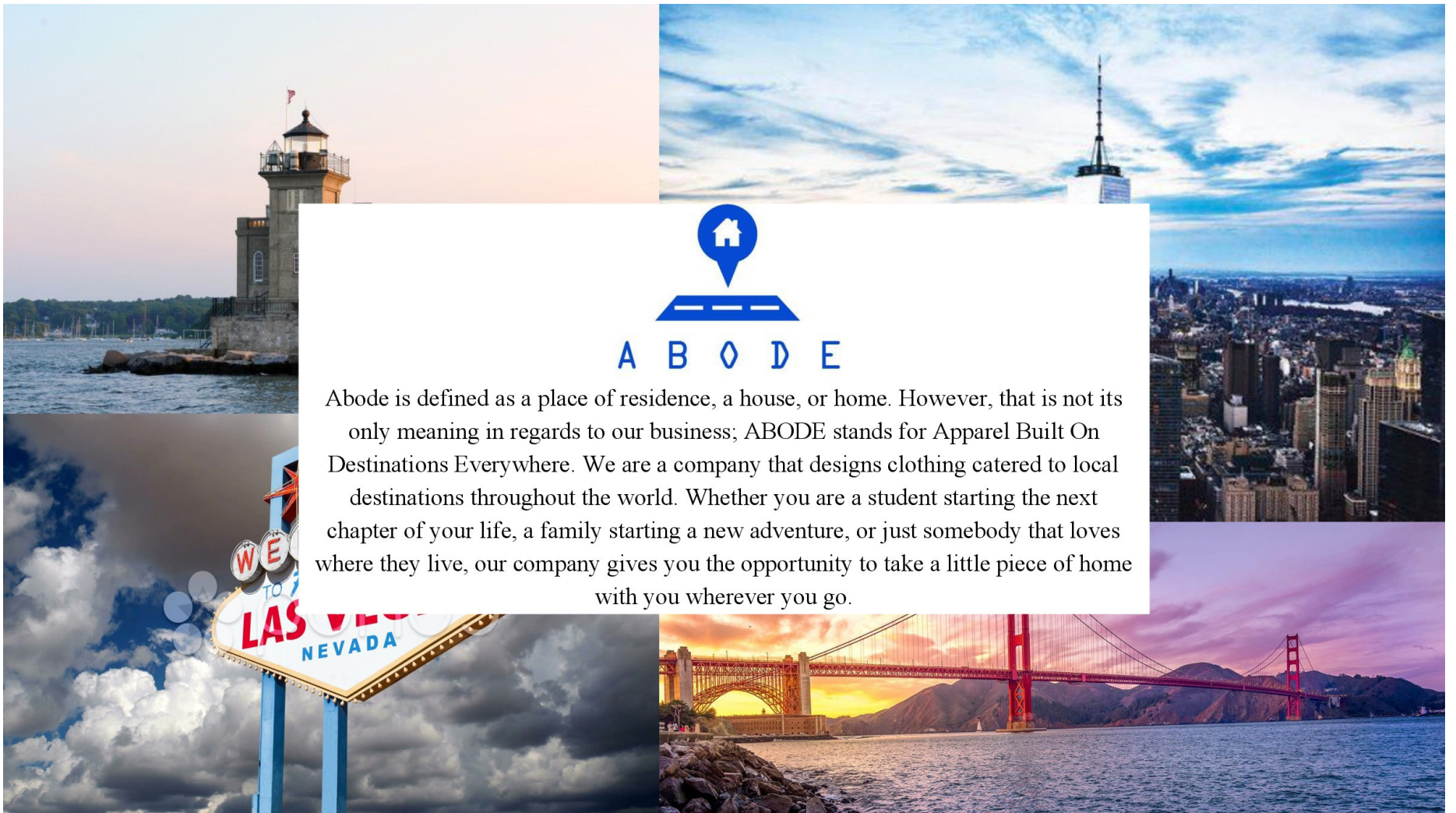
Newsom, to tour the destroyed homes in Paradise, California. According to CBS, Mr. Trump claims that poor forest management is the cause of the fires. On November 10, Trump sent out an insulting tweet toward the state of California, threatening to take away payments from the Federal government if the fires aren't put out.


People had mixed opinions about President Trump visiting the state of California. Some were

not fond of his trip to the state because they felt it was not right of him to insult forest management and then come visit the people of California. However, some believe that it was good for the president to come view the fires' destruction to inform others about this event.

*Editor's note: this article was written in the context of the fires as they were occurring.





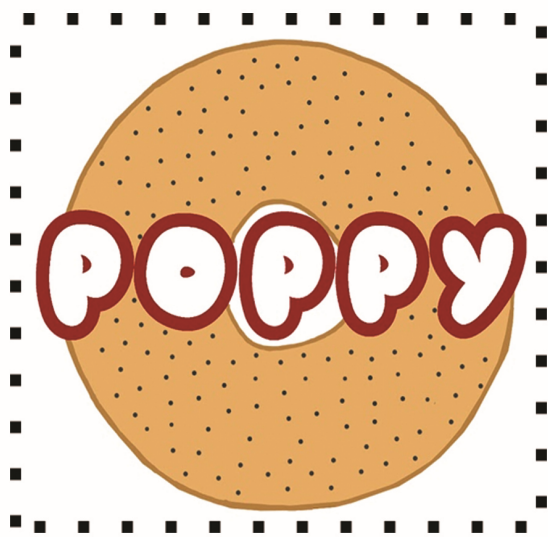


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Giving Bagels A Second Chance

Here at Poppy we are dedicated to reducing the massive amount of bagels wasted everyday in America. Bagels are enjoyed by many but preserved by few; **roughly 50 percent of all food produced in America is thrown away.** That's 120-trillion pounds! We are committed to stopping this by turning stale old bagels into something new and tasty. After due contemplation, we decided on... bagel chips! With a **major ingredient virtually free of cost** and a factory willing to make our bagel chips, our grassroots company is both willing and able to grow into something truly special. Our devoted staff is working hard to ensure that **our company helps to alleviate the amount of U.S food waste,** and that we use this soon-to-be garbage to make something so remarkably fresh and profitable. This is our mission, and we will pursue it with tenacity until our goals are completed...**one bagel at a time.**

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ VS. THE POLITICAL MACHINE

FINN MALONE

On November 6, history was made when Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was elected as representative for the New York 14th Congressional District. The representative-elect will become the youngest serving representative at 29 years old.

"Growing up in a working-class background gave Ocasio-Cortez firsthand experience on the issue of income inequality..."

gaining experience as an intern for the late U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy. However, Ocasio-Cortez had to pick up jobs waitressing after the 2008 economic recession and to help support cians who announced their intentions to run in the upcoming 2018 primaries. She also raised eyebrows during her initial campaigning, refusing donations from corporations run by ly unopposed. Her win sent shockwaves through the entire Democratic party, as many thought Crowley would be reelected nonetheless, and even be in the running for Speaker of has not shied away from the public eye. On her first day on Capitol Hill, she participated in a protest in support of changing America's policies on climate change, while paving the path



asio-Cortez was born into a working-class family situated in the heart of the Bronx. Her father was a small business owner and her mother was an immigrant who hailed from a small town near Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Growing up in a working-class background gave Ocasio-Cortez firsthand experience on the issue of income inequality as she watched her parents work hard day in and day out. Despite that, her parents worked hard to get her a quality education, with her ending up going to a public school in Yorktown, roughly 40 minutes away from her hometown. After graduating, she attended Boston University and received degrees in economics and international relations in 2011, even

her family after her father passed away from cancer. Yet, she became active in her community, volunteering as a community organizer. In the 2016 election, she was an organizer for the Bernie Sanders campaign. Soon after, she traveled across the United States to aid in political protests, such as the ones held in Standing Rock, North Dakota. The protests at Standing Rock sparked something in Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, finding herself falling deeper and deeper into politics. She became locally involved, joining the Bronx chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. On May 17, 2017, she was one of many budding politicians who preferred to go door-to-door, canvassing and talking face-to-face with her constituents. The self-described Democratic Socialist supported universal healthcare under "Medicare for All," free college tuition, having the rich pay their fair share of taxes, and a more environmental-friendly New York. Note, this is not some radical communist agenda, but rather policies supported by a majority of Americans. When the primaries rolled around, she defeated the Democratic incumbent, Joe Crowley, in a 57% to 43% win. Crowley had been representative of the district for the past 19 years, winning the past five elections mainly the House, should the Democrats gain the House back. Ocasio-Cortez then would face her Republican challenger, Anthony Pappas, in the November midterm. By that time, she had become the subject of ire to conservative pundits, who slammed her for being too left-wing and accused her of being more of a Communist, rather than a Democratic Socialist. Regardless, the negative attention seemed to work in her favor, as her campaign gained a large following from across the nation. When the midterms came around, she won with a 77% to 13% result, winning by a difference of almost 90,000 votes. Since her election, Ocasio-Cortez for "green jobs." She also brought attention on her social media about the issue of picking up and moving to the nation's capital. Representatives are prohibited from working any jobs on the side during their transition to the House, leaving a person a three-month waiting period between their first and last paychecks. She also came out in criticism of Amazon's bid for a headquarters in Long Island City, while being on the receiving end a 1.7 billion dollar tax break. Now all eyes will be on the representative-elect's next move, with the media avidly watching.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE H. W. BUSH



George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, has covered national news with his recent passing. Bush passed away on November 30th, 2018, at 94 years old. Prior to his own presidency, he served as Vice President to President Ronald Reagan. He had also served as a U.S. Representative, a U.S. Ambassador, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Director of Central Intelligence, and served in the United States Navy in World War II, ranking as a Lieutenant. He attended Yale University, was married to Barbara Bush who recently passed, and has 6 children, including former U. S. President, George W. Bush.

LAS "PATRONAS" ALIMENTAN A LOS INMIGRANTES DE CENTROAMÉRICA QUE VIAJAN EN "LA BESTIA"

**ILSI MARTINEZ
EUCEDA**

"Las Patronas" es el sobrenombre que los inmigrantes que viajan por tierra hacia los Estados Unidos les dan a las mujeres que les lanzan comida hacia el tren "La Bestia" sin ningún pago. Estas mujeres han estado ya alimentando a los hermanos inmigrantes por más de 20 años. Se levantan temprano a cocinar ollas gigantescas de comida. Ellas no tienen descanso, ese es un trabajo duro de todos los días sin descanso, puesto que todos los días pasa el tren "La Bestia" repleto de inmigrantes colgando de donde puedan sujetarse y así esperar a cruzar ha-

cia "El Otro Lado".

En las aldeas cercanas de la frontera de México y Estados Unidos, cien-

"...cientos de mujeres se reúnen a cocinar y preparar comida para aquellos hombres, mujeres y niños, viajeros a fuerza de la necesidad económica y la violencia desmedida que se vive en los países de Centroamérica..."

tos de mujeres se reúnen a cocinar y preparar comida para aquellos hombres, mujeres y niños, viajeros a fuerza de la necesidad económica y la violencia desmedida que se vive en los países de Cen-

troamérica, esa será la única comida que harán en días, quizás hasta semanas. Caminando semanas por los desiertos fronterizos los inmigrantes lo dan todo por el sueño americano que les promete una mejor vida.

Las meriendas usualmente son elaborados con frijoles, arroz, pan, tortillas y atún. Algunas veces huevos hervidos, verduras o frutas que los aldeanos proveen para cooperar. Pero son pocos los que proveen puesto que esta muy difícil conseguir hasta para alimentar a sus propias familias, pero estas personas lo dan todo por el hermano inmigrante. "Las Patronas" trabajan en grupo, organizadas con

una pizarra con los nombres de las cocineras, las que limpian y las que reparten la comida de la semana, algunas mujeres preparan más de 100 almuerzos a la semana, algotras se encargan de recoger las donaciones de comida y en buscar botellas de plástico por las calles lavarlas y llenarlas de agua para acompañarla con la comida y más que todo para los largos y duros días de caminata en el desierto. Cuando todo está listo tienen que llegar a tiempo que pase el tren y empezar a lanzar la bolsa de esperanza y amor que preparan.

"Las Patronas" insisten que la labor continuará realizándose pase lo que pase.

Es una obligación que se han autoimpuesto porque lo más importante es ayudar al hermano necesitado, "La palabra del evangelio convertida en acción". "Las Patronas" enseñan una lección de vida, ayudar sin esperar nada a cambio.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

"Las Patronas" Feed Immigrants From Central America Who Travel in "La Bestia"

"Las Patronas" is the nickname that immigrants who travel by land to the United States give women who throw food to the train "La Bestia"...

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...without asking for any payment. These women have been feeding the immigrant brothers for more than 20 years. They get up early to cook gigantic pots of food. They have no rest. They do it everyday since “La Bestia” passes everyday full of immigrants hanging from where they can hold and wait to cross to “El Otro Lado.”

In the nearby villages of the bor-

der of Mexico and the United States, hundreds of women gather to cook and prepare food for those men, women and children, travelers by force of economic necessity and the excessive violence that is lived in the countries of Central America. That will be the only meal they will get to eat in days, maybe even weeks. Walking for weeks in the border deserts, immigrants give everything for the American dream

that promises them a better life.

The bags of food are usually made with beans, rice, bread, tortillas and tuna, sometimes boiled eggs, vegetables or fruits. But there are few who provide since it is very difficult to even feed their own families, but these people give everything for the immigrant brothers. “Las Patronas” work in groups, organized with a blackboard with the names of the cooks,

the cleaners and the ones that distribute the food of the week. Some women prepare more than 100 lunches a week; some are responsible for collecting donations of food and to look for plastic bottles in the streets to wash them and fill them with water, so they can eat their food and, above all, for the long and hard days of hiking in the desert. When everything is ready they have to arrive in time for the train to pass and start throw-

ing the bag of hope and love that they prepare.

“Las Patronas” insist that the work will continue to happen no matter what. It is an obligation that they have self-imposed because the most important thing is to help the brother in need; “Las Patronas” teach everyone a lesson in life - help without expecting anything in return.

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2018: YEAR IN REVIEW

KERRIE JOYCE

*Editor’s note: Please mind that this is being written in mid-November of 2018, and I am unfortunately not a psychic or a time traveler, so if I miss a headline or two... sorry folks.

First off, I think we can all agree that a LOT happened in 2018. A lot as a nation and a lot in our personal lives, and I truly do hope 2018 was an amazing year for you. But if it wasn’t, 2019 is coming and already set to be a phenomenal year for you to thrive and flourish in whatever aspects of your life you desire... depending on your attitude, of course. Maybe 2018 kicked your butt, maybe it was the best year of your life so far. Perhaps in 2018 you got your license, got a new dog, new boyfriend, better grades or blah blah blah... or maybe

you lost someone close to you, got fired from your job, or faced some other adversity. No matter how 2018 went for you, we all grew and flourished as people, and will have to enter the new year whether we like it or not. Aside from our personal developments, there were several huge news headlines in 2018 that shocked us throughout the year as well, good and bad. 2018 was a chaotic year for the United States, and as citizens and human beings these top news stories deeply affected us, for better or for worse. With new White House cabinet members, midterm elections, multiple movies grossing over \$1 Billion dollars, conquests for women and the LGBTQ+ community, and 308 mass shootings according to the National Gun Violence Archive. So here it is: the good, the bad, and the ugly... well, controversial.

The Good

Black Panther was the top grossing movie of 2018

A milestone for many reasons, Black Panther was probably the most impactful thing that happened in 2018, in my opinion. It was the first mainstream American comics movie based on a hero of African descent, and it was directed by Ava DuVernay, making her the first black woman to direct a film that grossed over \$100 million in the domestic box office.

Kendrick Lamar won The Pulitzer Prize

Kendrick Lamar became the first rap artist to win the Pulitzer Prize for his album “DAMN”

Laverne Cox was on the front cover of Cosmo

Laverne Cox, iconic Orange...

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...Is the New Black actress, became the first trans woman to be on the cover of Cosmopolitan Magazine, an iconic magazine for women's health, fashion, and pop culture.

Jordan Peele won an Oscar for Get Out

Jordan Peele was the first black screenwriter to win the Oscar for best screenplay for Get Out, the first horror movie based solely on racism.

Women in Saudi Arabia became allowed to drive

The country repealed its ban on women drivers and women are hitting the road.

Record-Breakers for women, LGBTQ+, and minorities winning political office in the 2018 midterms

History was made in the 2018 elections with 117 women winning political office, including the youngest woman to ever be elected to Congress, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the first Native American Women to be elected to congress, the first Muslim women to be elected to congress, and the first openly gay man to be elected governor.

Crazy Rich Asians

Crazy Rich Asians was the first movie of its kind, giving much needed representation in Hollywood to Asian Americans.

Beyonce and Jay-Z released "Everything Is Love"

The "Me Too Movement"

The Me Too Movement began and gained mass support this year after the revelations of sexual misconduct in Hollywood by many powerful figures, including Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey. The movement

has given a voice to victims across the nation and has created a new era for our generation, where victims of sexual violence will no longer suffer alone and silent.

The Bad

Mass shooting at college bar in Thousand Oaks, California

13 people were killed at Borderline bar in Thousand Oaks, many of which were students from Pepperdine University and other local schools. Many of the victims were also victims of the Las Vegas mass shooting where many were killed at a country music festival. The shooter was a marine veteran and posted on Instagram during the shooting.

Anti-Semitic mass shooting in Pittsburgh

11 people were killed when an anti-semitic gunman entered the Tree Of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and yelled "All Jews Must Die" as he opened fire on worshippers.

Mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Though it feels it was much longer ago, the historic mass school shooting that resulted in the death of 17, was only in the beginning of this year on February 14th, 2018. The shooting at MSD in Parkland, Florida was the deadliest school shooting in our nation's history and gave light to the March For Our Lives Movement, which has become the largest, mainstream movement of our generation.

305 Other Shootings

There isn't enough paper, ink, or time in the world to list the amount of gun violence that occurred in 2018, but the good news is that both Democrats and Republicans are working to pass legislation that sat-

isfies both sides, and keeps us safe. While no legislation has been passed yet, I believe there will be because both Left and Right can at least agree that the amount of death America faced at the hands of guns in 2018 is astounding, and change needs to occur immediately.

California was ravaged by wildfires

Many are missing and have passed away as a result of the Woolsey and Camp fires that are destroying everything in their paths currently. Many people have lost their homes as a result of the fires in Malibu and Paradise, California. Multiple celebrities were victims of the fires and evacuated due to the fires spreading to celebrity populated areas in Malibu and Los Angeles.

The Controversial

Nicki vs. Cardi

The two have been feuding for quite some time, and recently got into an altercation at New York Fashion Week. Whose side are you on?

Serena Williams US Open dispute

In early September 2018, Serena Williams had a dispute with an umpire, Carlos Ramos, accusing him of sexism, and being a "thief" and a "liar" after he penalized her for being coached, and then she was further penalized for smashing a racket, and docked a game for her outburst. She was then defeated by opponent Naomi Osaka, and congratulated her on her win.

The Midterm Elections

Democrats won majority of the House of Representatives while Republicans maintained control of the Senate.

ECHO

JAMES KRETSCHMER

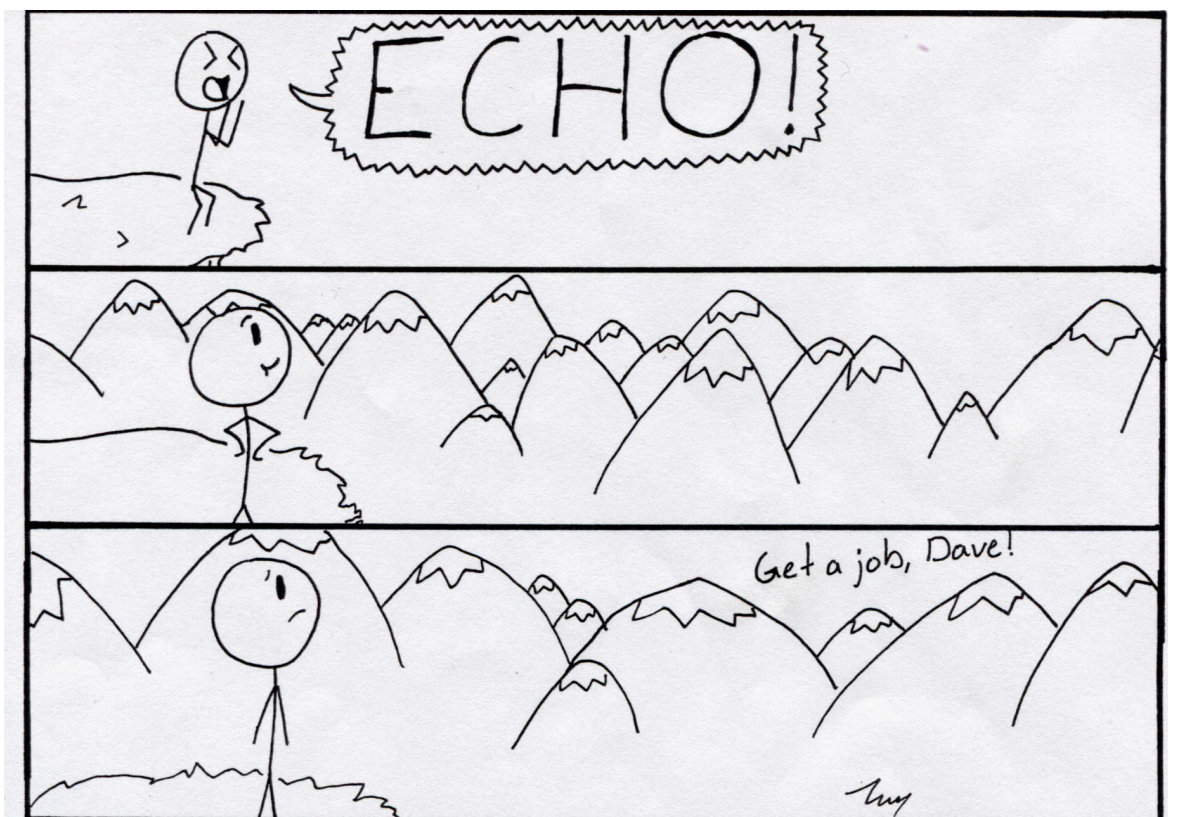
Have art to submit?

REMIND

TEXT @DISPATCHHS TO 81010

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IT'S THE ALIENS! OR IS IT?

HANNAH BAILIN

If you haven't heard, two Harvard astronomers have proposed that the unidentified flying object, Oumuamua, that passed through our solar system last year is an "alien probe." The astronomers are Shmuel Bialy and Abraham Loeb, and their exclamation wasn't an internet post gone viral. Oh no. They wrote a research paper to back up their claim, shaking up the scientific community and the country, if you caught it on the news.

Good thing is, I read their research paper so you don't have to. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy some of that good alien content.

The most confusing feat of Oumuamua was its ac-



celeration without the presence of outgassing. Bialy and Loeb claim that solar radiation pressure is the force that propels Oumuamua, and its pancake-like shape isn't a naturally occurring shape of comets and asteroids. But what does this mean? According to the two astronomers Oumuamua is artificial, theorized to be a light sail detached from some sort of advanced techno-

logical equipment. They go on further to propose that Oumuamua is a probe sent by an alien civilization to Earth, with its trajectory being that of a targeted probe instead of a random trajectory of an asteroid. This tidbit could explain Oumuamua's abnormal acceleration pattern, but that's pretty much it. The rest is up for speculation. It is possible that the same conditions that

birthed life in our solar system could have occurred in a small corner, or even several small corners, of the universe. But we haven't found solid proof of that yet.

One of the only leads we have is on Saturn's moon Enceladus. Cassini was able to confirm that the plumes of mist that reached the outer atmosphere of the moon were in fact water vapor. Beneath the ice-rock surface

of Enceladus is an ocean that could potentially harbor life. Microbial life that is. And that's not even the kicker to this whole situation. NASA revealed new findings about Oumuamua on November 14, breaking the news that it's more of an asteroid than "alien probe." Using the Spitzer Space Telescope, NASA was able to confirm that trace amounts of CO, CO₂, and dust were coming from Oumuamua. The fact that outgassing was not observed was due to a fresh icy mantle on its surface, and H₂O was a contributing factor to its acceleration.

Despite these findings, it's still kind of up in the air that Oumuamua could potentially be a probe. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

KEVIN
O'DONNELL

In the latter end of 2018 we haven't been given many memorable movies but we were given one movie that will be remembered

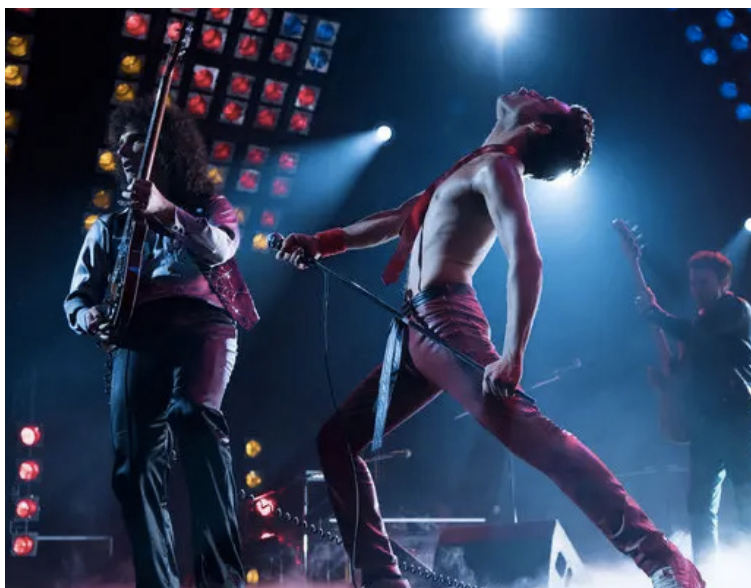
whenever this year is brought up, and that movie is Bohemian Rhapsody. The film is centered around the retelling of Freddie Mercury's life. It focuses heavily on themes of friendships and the divide of sexuality and

identity. Throughout the movie Freddie is shown putting his pleasure first following the philosophy of hedonism. This comes to affect the view his wife, bandmates, parents, and even himself has on his way of living. The middle of the movie focuses on this sexuality and identity struggle when they start hinting at Freddy's activities after the performances. These scenes are coupled with calls to his wife back home to show his choices in clear contradiction to the life he was living before. In the lat-

ter half of the movie this is amplified with the choices Freddie is given and in the face of the true problem that others try to keep him trapped in.

Even though this movie is a biopic while watching it you must take the crucial turning point scenes with a grain of salt as they are manipulated to be more cinematic. The movie had well fleshed out characters, as it should being a biopic, and the writing for the characters is all very well done. The cinematography always kept me attentive and there weren't many

times I noticed any unnecessary camera work. The only gripe I have is with the special effects in the movie really breaking my immersion toward the end. Overall this movie is a must watch while it is still in the theaters and is worthy of the praise it deserves. It is a breath of fresh air for people that regularly watch movies like myself and is a good break from the action and fantasy movies recently. I hope that Bryan Singer is given the opportunity to make more great movies like this one.



NETFLIX VS. DISNEY: THE STREAMING WAR THAT IS DESTINED TO HAPPEN

LUKE FARRELL

First came Blockbuster, which was a video giant in its

"...a new change is brewing up in its own right. It seems that a mouse is wanting to get its hunk of cheese in the streaming-age pie and its name is Mickey."

day, with direct movie rentals and buying options in all departments. According to the Washington Post, Blockbuster had over 9000 storefront locations in 2004, being the Goliath of its era, but then the David known as Netflix, the DVD direct mailing company, had arrived. It took down Goliath

with the slingshot of streaming and then proceeded to trample upon the entertainment scene. However, a new change is brewing up in its own right. It seems that a mouse is wanting to get its hunk of cheese in the streaming-age pie and its name is Mickey.

The Walt Disney Company has been a source for entertainment in the movie industry for years and has always turned out fantastic material, unless you watch any direct-to-DVD sequel. They too have felt the sting at the box office with Netflix's continual stomp on their success, but Disney is trying its own shot at a streaming service called Disney+. This is certainly major to note as Disney material will be taken off of Netflix by 2019.

Such classics as Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King and Inside Out will be unavailable to stream on there when the time comes. Additionally, Disney recently acquired 21st Century Fox in a major bid, with Comcast being the runner-up. Disney's share of that includes 20th Century Fox, with movies including Titanic, Avatar and the X-Men series all under Disney's realm. Also, the longest running sitcom ever, The Simpsons, is with Disney, which had already been pulled off of Netflix awhile back. Note that the deal did not include certain enterprises such as the Fox News Channel, Fox Sports or other sports properties within the company.

The main argument that people may

make is that Netflix's original content such as Orange is the New Black and Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt are what is pulling Netflix away from a dependence on 3rd party content, which is partially correct. According to Fortune magazine, Netflix has put out 88% more original programming for its audiences than last year, which is making the breakup better for them. However, the

"...this will end up being a big streaming war between two entertainment giants. Netflix, the rookie compared to Disney..."

same article states that 80% of users are watching non-original programming and that over 40% watch

no original Netflix content at all.

In the end, this will end up being a big streaming war between two entertainment giants. Netflix, the rookie compared to Disney, showing great promise in the entertainment industry with its streaming platform, but Disney no matter what will ultimately prevail from this situation. It has nothing to lose. Whether it be through merchandise or theme park rides, Disney is like a stock market portfolio. You do not want all your eggs in one basket, so you have to diversify your assets. Netflix, on the other hand, is a bull trader who is not prepared for the bear market to hit them.

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THE CULTURE SHOULD KANYE WEST BE CANCELED?

LUCAS KELLY

Surrounding Coachella headline rumors, the hashtag #cancelkanye was resurrected on social media. Kanye's behavior has escalated to a point where we have to talk. In 2018, West's behavior has landed him a spot for discussion and an application for acceptance into pop culture cancellation. Canceled icons

include R. Kelly, Bill Cosby, and Stacey Dash to name a few.

Should Kanye be added to the list? Let's break it down. As we know, within the months following his return to Twitter Kanye West was in the spotlight for his comments regarding slavery and his public admiration for the President. His Twitter account became a collection of his attempts to tweet inspirational quotes,

repeated praise of Donald Trump, and exposing his friends by posting nonconsensual screenshots of their conversations.

In order to understand Kanye West, a review of his past needs to be taken into account. Some would say Kanye has endured a lot as a young man. Less than a month after the release of Graduation in 2007, Kanye's mother, Donda West,

died at the age of 58 due to post-operative complications. Kanye's mother was an important figure in his life and his actions following her death imply her departure was a point of change. Those actions include his 2009 interruption of Taylor Swift's acceptance speech after winning the VMA Best Female Video award over Beyonce. If you recall, to state the obvious, Kanye

stormed the stage, grabbed Taylor's mic during her acceptance speech, and announced Beyonce's video was "one of the best of all time." Various celebrities expressed disapproval back then for the incident including the then-current president, Barack Obama, calling West a "jacka**" in an off-the-record comment. This looked...

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...like a turning point for Kanye's politics. In an interview with Charlemagne Tha God, Kanye expressed his feelings about Obama, "Obama came to me before he ran for office, to me and my mother, to let me know he was going to run for office, because I am his favorite artist, because I am the greatest artist of all time....so Obama is like, Ye, you're my favorite artist, I want your support, I'm running for office. Then, I went on stage. And it would have been good if this video didn't get out, but you saw the video [where Obama called him a jacka** for rushing Taylor Swift on stage at the MTV Movie Awards]. The same person that sat down with me and my mom I think should have communicated with me directly."

An offhand critique from the President of the United States can be really damaging to a narcissist. Since reactivating his Twitter account in April, Kanye has been a vocal supporter of another Obama critic, Donald Trump, and his presidency. His public support of President Donald Trump has angered and offended many of his fans. Kanye West represents a celebrity political culture against the status quo. West is an artist who doesn't subscribe to commonality. He shares a connection with Donald Trump, both arisen



from controversy with wide opposition. The climax of feed from Kanye's Twitter was in the month of April. This was the month Kanye made his most controversial statements. On April 25th, Kanye tweeted two important statements about his thinking.

"Free thinkers don't fear retaliation for your thoughts. The traditional thinkers are only using thoughts and words but they are in a mental prison. You are free. You've already won. Feel energized. Move in love not fear. Be afraid of nothing." — KANYE WEST (@kanyewest) April 25, 2018

Kanye West doesn't want to be told what to do, say, or feel. It suggests that he is against conformity, as well as negativity. His rally for "free thought" should be respected.

However, Kanye West is a celebrity figure who doesn't see the political severity of our times. He doesn't read into the context of his statements. Kanye has a right to an opinion and his support for the president should

not equal pop culture cancellation.

"You don't have to agree with Trump, but the mob can't make me not love him. We are both dragon energy. He is my brother. I love everyone. I don't agree with everything anyone does. That's what makes us individuals. And we have a right to independent thought." — KANYE WEST (@kanyewest) April 25, 2018

Kanye sees a country divided and only seeks to unite it. Donald Trump's captivation in the media is what Kanye may admire. That "dragon energy" Kanye talks about is another way of saying male energy. Male energy is something not abundant in the Kardashian-West family. During his visit at the White House, Kanye West explained this male energy and joked about his own family, "You know my dad and my mom separated, so I didn't have a lot of male energy in my home. And also I'm married to a family that, you know, not a lot of male energy going on. It's beautiful though. You

know it's something about, you know I love Hillary, I love everyone. Right. But the campaign, 'I'm with Her' just didn't make me feel, as a guy, that didn't get to see my dad all the time. Like a guy that could play catch with his son." In the eyes of Kanye West, Donald Trump represents a beacon of hope for male culture in a society with deteriorating patriarchal influence. Donald Trump may be seen as a father figure to Kanye West and as his crusader for masculinity.

To his statements regarding slavery, Kanye faced more criticism for tweeting that the 13th amendment should be abolished. For those of us who may have slept through social studies class, the 13th amendment abolished slavery. He later went to TMZ to explain the tweet saying, "There's people getting paid \$0.08 a week working for companies that are privately owned and a lot of them are first-time offenders. A lot of them are nonviolent crimes. And then also we deal with, we're

not dealing with the mental health and the therapy." The artist is talking about reforming the criminal justice system, not amending the constitution to allow slavery. He also is talking about the accessibility of mental health services to inmates in America's prison system. Kanye West is a sick man with a good heart. I believe Kanye is an artist who is aware of the problems that face this country and only seeks to reform. Kim Kardashian's visit to discuss prison reform at the White House and the eventual successful pardon of Alice Marie Johnson shows a level of concern from the Kardashian-West family. Recently, in response to the California wildfires, Kanye, in connection with Adidas and Yeezy, donated a total of \$500,000 to relief efforts.

With respect to mental health, Kanye has been unclear about his issues. In 2016, he canceled his tour after being admitted to UCLA Medical Center with...

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...hallucinations and paranoia. In the first visit to TMZ in May, Kanye admitted that he was once addicted to opioids after receiving liposuction. Upon releasing his album, *Ye*, fans noticed the description on the cover art. The front cover of the album read "I hate being Bi-polar...It's awesome." The album was full of lyrics giving insight to his mental state, re-

lationship with Kim Kardashian, and his new outlook on life. West later revealed he was diagnosed with a "mental condition" at the age of 39. However, in his October meeting at the White House with Donald Trump, West said that he was misdiagnosed with bipolar disorder and was just sleep-deprived. Kanye West is a troubled superstar and his statements shouldn't equal cancellation. The controversies

that surround Kanye show a genius in distress, a man in need of help, care, and a little love.

On the other hand, it's important to point out the timing of all this nonsense. Nearly a week before tweeting his love for Trump, West revealed a bunch of album dates including the upcoming release of his record, *Ye*, and another album with Kid Cudi. Controversy sells. Is Kanye in need of

help or is he a marketing genius?

Besides all that, this October, Kanye West looked to be stepping away from politics saying, "My eyes are now wide open and now realize I've been used to spread messages I don't believe in. I am distancing myself from politics and completely focusing on being creative." Kanye is focusing on his next album, *Yandhi*, which has been pushed back

several times as he improves it. There is no other artist that has contributed more than Kanye West to the transformation of hip-hop in the last decade. From 2004's *College Dropout* to this year's release of *Ye*, there is no doubt in saying Kanye West has contributed to the sound of our generation. Kanye West should not be canceled.

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WHAT'S GOING ON WITH LE'VEON BELL?

**CHRISTIAN
BELLISSIMO**

Le'Veon Bell is the five-year starting running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Bell and the Steelers are in hot water since he has refused to report to the team...The reason for his holdout: money."

Since 2013 he has played every year, proving he's an elite and elusive back for the team. Well, except for this year.

Bell and the Steelers are in hot water since he has refused to report to the team. The pro bowl running back did not report to the team in time for last Tuesday's deadline to play this season, making him ineligible for the year. The reason for his holdout: money.

Going back over two years, Bell and the Steelers have struggled to get on the same page regarding contract negotiations. The ten-

sions had been set between the two sides and would rise in February of 2017 when the organization franchise tagged him to keep Bell from leaving the building. Bell was not happy about that but said he would want to finish his career as a Steeler.

By April of 2017 another choice by the Steelers hinted at a future without Bell. The organization drafted local running back James Conner. Conner would spend his rookie season backing up Bell. However the coaches and staff remained impressed by him making negotiations with Bell a whole lot easier. Prior to the 2017 season Bell started his first holdout for \$15 million a year. The Steelers offered a 5 year \$42 million deal, but it wasn't enough for Bell. He didn't report to training camp for all of 2017 until he signed his franchise tender guaranteeing him \$12.1 million for the year which bothered him.

After the 2017

season, the drama continued. In January of 2018 Bell said he would consider retirement if he were to be franchise tagged again, and two months later he was. The tag put him at around \$14.5 million for the season, making him the highest paid running back in football at that

season games.

A few days before the season's start, Bell's agent informed the public that this holdout will take some time. His teammates were furious. Mike Pouncey, Ramon Foster, and David DeCastro were among the few teammates who had bad things to say. Three

for 47 yards.

As the season continued Conner had his ups and downs but remained consistent. After week four, Bell hinted at returning for week seven, but that wasn't the case. Le'Veon Bell failed to report to the Steelers by the deadline which means he can't play in 2018. He



time. Once again Bell was not happy, and for a second year in a row he was denied free agency for this one year pact. By the time training camp came around for the 2018 season Bell did not report yet again. This meant the Steelers would have to rely on James Conner who already was having impressive pre-

days after their statements came week one of the season which Bell would miss out on. This meant that an \$855,000 game check for Bell would be left on the table for no one to collect. But, it gets worse. James Conner absolutely dominates in his debut, running for 135 yards and catching five passes

removed the Steelers from his social media, no other team could work out a trade for him, and James Conner continues to play good as the team gets hot.

It appears the Steelers are doing just fine without Bell. Once the season ends it will be exciting to see where his talent will take him.