

THE STONY PRESS



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FEATURES



07

A Beautiful Project

Read about Project BEaUtifull and how a few students made it their mission to express the beauty inherent in everyone.

09

The Many Faces of Greece

Take the time to see into the faces of Greece, of an old city that houses many peoples of different ages and ideas.

15

The Lesser Known

You've never heard of these presidential candidates, their chances are slim, but for one reason or another, they don't care.

17

An Unrepresented Art

A can of spray paint is their brush, but these graffiti artists leave their creations in the open for the most people to enjoy.

The Grass is Unfairly Greener	05
And I Just Kept Running...	06
Lincoln in a Loghouse University	11
Working Out While Working it Out	13
Kickstarting, or Suplexstarting	19
This Guy's Going to Mars! Kind of...	21
3D Printing Your Way to NASA	22

OPINIONS

Quit it With Yo' Gender Rolls	27
This Guy Likes Justin Bieber	28
How Racism in America Never Dies	29

"There's no such thing as true love, there is only accurate writing and reporting."
- James Grottola

CULTURE

Full Up on Full Frontal	23
Broad Up on Broad City	24
Nostalgia Goggles: Sailor Moon	25
Pull List: The Vision	25
Who Really Wants a DCMU?	26

NEWS

Entrenched in the Migrant Crisis	01
At The End of Black History Month	03
Advertisers Don't Listen to Podcasts	04

SPORTS

These People Stab Hard: Fencing	30
These Guys Shoot Hard: Basketball	31
These ACLs Hurt Hard... Well, ya know	32

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Every Day is International Women's Day

Despite the progress women have made towards equality throughout history, the problems modern women face show that there is still a long way to go. The government and the American people are still in a pissing match about the logistics of legalized abortion. Women can't walk around the city without experiencing street harassment. Sexual assault and rape still plague women's lives all too regularly.

Young women are advised to save up a "Fuck Off Fund," even with the gender wage discrepancy where a woman

"daddy issues." Despite all the labels, "sexually liberated" is rarely used.

Politically, women are questioned about which candidate they support because of their gender. Highly regarded female figures criticized women who supported Bernie Sanders rather than Hillary Clinton, highlighting the generational gap between feminists.

Feminism is the belief of equality between men and women politically, socially and economically. However, the idea of feminism in today's society continues to be perceived as 'man-hating.'

Documentary Short for her film on honor killings in Pakistan, which led to action by the Pakistani prime minister.

"This is what happens when determined women get together," Obaid Chinoy said in her acceptance speech.

Women have been an integral part of every social movement for equality in America's history. Modern women are continuing this tradition: Beyoncé used the Super Bowl Halftime Show to send a message of black empowerment, Lady Gaga used the Academy Awards stage to highlight the plight of sexual assault survivors and Emma Watson

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD BUT IT WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT A WOMAN OR A GIRL

earns 79 cents to every dollar for a man. In the likely event of workplace sexual harassment or domestic violence, women save some extra cash to speak their minds without fear of financial insecurity.

Women in leadership positions are called bitches while men are rewarded for their aggressive behavior. Even women who serve their country are subjected to alarming levels of sexism and sexual violence.

Women who have a "high" number of sexual partners are subject to a double standard that society has created. For a man, the numbers game is considered normal or even encouraged, while a woman would be called a slut, whore or freak. She can be categorized as a sex addict or as someone with a psychological condition or as having

The media has created an "ideal beauty" that is impossible to achieve, creating unrealistic expectations for both genders. Women are expected to be thin but curvy, toned but not muscular, tan but not too dark and exactly 5'4" but not an inch over. The pressures of this artificial "ideal" come with its own health hazards, like anorexia, which afflicts women more than men.

Lack of diversity in Hollywood isn't exclusive to race. It also works against women, who continue to be marginalized, their stories rarely told. Across all fields in the film industry there is an absence in gender equality, both in front of and behind the camera. There was one positive indication of change this year, when Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy won the Oscar for Best

used the United Nations platform to call for women's equality worldwide.

In this issue, there are stories about women who are redefining beauty, pushing boundaries in comedy, running local businesses and supporting Syrian migrants.

March 8 is International Women's Day but beyond that, March is Women's History Month. In case you haven't done so in a while, call up your mom, aunt, sister, female cousin, grandma, girlfriend, female friend, wife or any other female figure in your life to let them know how much you appreciate, respect and support them.

- THE STONY BROOK PRESS



The Syrian Migrant Crisis

DEMI GUO

"Germany's Mutti has failed" is whispered across the Internet, across North America, across Europe, months across September 2015 when German Chancellor Angela Merkel opened borders to migrants trapped in Hungary and even years across 2012, when Germany agreed to resettle 5,000 refugees for two years.

Merkel's approval ratings in the German Infratest Dimap political research polls dropped lower than they have in four years, and her statement that refugees should return home after the war comes a time for introspection on the current situation in Europe. The United Nations Refugee Agency's reported 121,967 migrants have arrived by sea alone since this January, with 410 dead or missing, while anti-migrant protests erupt throughout Europe.

Despite evidence of concern on rapid cultural change in Europe—ranging between Norway's immigration department hiring a nonprofit organization, Alternative to Violence, to hold a program on teaching migrants recognition of sexual harassment to rising arson attacks on asylum centers, according to the Swedish Migration Center—they are still coming.

"It is unstoppable," Michele Brignone, scientific secretary of the Oasis International Foundation, a Venice-based research center on Christianity and Islam, said. "It has to take place, it is taking place."

Päivi Nerg, the Finnish administrative director of the interior ministry, and Anders Ygeman, the Swedish interior minister, announced plans to deport tens of thousands of migrants last month. Meanwhile the International Organization for Migration reported helping 779 Iraqis return from Europe in November, twice the number from October.

Merkel's open-door policy, failed when the chancellor's "opponents" closed down the border in Macedonia, the Balkan mountain route into West

and Central Europe after the sea route. Less migrants are reaching Europe, she noted, but the wave is still coming into Lesvos, Christiane Hoffman, writer for *der Spiegel*, Germany's most popular magazine, wrote in an article.

"I've met people from Syria," wrote Nadia Hararah, a volunteer at the end of the sea route in the Greek island of Lesvos. "Iraq, Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Kurdistan, but I'm sure there are some from other countries as well." Lesvos is as little as eight kilometers from the coast of Turkey, she said, where migrants have been staying in increments since a siege in Syria in 2011, according to the Florence-based Migration Policy Centre's timeline. This is only one of the countries Syrian migrants in particular have been staying since the first 5,000 fled the May 2011 Takkalakh uprising against the government for Lebanon.

Afghan and Syrian migrants—the majority nationalities, according to the UN Refugee Agency's regional overview—can at least register as refugees, Hararah said, while North African refugees are barred.

Hararah recalled meeting an ethnic Kurdish refugee, whose remote village, in which included his family, was killed by the Taliban in northern Iraq. Because he only spoke Kurdish, volunteers struggled to help him with medical treatment and to find services. The registration policy by Frontex, the European Union-aligned border authority, does not include Kurds, Hararah added.

While many Kurds are arriving, she noticed, ethnic Arabs from Syria are coming in lesser waves.

But the arriving migrants, many ref-

ugees running from war, are only the ones who can afford to leave, she said. Smugglers, according to National Public Radio, can charge hundreds to thousands per person to put migrants on boats to Lesvos. Deaths, according to the UN Refugee Agency, are often due to the boats capsizing. Furthermore, said Hararah, it costs 50 euros for the bus to Athens, and 50 more for the bus to the Macedonian border, from which migrants could reach countries with more open immigration policies like Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

The poor in war-torn countries can only walk. "They are still there," Hararah said. "That means there are still people who are suffering, who cannot leave."

Along with the 47 percent of migrants who are men, the demographic does not matter, Hararah added. "Just because you're an able-bodied man," she said, "doesn't mean you deserve less of a chance for life. It doesn't mean you deserve a less of a chance to live, doesn't mean you deserve a life less than a Long Islander."

"I'll see your Jihad, and I'll raise you one Crusade," echoes across the Internet, across North America, Europe, Asia, across 724 years from the fall of Acre and perhaps even 96 years from the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

Since the Crusades against Islam, Europe has long been at odds with its overlapping rival and neighbor, the Middle East.

Last month, the city council in Randers, Denmark made pork, a taboo Muslim food and central food in Danish cuisine, mandatory for public institution meals, including kindergarten and daycare centers, claiming an effort to





“preserve Danish identity and culture.” Meanwhile Chinese human rights activist Ai Weiwei closed an exhibition in Copenhagen and opened a life jacket exhibition over the Berlin Konzerthaus in protest after the Danish Parliament approved a law proposal that would allow confiscation of refugees’ cash over \$1,450.

“We have to imagine a way of modelling our institutions,” Brignone said, “and our way of life to include these people. The problem now is many issues are overlapping.”

One of these issues is sexism.

There are stories, said Victoria Kloska, a native resident of Bonn, Germany, of migrant children who refuse to obey female teachers at school. Her father, a middle school teacher, confronts these students often as a teacher of the German system’s “special help” classes.

Brignone remembers Muslim students of the opposite sex refusing to even shake hands with each other when he was studying at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris. “Islam is self-sufficient,” he said. It is important now, to learn from incidents like those that happened in France, where a girl was banned from class for wearing a long black skirt deemed to be openly religious by her teachers in April, he added.

In an extreme case, Merkel’s statement that refugees should return home after the war came as a reaction to the

incident where 500 women throughout the western German city reported being sexually harassed on New Year’s Eve. Thirty suspects were of North African origin, Ralf Jäger, the state interior minister, said, including 15 refugees whom were identified in connection to the incidents.

But the news is countered by Muslim protesters holding signs that read, “Islam gegen Sexismus”—“Islam against sexism”—between the Cologne Cathedral and Central Station, photographed by the European Pressphoto Agency. On the other hand, Syrian refugees like Hesham Ahmad Mohammad, according to the Independent, countered the Cologne attacks, afterwards telling the New York Times, “When I hear that in the news, I am sad. Because we know that there were bad boys and bad people. But the good people, nobody speaks about them,” Mohammad said.

Alongside stories of unsupervised young men running amok in Swedish refugee centers, including the stabbing of refugee worker Alexandra Mezher, there are stories like that of Alex Assali, who after fleeing Syria and Libya now serves soup and rice to the homeless in Berlin’s Alexanderplatz.

But even as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau opens up to refugees, effectively letting the wave flow to North America, there is no one way to look at the situation.

Hararah worked in Lesbos for two weeks before travelling between Israel

and Palestine, from which her father migrated to America. Most Palestinians, she said, are refugees.

Of all the struggles she faced as a volunteer, the biggest was translating languages like Kurdish, which no one could translate directly into English, and overcoming the passiveness of the migrants, who would not actively ask for help until approached. “Cultural understanding and education is so important,” she said. “Take for example, the fact that Americans don’t know more than one language is the reason why Trump is winning. We look open on the surface, but deep down we’re not.”

As for the cultural change in Europe and possibly the United States, she said, while the concern is valid, it isn’t “fair” for them, especially the latter, to meddle in affairs in the afflicted regions, “control their governments” and “benefit from their resources,” then not expect the people affected to find a safer place.

If anything, the migrant crisis is a test of time. “Let’s see how quickly they can resolve the war now,” Hararah said. “With the crisis coming into Europe now, maybe it’ll pressure them to give a fuck. And you can quote me on that.”

SILENT NO MORE

BLACK STORIES AT STONY BROOK

MICHELLE TOUSSAINT

Stony Brook University's Black History Month closing ceremony was a quiet eruption on the current realities of being Black in America.

Keynote speaker Yusef Salaam, one of five teenagers wrongfully imprisoned for rape in 1989, shared his experience with the crowd in a moment that one student described as moving. He spoke of the injustice he experienced, as well as how common it is to many within the Black community.

After the ceremony, Salaam further expressed his views. He used "All lives matter," a response to Black Lives Matter movement, as an example.

"We are in a scary country," he said. "We are in a place that doesn't give anything about us. We already know all people matter, but when you don't acknowledge Black Lives Matter—the exclusion of that tells us you can do anything and everything you want to do to us, and get away with it. That's what we're seeing. People getting choked out on TV, getting murdered in broad daylight, and for what?"

Esohe Aibangbee, a Senior Health Science major, voiced a similar view, saying that Salaam touched on things she already determined herself, particularly regarding the media. "African-Americans are made out to look violent," she said. "As if they're good for nothing and don't want to do anything. As if they don't want to make any progress. I feel like that's how the media portrays us. We're treated as second-class citizens."

She expressed how platforms like Facebook and Twitter help show how "blatant" injustice toward the Black community is. "Our lives pretty much don't matter," she said. "I cannot believe this man was in jail for seven-plus years and he was innocent! No one really even took the time to look into it further."

This is something Salaam says is more common than it seems. In 2014, studies estimated that there were about

120,000 people imprisoned for crimes they didn't commit, according to the Innocence Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to exonerating people who were wrongfully convicted. The large majority are African-Americans.

"It looks like things have gotten better," Salaam said. "People are no longer saying racial slurs on the street, but you now have it being institutional racism. That's the part that's worse. As a movement we need to fight the system together and that's how we make change. Because when you have a person like Donald Trump who continues to win, and win, and win," he added.

Dr. Zebulon Miletsky, Assistant Professor of African American studies and coordinator of the Black History Month events, says this is why the celebrations are so meaningful. "Obviously things have hit a tipping point in the nation," he said. "At the end of the day, Black History Month is a celebration for our community and those outside the community. In many ways, it's often more so for non African-Americans who learn about history through that month. Balancing between the hard-hitting issues with the fact that there is much

to celebrate—that's a responsibility."

Cheryl Chambers, Dean of Multicultural Affairs, called this year's Black History Month celebrations "greatness beyond anything this University has ever seen."

Miletsky says that this year's events far exceeded any expectations, and there was no better way to close the month than by having Salaam come and share his experiences with the Stony Brook community.

"It's almost beyond words what all of the central park five, including speaker Yusef Salaam went through," he said. "It's unspeakable. Those are years of youth that were stolen and could never be really replaced. And with everything he's accomplished since... The people who are fighting politically for Black lives, not only to matter, but fighting for Black lives to survive are very serious in what they're doing. I can't think of a more powerful message to leave everyone off with than that."

Aibangbee says that she's seen the university's effort to make African American students feel more represented on campus. African Americans currently make up about seven percent of the student population, according to CollegeData.

What stands out most to Aibangbee is when President Stanley locked arms with students outside the Student Activities Center, as a sign of solidarity with students fighting against mishandled racial incidents at the University of Missouri.

"I think it was really nice and kind that he did that and shows that we're a step ahead," she said. "They also just opened a Caribbean spot on campus. It shows that they're at least trying."

However, Aibangbee does feel that the university still has a long way to go. "It's going to be a slow process," she says. "But the first step is to be educated on what's happening. If you aren't educated, how can you be expected to do something about it? I think that it's important and I'm glad that it's happening."



Podcasting

ALSO KNOWN AS DVR'D RADIO

JAY SHAH

Imagine you're back in 2002 and you are reading 18th-century Russian satire while chomping down on some pho. Or you're doing laundry, paying dozens of dollars per cycle like a chump. Or even making cold-brew coffee in your weird mason jars that came with handles.

You might wonder, what else could I possibly be doing to make better use of my time? My hands are busy, and television is just too darn distracting.

Well don't worry: It's 2016, and podcasts are a thing.

Think of it as radio on demand. No longer are you imprisoned to the schedules set by the morning radio gaggle and their disk jockeys, forever jockeying their "disks." No, you set your own schedule. You want to listen to a two hour-long podcast about retail horror stories at 4 a.m.? Or a podcast that goes into the nitty gritty of American healthcare policy? Or a show that deconstructs songs to explain their origin? These are all very real and free to listen to on most smartphones.

This revolution in podcasting as a medium should come as a surprise to anyone who has paid attention to radio's decreasing role as an American media platform. While radio continues to be a bastion for conservatives and a source of daily news for commuters, its cultural resonance on a broad scale has diminished significantly, mostly due to competition from television and the internet. Families aren't exactly tuning to their home-radio sets to listen to the new "Abbott and Costello Show." (It probably doesn't help that both Abbott and Costello are long dead.)

But podcasting is changing the paradigm. It's relatively cheap to create and distribute, which allows a new, younger generation to begin producing the entertainment that they would want to listen to.

The medium has matured a lot ever since its beginnings, which were mainly discussions about technology in 2006. Entertainment and political coverage has intensified over the years, and as these podcasts compete with one another, many are using

unique hosts and gimmicks to draw in audiences. While television has traditional genres that most shows fall into, like family sitcoms where children always learn a lesson at the end and the father is always a buffoon, most podcasts have a loose, improvisational feel to them. The Read with Kid Fury and Crissle doesn't just explore pop-culture and hip-hop: They have developed a unique voice and structure that separates them from the hundreds of other podcasts. They're drawing in hundreds of thousands of listeners by creating a connection with their audience. They use listener-question segments and famous "reads" where they present a passionate monologue about a topic they feel strongly about, such as the release of Beyoncé's "Formation" music video. Other shows, like Song Exploder, discuss music, but each episode focuses on one song, and the hosts interview the artist to explain the creative process and the work that went into creating it. NPR's All Songs Considered takes a different angle, creating a weekly playlist of new artists to share.

The genres aren't just tied to musical entertainment: Comedy is evolving on the platform because of the freedom it grants comedians. Scott Aukerman's Comedy Bang Bang has famous actors, musicians and comics on in a half interview, half improv schtick that gives the participants the freedom to try out material on a large audience. Nerd Poker has a bunch of comedians and friends record their weekly Dungeons and Dragons game, and How Did This Get Made? reviews terrible movies and tries to find some logic in why they were created. Comics have managed to use podcasts as a launchpad for their careers, and famous television writers like The Daily Show's Elliott Kalan like are using the platform to generate supplemental income.

Advertisers are beginning to realize the potential of podcasting too. While most podcasts are sponsored by digital companies, like Squarespace and Harry's razors, larger companies,

like Chevy and movie studios, are beginning to sponsor shows. Celebrities are even starting to include podcast appearances as part of the media circuit they are obligated to complete for recently released movies, like Gillian Jacobs and Paul Rust appearing on Earwolf network shows to plug their new Netflix show "Love."

While podcasting could be considered just an offshoot of radio, the medium has developed its own structure and style as a new generation of creators and listeners help push it into the mainstream. Its ability to use the internet and smartphones as a way to increase convenience will only see podcasting grow and continue to find its place in the media landscape.



FEATURES

KEEPING THEM OUT

HOUSING ON LONG ISLAND

RONNY REYES

In the last two years, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has continued to expand the affordable housing program throughout the five boroughs. Ensuring that the housing units produced are sustainable and aligned with the needs of the city's changing demographics is a key feature to his Housing New York: A Five Borough, Ten Year Plan.

Brooklyn and Queens find themselves with greater opportunities for development on an island where the average price for a single-family home is nearly \$380,000, according to a 2015 article published by the Long Island Index, a research group that records and studies the changing demographics on Long Island.

But the values of the homes and the payments that come with them can vary substantially throughout Long Island, with prices ranging so high that a home can become unaffordable for all but a few.

"From all the different stages of life—a young person looking for their first home, middle-aged buyers moving or seniors looking to retire—the process of getting a home involves paying too much of your income for housing on Long Island," Lisa Tyson, director of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainability and racial justice, said.

Find The Best, a data search engine, listed the two counties that make up most of the Long Island suburbs—Nassau and Suffolk—as some of the most expensive counties in the entire United States. The Long Island Index found that in 2013 over half of Long Islanders found it difficult to pay their rent or mortgage every month.

Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Michael Zweig, an economics professor at Stony Brook University and di-

rector of the Center for Working Class Life, elaborated on the 30 percent rule established by the government, calculating that a majority of Long Islanders would have to be paid over \$40-an-hour in order to comfortably spend only 30-percent of their yearly income on housing.

"Even that may not get you there," he added. "Housing is an enormous problem."

Zweig explained that the 2008 recession caused housing prices to fall on Long Island, but now that they're rising again, the need for affordable housing is also going up. But there is a push-back against the construction of affordable housing units inherently tied to the white flight to suburbia in New York.

"It's an issue of race," Zweig said. "People will always say, 'We don't want [affordable housing] in our community because they'll be coming.'"

Zweig is referring to the historical practice of keeping minorities out of certain neighborhoods, a practice that has shaped much of Long Island.

Long Island is one of the most racially segregated suburban regions in the country, according to a housing report by ERASE Racism, a Long Island group that promotes racial equality.

Along with the Fair Housing Justice Center, a regional fair housing organization based in New York City, ERASE Racism filed a complaint in 2015 against a superintendent in Mayfair Garden Apartments in Commack, north-east of Dix Hills, for repeatedly placing "discriminatory barriers in the path of African Americans who inquired about apartments for rent." These two civil rights organizations, along with seven African American testers—who were treated less favorably than their white

counterparts—filed this action to halt and reform the Defendants' discriminatory practices, according to the complaint.

White people represent around 90 percent of Commack, and African Americans stand at fewer than 1 percent, according to the 2010 U.S. census.

A growing trend to address housing segregation is through the affordable housing method of 80/20, which has developers either make 20 percent of the housing units they're currently constructing affordable for low-income residents or pay a heavy fine to their district's affordable housing organization.

"It's either pay up or make affordable units," Tyson, who also works with Yes in My Back Yard, a Long Island group that supports the rise of affordable housing throughout the island, said.

YIMBY relies on community support to push legislation that provides both a diversity of housing options for Long Island residents and affordable housing, Tyson said.

"We go out talking to people, find supporters and bring those supporters with us to fight for our cause," she said. Tyson helped pass a \$3 million affordable housing bond in the Town of East Hampton back in 2003.

As housing prices continue to increase on Long Island, 77 percent of its residents worry that family members will be forced to leave because they can no longer afford to stay, according to the Long Island Index. With the call for affordable housing continuing, housing may no longer be based strictly on economic matters.

"It can't be left to the markets," Zweig said. "It has to be a social policy."



RUN

ABASS

BRAIMAH



ANGELYN RUIZ

Born in Africa and raised in the Bronx, Abass Braimah is already accomplished as an athlete and Educational Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit student.

His dash to success began at the Collegiate Institute for Math And Science, Braimah's high school, where he was first inspired by his athletic twin brother and older sister to join the track team.

"I won many medals, but it wasn't easy," he said. "At first, I was the worst in the team. Then I worked hard, woke up early to run every morning and stayed after practice to stretch. Eventually I ended up being the best on the team."

Braimah followed his passion to Stony Brook University, where he decided to enroll through EOP/AIM because of his family's low income. Upon being accepted, he sprinted with joy. "I could not believe I got into college," he recalled. "My parents did not go to college. I am happy that I got the chance to do something that they

didn't. I want to make them proud."

Braimah had several commitments that came with his admission into EOP/AIM. He attended the EOP/AIM Pre-Freshman Summer Academy, a 5-week long "academic boot camp" where he undertook rigorous studies in mathematics, Africana studies, science and writing.

"It was hard because I was not used to the college life," he explained. In addition to taking classes, Braimah had mandatory study hours and a curfew.

Braimah earned an above 2.0 GPA after the academy and was automatically admitted into Stony Brook University for the Fall 2015 semester. EOP/AIM continued to support him financially and encouraged his studies by offering free walk-in and group tutoring sessions every semester. Other than being in EOP/AIM, Braimah's role as an athlete on campus has given him some benefits.

"They granted me with free books, free tutors and meeting with advisors every week," he says. The Athletic

Department also provides him with a strength coach and nutritionist.

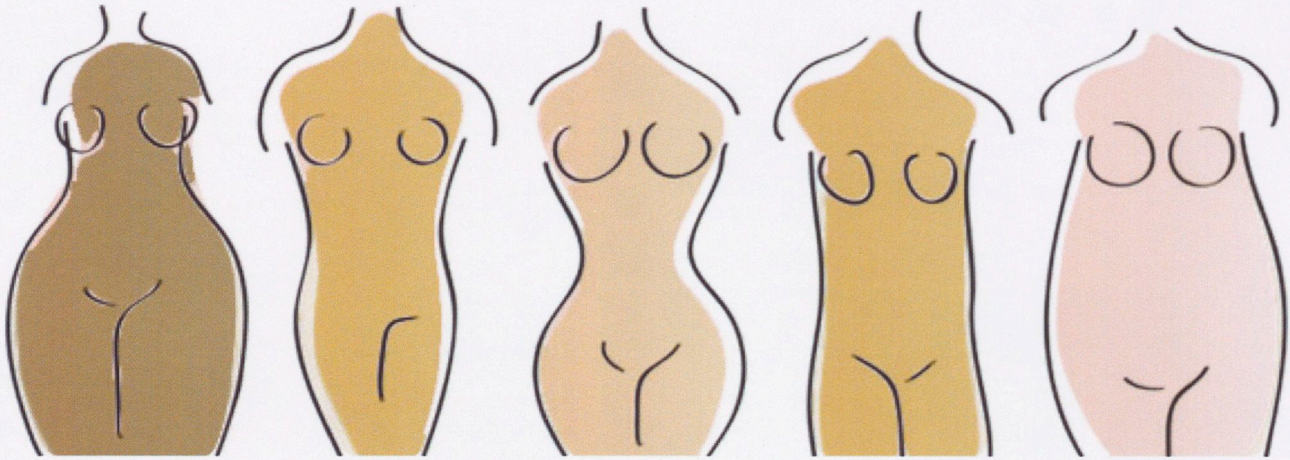
But being on the track team also has its downsides; Braimah says it is very difficult to have one's talents recognized at such an immense campus.

"Once, I won second place in a track meet but I didn't even get a medal." He also struggles with managing his time because of all the track practices and workouts he must do every night to stay in shape.

"Time management is the most important thing. Sometimes there's mandatory things we have to do. Like the ice bath, it is 49 degrees, it tends to be painful for the first few minutes, but eventually you feel better. It helps to recover our bodies before a competition," he said.

To Braimah, being in EOP/AIM and track takes more effort than people imagine. "It's hard work. Sometimes you fail but you need to get back up again," he said. "Good people in EOP/AIM and the Athletic Department are always there to help you back up."





project beautiful

JESSICA OPATICH

Shreeya decided to buy her own birthday cake. She went into a store in Queens and chose chocolatey "Black Forest," invited all her friends over, and this time, unlike so many birthdays before, she ate cake and was happy. She remembers, "It tasted like freedom."

This was her 19th birthday, but from 10th grade through her senior year at Forest Hills High School, Shreeya Tuladhar had been starving herself.

Now, Shreeya is healthy, and she is hoping to help others down the long and difficult road she traveled from a girl struggling to love herself to an empowered, successful and healthy woman. In April of last year, she started Project BEaUtifull, a non-profit organization that raises awareness of body image issues.

Years before Project BEaUtifull and her birthday cake breakthrough, Shreeya's boyfriend of two years broke up with her. While doing so he told Shreeya she was worthless, disgusting and talentless. That's when she stopped eating.

"I would skip breakfast and say, 'Oh I'm running late for school.'" She even tried to convince her counselor to not give her lunch periods by claiming she had too much work and had to be home anyway. "A friend of mine hugged me and my hip-bone poked him. He pulled at my shirt and gasped."

Her friends from high school describe her as one of the most involved students in the class, with a schedule full of extra-curriculars. Her busy schedule masked a secret she was keeping, one that forced her to accept dizziness as a part of her everyday life. It was a secret

that left her tired and unable to focus. Her priorities were school, clubs and being skinny.

Stony Brook University tested these priorities. She remembers seeing the student orientation performance "Swallow This!," an on-campus improv group that explores issues college students face. Shreeya finally felt like she wasn't alone. She thought other students in the auditorium watching might be feeling just the way she had been for the past two years. But it wasn't until her Writing 303 class on the personal essay that Shreeya revealed her struggle with anorexia.

Professor Cynthia Davidson assigned a final project. "It was basically explain your life using 10 to 15 pages but don't make it 'I was born here and this and that.' Pick something that's been there throughout your life," Shreeya explained. Her body image issues had been there as long as she could remember.

Shreeya was born in Nepal. She has thick, silky brown hair, deep brown eyes and a playful closed-lipped smile that, if you don't know what she's thinking, you might assume she's just heard a fun bit of gossip and is dying to tell you about it. One of her earliest memories of being aware of her body and her appearance was when she was five years old.

"I remember looking in the mirror and turning around and being conscious of my stomach." She went on to become a child model. From age 7 to 10, the pressure to be skinny and beautiful seeped into her thinking and remained there, distorting her own perception of herself for years to come.

She wrote about all of this in her final project, a grim chronology of her struggles that forced her to look back at an old diary she had kept at the time. Her younger sister sent them to her and as she read the entries, she started to cry. "It was so much negativity," she admits. And as she read entry after entry, she saw her younger self falling deeper into self-hatred.

She began going to CAPS, the University's counseling and psychological services, and continued to work on her final project, which also needed to include a video component. She took her friends and went into Times Square armed with a video camera and post-its that read "You're beautiful." As strangers reached to grab one at random, and read the surprising message, they smiled and laughed and thanked her.

"If other people can make me feel ugly about myself, I can make people feel beautiful by myself," she said.

It was Shreeya's final project, and she thought it would end with the close of the semester. But that summer, she received an e-mail from her freshman year English professor, Matthew Miranda. The English Department wanted more, and Shreeya gladly accepted the task. This was her opportunity to take her triumph over her own issues and spread that positivity and example to other.

The video that she posted on YouTube was switched from private to public, and Shreeya made a Facebook post calling friends and family to participate while revealing her secret struggle. Within minutes she had text messages and comments from friends



who were surprised but supportive and ready to join in her growing project.

Shreeya also had to tell her parents. "They had no idea," she said. In the past her dad had told her it was just "teenage stuff," but now she had a video to show them. Her mom teared up and hugged her. They apologized and told her they didn't fully understand until that moment.

"I remember my dad told me, 'You inspire me.'"

Since then, Project BEaUtifull has grown tremendously. The organization has its own website, Facebook Page and Instagram account. The motto: "As long as you are being you, you are full of beauty." There are six members and people continue to reach out to Shreeya to get involved. And, professors, as they so often do, are still asking for more.

One of those professors is Dr. Shyam Sharma. He wants Project BEaUtifull to go international. "Living in this world means that what you believe to be universal, abstract concepts are perceived, implemented and have implications that are very different for different people." One of those abstract concepts? Beauty.

In one of his English classes Dr. Sharma has his students Google image search 'beauty.' "What do you see?" he asks. "Women! White! Young! Smiling!

Lots of skin! Blond! Big eyes!" his students call out. Then he asks them to include a location. Perhaps try, "Beauty Africa." And at times students will cringe as they scroll and come across body piercings that are part of certain

The activity is meant to start a conversation about equity, access, hegemony, society, politics and economics among other broad and complex topics.

"When the notion of beauty can be appropriated and co-opted—hacked into something that empowers you, or when the notion of beauty takes away dignity, forces, distorts, obliges you to do things you don't want to," said Dr. Sharma.

It's not an easy task to confront perceptions of beauty on a global scale and analyze their consequences. But, if anyone is up to the task, it's Shreeya. "This is one of the most engaged, passionate, inspiring students," Dr. Sharma said.

So now, Shreeya is off onto the next phase of Project BEaUtifull. Recently she partnered with Miss Nepal 2015, Evana Manandhar, who appears in one of the group's videos. Project BEaUtifull will also become an internship opportunity in the Program of Writing and Rhetoric. As for her body image issues, she admits, "I'm still working on it. Just because I did the project doesn't mean it's over."

If other people can make me feel ugly about myself, I can make people feel beautiful by myself.

tribal cultures. He asks, "Do you think some people around the world will be so unwilling to look at images of our beauty? Scantly clad women who are so skinny it looks as if they're almost dying?"



Κοινωνία

DEMI GUO

Athens from the Parthenon. MID LEFT: Donkeys are used in lieu of cars on the Greek island, Hydra. BOTTOM LEFT: A Hydra resident.



"Greek breakfast is coffee and a cigarette. We have no time for any breakfast in the morning, so we just have a cigarette instead."

A sweeper by the Hotel Leto in Hydra. RIGHT: A dog by the watchtower on the Greek island, Poros



*"I am a real estate broker, but I have not sold a single house in a year. Our politicians are worse than America's." - MOUNT LYCABETTUS, ATHENS
BELOW: The owner of the oldest bakery in Hydra.*

"All the stores on this street used to be like this. The old-fashioned stores for fur trading. Now I am the only one left. I have owned this store for 40 years." - ARACHOVA, pictured with my travelling companion, Angela Zhuo





The Politics of Higher Education

JESSICA VESTUTO

In 1636, a farmhouse on one acre of cow pasture became America's first establishment of higher education. As told in *The History of American Higher Education* by Roger L. Geiger—distinguished professor of Education Policy Studies at Pennsylvania University—the Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, hoping to establish a college comparable to the universities of their former country, an Oxford or Cambridge of the New World, gave 400 pounds to what would become known as Harvard University.

Seven years later, in 1643, a pamphlet titled "New England's First Fruits" published a passage recalling the university's conception: "After God had carried us safe to New-England, and we had builded [sic] our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood... one of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance Learning and perpetuate it to Posterity..."

373 years later, these words are still inscribed on Harvard's gates, and politicians still argue about their meaning.

But before diving into today's arena of politics, a look at the politics of the past reveals a thread

to the education debate similar to what we see today. The education philosophies of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin reveal that the founding fathers did not always see eye to eye on the issue.

Thomas Jefferson praised education as a way to preserve the democratic ideal and, for this reason, believed education should be free for all. He laid out these thoughts in a letter to British scientist Joseph Priestly in 1800. Education, he explained, cultivated not only a person's intelligence, but also their moral sensibility. In 1802, Jefferson founded the University of Virginia on these principles, inviting students to "drink of the cup of knowledge."

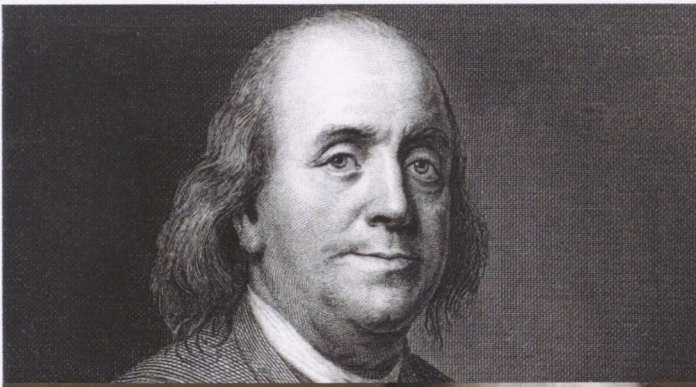
Benjamin Franklin, however, disagreed with Jefferson. The Renaissance man advised against spending too much time in lecture halls, preferring self-education to traditional schooling. In his autobiography, Franklin suggests the irony of his receiving honorary degrees from Harvard and Yale, even after dropping out of school at age twelve: "[T]he College of Cambridge of their own Motion, presented me with the Degree of Master of Arts. Yale College in Connecticut, had before made

me a similar Compliment. Thus without studying in any College I came to partake of their Honors."

Like Franklin, 11 out of 44 United States presidents never earned a college degree, a list that includes George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, as reported by education specialist Valerie Strauss in the *Washington Post*. But having a bachelor's degree has become a prerequisite for the success of presidential candidates, and as a result, every president since Harry Truman has graduated from college with at least a bachelor's degree. Institutional learning versus self-education is no longer the issue. Instead politicians have refocused their efforts on debating what colleges should teach and how they should be funded.

"Why should we subsidize intellectual curiosity?" Ronald Reagan asked in a 1980 campaign speech. And so began the federal push toward education that would first and foremost produce employees. The "cup of knowledge" has become a medicinal cure-all for potential unemployment.

President Barack Obama argued for the practicality of degrees during his post State of the Union tour in 2014.



“Folks can make a lot more potentially with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree,” he said. “I love art history. I don’t want to get a bunch of emails from everybody. I’m just saying, you can make a really good living and have a great career...as long as you get the skills and training that you need.”

Many politicians seem to agree with this sentiment. In a South Carolina town hall meeting, Jeb Bush said universities should guide students toward majors that result in lucrative careers and in the process lost the vote of psych majors everywhere.

“Universities ought to have skin in the game,” he said. “When a student shows up, they ought to say ‘Hey, that psych major deal, that philosophy major thing, that’s great, it’s important to have liberal arts ... but realize, you’re going to be working at Chick-fil-A.’”

Bernie Sanders made headlines after introducing a bill that would make tuition free at public four-year colleges, a move that he believes will make a stronger, more competitive workforce. “In a global economy, when our young people are competing with workers from

around the world, we have got to have the best educated workforce possible,” he said in a statement about the bill. “That means that we have got to make college affordable.” Sanders’s initiative, however, is not without its

“Though politicians disagree over how college should be funded, at the heart of most of their education policies is an aim to produce an individual shaped for the job market.”

problems. According to U.S. News & World Report, the idea would cost “\$70 billion per year” and “much of that money would provide a free education to students whose families can already afford it.”

Though politicians disagree over how college should be funded, at

the heart of most of their education policies is an aim to produce an individual shaped for the job market. Consequently, most schools have been leaning away from the liberal arts. Stony Brook Professor of Economics Michael Zweig explains the utilization of education for job creation as a matter of “increasing inequality” in American society. “You won’t find pressure to do away with the humanities and social sciences at Harvard or Princeton,” he explains. “Schools that the elites send their children to are encouraged to give their students a very broad understanding of history and culture and social sciences.”

The children of elites are given this breadth of view of citizenship in anticipation of them one day becoming the “visionaries of citizens” and taking over the running of society. “The rest of the people are just supposed to work and not think about things too deeply and understand things too carefully,” Zweig says. “If ordinary people have a sense of history and civics and social history and culture and so on, they are more likely to challenge what the elites are doing.”



Co-Ed, Co-Partner

MICHELLE TOUSSAINT

A simple glance at Michaela Young displays a lot of her personality. From her slightly cropped hair to her crossfit trainers, she personifies athleticism.

As a part-time student at Stony Brook University, Young drives over an hour from Manhasset twice a week. Outside of being a student, the 22-year-old Business major is also a partner at Manhasset Fitness Center, in Nassau county.

The gym has been featured on the "Business Buzz," a television program promoting local businesses and their communities by the North Hempstead Business & Tourism Development Corporation. Young became a partner at the Nassau county gym when she was just 19.

While in high school, Young attended another gym that she felt didn't offer a quality experience. Though the gym's trainers were highly skilled and educated, they weren't being given the opportunity to truly showcase their talent. Young, along with other customers, felt she was missing out on the opportunity to become truly fit.

"I wanted to be at a gym where you could have your own space. Where it would feel like having your own gym at home," she said. She developed the concept of opening a facility focused on small classes and personal training. The then teenager expressed the idea to her mother. Her mother hadn't had any prior experience of running a business, however, she decided that it was something she wanted to try and they became co-partners.

Young and her mother found a location, rented out spaces and crafted a brand for their shared venture. In May of 2013, the fitness center officially opened.

"Eighty percent of what really runs the gym is the media," Becky, Young's mother, said. "Social media, returning emails, and dealing with scheduling is a big part of the business. Michaela takes care of all of that."

However, a short while later, Michaela

was accepted into Stony Brook University. That fall, when she moved to campus, her responsibilities were given to someone else.

Young recalls being frustrated, and maybe slightly guilty, that she couldn't be as involved as she'd like. She spoke frequently with her mother about the state of their business.

"I was living on campus and going to school full-time," she said. "It was rough, there were conflicts going on and it was pretty much getting run to the ground."

The person given her responsibilities did help the gym to an extent, but major conflicts led to irreparable relationships. He left and took everything the businesses needed to operate with him.

"Our domain name, our client list, we were pretty much left with nothing. We had to start from scratch. It was a really hard time and we thought we weren't going to make it," Young said.

Young found herself in a difficult situation. She would either continue attending Stony Brook or not return the next semester.

"The biggest mistake was not being there. No one's going to care if it's not their business, so if it's yours, you've got to be there. I couldn't have anyone else doing that for me. It was a great opportunity and blessing to get into Stony Brook, but I had to push that aside," she said.

Becky, though sad because she had wanted her daughter to continue her education, felt great about the decision. "This is my honest opinion— she learned more about how to run the business because I basically threw her into it. She had to figure a lot of things out for herself, so she figured it out on her own and then some. She learned a lot more than she would've— things that school could not teach her."

Today, the Manhasset Fitness Center is thriving. With loyal clientele made up of students from Manhasset high school, middle school and their families, Young and

her mother achieved what she set to create. A family owned business with a family-like atmosphere.

"We call it the family facility," Young said with a smile. "Our trainers are so incredible, so passionate about what they do and really want to change people's lives. I have a one-on-one interpersonal relationship with each and every person that walks through that door, and I genuinely want to see them grow."

The young entrepreneur boasts about what she sees as an unconventional way of operating but one she's proud to stand by. While other gyms promise clients that they'll be able to accomplish what she calls "unreasonable goals" in a short amount of time, she isn't afraid to turn people away.

"I won't just take their money," she says. "I've had people come in and say they want to lose 25 pounds, but no. I'm not going to guarantee a client something like that. You have to take things gradually. Real results, real fitness," she said, stating the gym motto.

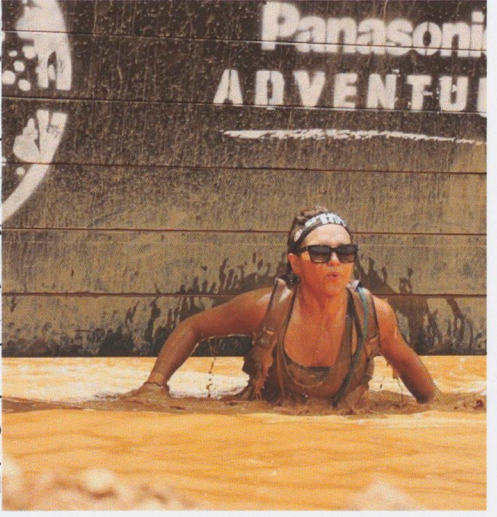
Though fitness is something Young is very passionate about, it wasn't always that way. As a high school senior, just a year before the fitness center opened, Michaela went through an experience that would have an incredible impact on the course of her life.

"I was active in high school but I wouldn't say I lived the most healthiest lifestyle. I felt sick for a long time but I didn't know what was going on. Mid-senior year, I was diagnosed with stage four Hodgkin's Lymphoma. From there, my whole life changed."

Hodgkin's Lymphoma (or Hodgkin's disease) is a cancer that originates from a specific type of white blood cells called lymphocytes, which are part of the body's immune system. As it progresses, it compromises the body's ability to fight infection.

"Bad habits, going out with friends, it all stopped right away," she said.

For the next six months Young received





ABVD chemotherapy treatment twice every other week. She wanted to conquer the disease and fought relentlessly. She was determined to let everyone around her know she was going to be okay.

"I'm going to fight this," she said. "It's going to be a long road but I'm going to see the pot of gold." In the summer of 2012, after an aggressive six months, she was in remission. However she found herself being less than a shell of her former self.

"It was hard to even go up the stairs," she said. "I was really frail; I had no hair; my body was so weak. Going through chemo therapy takes everything out of you, so I wanted to get my strength back."

That's when Young started taking classes at her previous gym. She started a fitness regimen that began with low strength exercises and gradually built herself up to boot camp classes. But she didn't stop there. In early 2013, around the time she thought of opening a gym that would soon become the fitness center, she entered her first Spartan Race.

"I wanted to challenge myself," she said. If I could beat cancer, I can do anything."

Young's been in 16 Spartan Races and three world championships. She's been in races ranging for 3 to 16 miles, where she's crawled under barbed wire, swam through 40 degree lakes, climbed up ropes attached to bridges, climbed mountains carrying buckets holding 60 pounds of gravel and completed other obstacles that she's witnessed grown men being unable to finish.

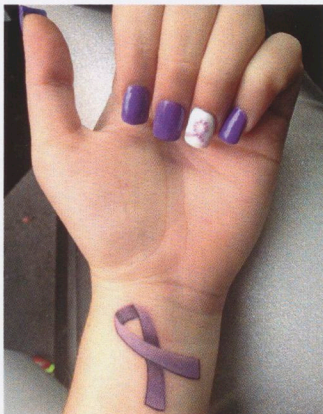
"I always make it a goal to beat my best times," she said. "I'm always trying to figure out what I need to improve technique-wise. You don't have to be extremely fit to be a spartan, but I inspire myself. I want other people to know that whatever place you are in your life, you can do whatever you put your mind to."

Young isn't the same person she was five years ago. She had no confidence and she surrounded herself with people who weren't the best influences. It may have been a traumatic experience that brought her to where she is today, but she is thankful for everything she has.

"When I was sick I wanted to feel beautiful.

I eventually did feel beautiful because I accepted what was happening. Yeah, I didn't have hair on my head but I felt beautiful regardless."

Young would constantly switch up her wigs and apply makeup in different styles. She's a fashion junkie with a passion for designer sneakers that almost rivals her love of fitness. As she speaks about her favorite colors, fabrics, styles and designers, she casts a glow that generates pure warmth. However it's a small, pink ribbon tattoo on her left wrist that means the most to her.



"I got it a few months after my treatment," she said. "It's my survival badge. A symbol of my strength."

Young has returned to Stony Brook to complete her degree. She agrees that she's learning much more by actually running a business than she would if she only attends class, but she wants to finish her education.

"My parents accomplished success without finishing school, and they worked really hard to get to that plateau. They were blessed and they're very successful, but I want to finish. I'm almost done."

Once Young receives her degree, she plans on pursuing other business ventures, which includes helping people that've shared her experience.

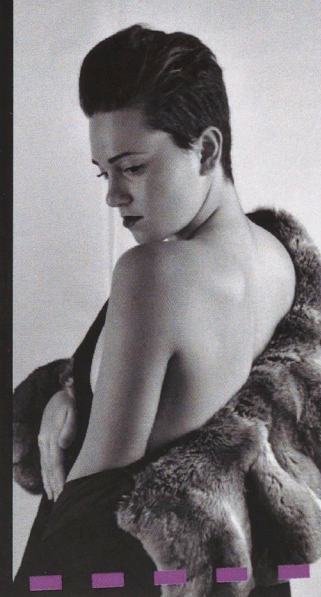
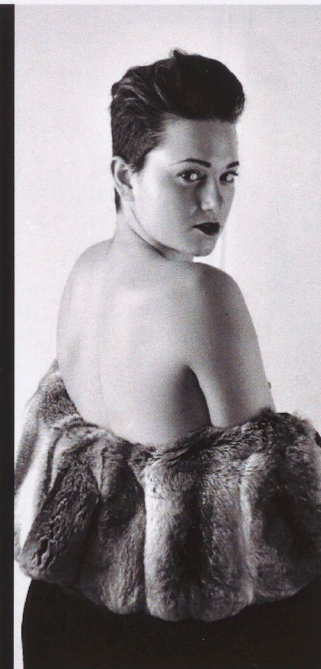
"Cancer treatment can be very expensive," she says. "When people finish their treatments, they're stuck with all these medical bills. It's like, I'm starting my whole life over but I have all these bills to take care of, and it causes a lot of stress."

She wants to find ways to ease the financial burden. This is something her mother describes as being her most admirable quality.

"Michaela is the most caring and loving person that I know," Becky said. "She puts everyone else before herself. That's what sums up Michaela."

Young is a student at Stony Brook University, a partner in a prosperous business, a spartan, a fashionista and a survivor. At 22, she's experienced and accomplished much, and has only optimistic predictions for the future.

"Embrace the suck," she said. "You are able to change your life despite of what may have happened to you."



EASY TO DECLARE, HARD TO RUN

DAVID MAYER

Since 1980, over three thousand candidates have filed with the Federal Election Commission to run for president of the United States. Some potential candidates were career politicians, others were billionaires. But most were the average American.

With such a large field of candidates in 2016, even well-known candidates like Chris Christie and Martin O'Malley weren't able to compete with the boisterous Donald Trump and well-funded Hillary Clinton. But there are some candidates who have neither the clout nor the capital to get into anything more than the local spotlight. These "lesser-known" candidates lack the support of their respective parties and just can't get media attention, but they took time from their campaigns to be interviewed and explain their platform, and in some cases, complain. This is a story about the people who, like Don Quixote, will joust at windmills, yet still show a strange determination to win the presidency.

Willie Wilson and his battle with the South Carolina Democratic Party

While the Democratic race has boiled down to two front runners, there still exists several other candidates often listed under the category of "other Democrat." Willie Wilson, is such a candidate who has spent a significant portion of his own wealth to run his campaign.

"I'm the only candidate that has put in 99 percent of my own money," Wilson said, in a thick Louisiana accent. "I don't have to be [held] accountable to anyone else.

After finishing third in last year's Chicago mayoral election, and using his own money, he has registered for the primary ballot in California, Illinois, Louisiana, Montana, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas.

"I've been a Democrat all my life, my platform is economy entitlement and development, and free education." Wilson said. "If Cuba and Russia can have it, we should have it in America."

Starting as a

poor janitor in Louisiana, Wilson's life is a rags-to-riches story after he owned and sold McDonald's franchises and eventually a multi-million-dollar plastic glove distribution business. Wilson's platform calls for subsidizing college and closing down private prisons. He plans to release all those in prisons for small, non-violent crimes.

"If you got a teenager who got in a fight, he shouldn't be in prison the rest of his life," he said. "And no kid should be imprisoned for some marijuana, especially for his entire life, but I'm only talking misdemeanors."

Wilson feels as if the Democratic Party isn't taking his candidacy seriously. "I'm a citizen of the United States. I'm an African American candidate [who] ran for the city of Chicago eight months ago. I got 11 percent of the vote," he said. "We've been having a hard time getting an equal opportunity during this primary."

His campaign has faced issues in Iowa where he paid the proper fees but wasn't allowed to speak. "They would not talk to me during the Iowa procedures. They wouldn't return any of our calls, but they took my money in Iowa and then shut me out," Wilson said. "They had police officers keeping me from approaching the microphone."

The Iowa Democratic Party has not responded to Wilson's statements.

Wilson also claims he was extorted for money to attend the South Carolina ballot. "I had to pay \$20,000 though the listed fee was \$2,500."

Executive Director of the South Carolina Democratic Party Jason Perkey said in an email that the extra money Wilson spent went toward party events.

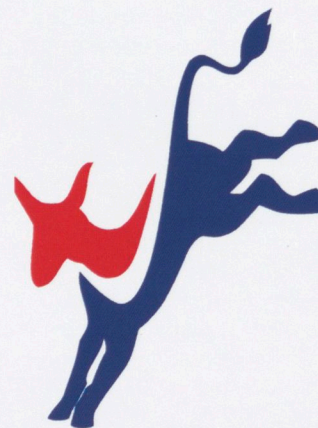
"Wilson paid a \$2,500 filing fee on November 16th. He also made contributions to the party totaling \$17,500, as a sponsor of two events that we held in in 2015 and 2016," Perkey said. The contributions were used to help build the party and "elect Democrats."

Perkey was confident that Wilson knew the \$17,500 was a voluntary donation separate from the filing fee and said that there should have been no confusion.

Wilson vehemently disagreed with the statement put out by the SCDP.

"...in order to make this happen it would take \$20,000 to get on the ballot in South Carolina," Wilson recalled in a conversation he had with the SCDP. "I said well, would you give your recommendation if I paid \$2,500 vs. the \$20,000? They said that other people had paid it. I said okay, fine, what's that mean? If I didn't pay it, what would happen? They said that I probably wouldn't get recommended to get support to go on the ballot."

In the end, all democratic candidates had to pay the same fee, according to a document supplied by Janet Reynolds, the director of administra-



tion and Finance for the South Carolina Elections Commission, states all candidates including Wilson paid a \$20,000 filing fee that was collected by the party.

At an event hosted by the SCDP called First in the South Reception and Dinner, the event that Perkey said was funded by Wilson's contribution, he was barred from entering by police.

"I was supposed to speak at Fish Fry dinner but I was barred by police while Sec. Clinton and Sen. Sanders spoke," Wilson said. "I got an apology from Jamie Harrison, the chairman [of the SCPD]."

"From day one, we have treated Dr. Wilson like any other candidate," Harrison said in an email. "He has been featured in party newspaper ads, was interviewed for my web series Chair Chats, was given a speaking slot and table at the party's First in the South

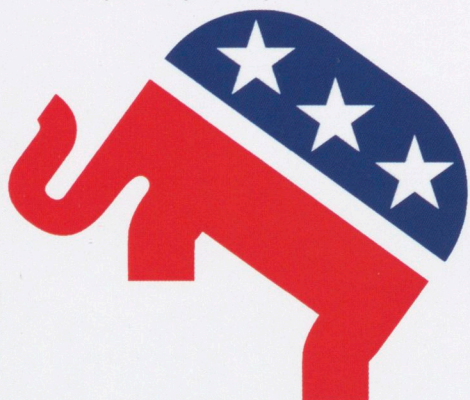
Dinner. The entirety of his 20k went directly to the SC Elections Commission to cover the state's requirement to be placed on the ballot."

Wilson's appointed representative from the SCDP Jonathan Metcalf said he was disappointed by the people who took Wilson away from the primary event. "I was with him when he was denied access to the stage at the Fish Fry. It was disgraceful."

In the South Carolina democratic primary, Wilson placed in 3rd with .4 percent of the vote, according to Politico.

Jon Adams, a Descendant of our Second President

Jon Adams is a lesser-known Democratic candidate who filed with the FEC and paid \$1,000 to get on the New Hampshire primary ballot.



"It's in my DNA," Adams said about why he is running for president. "I'm distantly related to former president John Adams."

On John Adams' presidential website, he claims to be the third cousin of John Adams, "thrice removed." John Adams died on July 4, 1826. His last words were reportedly "Thomas Jefferson still survives." Thomas Jefferson allegedly died on the same day, five hours earlier, but sometimes, people just can't know.

"Having a little experience in government, I had no illusions that it was going to turn into a huge campaign like Bernie or Hillary, but there was a chance," Adams said.

Adams, a Columbia University School of Law graduate, explained that he's not running on his relative's laurels, but rather runs as a young, urban progressive who has served as New

Mexico's Assistant Attorney General and is now a philosophy professor.

His platform aims to cure every disease in 10 years, colonizing Mars and fighting for marriage equality.

"I just felt the right thing to do was to run," Adams said.

Adams feels as if Senator Bernie Sanders has been imitating his campaign.

"Bernie has stole a lot of my issues," he said. "I was for strict prison reform before he was."

He diverges with Sanders on his education platform.

"I thought Bernie Sanders was selling snake oil because he wanted to give everybody free college," Adams said. "With the nation having a high national debt, I didn't think that would work."

Adams isn't planning to run on an independent ticket if he doesn't get the nomination.

"I'll support the nominee. I'm not in this to be a slugger in the general election by running as an independent," he said. "I've been a Democrat since I was five years old."

Adam's big decision was what to do after the New Hampshire primaries.

"The question is whether I am going to come in third or am I going to place in the middle, obviously if I don't have a good showing, I'm going to withdraw from the race," he said.

Although Adams finished 11th with 52 votes in the Democratic New Hampshire primary but he hasn't dropped out. Currently, he is only listed on the Missouri ballot, "but some other states require that you are a candidate in the national media, and I now meet that requirement...so we will see"

Daniel Dyas: Entrepreneur, Scholar, Republican Candidate in 2016

Daniel Dyas, a 34-year-old Alabamian, father of three, general contractor and Auburn University graduate is running for president as a Republican.

Dyas found inspiration for his campaign while at school. "I spent a month in Thomas Jefferson's home in Bedford County Virginia, studying Jeffersonian architecture, and that's really what triggered my interest in public office and public service and our government."

He is using Facebook to launch his platform. Currently, his page has close to 600 likes, but his last post was from Nov 30, 2015. One of his proposals on his Facebook page is the Five Year New Income Tax Holiday.

"A 'tax holiday' to every American on new income earned, above and beyond, their [sic] Baseline Income, as established with their 2016 income tax return filing, thus, every American will have the opportunity to improve their [sic] income for five years with NO TAX PENALTY," read a post on his Facebook page.

Though he believes in founding father's intent in the Constitution and strict constructionism, he said he wants to make a minor change in Article 2, Section 1, Clause 5, so that a person's date of birth starts at conception.

This change would legally make Dyas 35 years old and eligible to run as president.

"My election to the presidency would result in the overturning of Roe V. Wade and the abolition of abortion," he said. "Which I believe is a genocide in our age."

Dyas has never been elected to public office, but he said he chaired local committees and ran for Congress unsuccessfully in 2013 during a special election.

He expressed some disappointment in the Republican leadership. "I've contacted Republican Party leaders in New Hampshire and presented my platform, but I've been displeased with the leadership of the Republican Party. They've been more favorable to other candidates."

Dyas has little cash on hand for the campaign. "Of course with limited funds and time it makes it tough competing with the more well funded candidates," he said. Dyas still feels good about his campaign, "I can't predict the future, I don't try to...but I think there's an appetite in our country for real leadership and sincere people."

In the event that Dyas doesn't get the nomination, he would be willing to back another Republican.

"If Donald Trump was to get the nomination, I would support him."

A HOME FOR GRAFFITI

LEI TAKANASHI

Five men draw brightly colored letters on the walls around the railroad tracks near East Fordham Road in the Bronx, surrounded by crates of spray paint. They move gracefully with the vibrant mist, creating sharp, crisp lines. Quiet as Buddhist monks, they fill in their letters with colors like “dragon green” and “pussy pink”, creating depth within the wall. Only the noise of mixing balls and hissing aerosol escape the scene. Just a couple feet away from the tracks, two graffiti artists, Skeme and Chain 3 paint their names on a subway car. They aren't afraid of being caught.

They shouldn't be; they aren't breaking any laws.

This all occurs in “the yard,” an alley owned by Tuff City Styles, a tattoo store located on 650 East Fordham Road in the Bronx. The owners, who are graffiti artists themselves, recreated the alley to resemble a train yard with a set of railroad tracks in the middle and a full-scale model of the exterior of an old subway car.

For eight years, the yard at Tuff City Styles has been a haven for graffiti artists looking for a legal space to paint. Many artists that visit Tuff City used to be subway graffiti writers in the 1970s and '80s that grew up and quit. They no longer want to vandalize; they want to use graffiti to make a positive impact “His facility

is like a daycare for adults,” said Skeme, a prolific graffiti writer who was made famous in the 1984 graffiti documentary “Style Wars.”

And adults are exactly what they are. As kids they broke into train yards, but now they raise families and pay bills. Some work as full time artists, while others are college art professors or world touring DJs. One artist, who goes by the name Bids, worked as a chemist for 15 years. Although Bids was making a good amount of money as a chemist, he wasn't happy, so he went back to his childhood passion. Today, he works at Tuff City, where he manages the yard and the graffiti shop.

Being adults, they're no longer willing to get arrested for their work; they don't romanticize the illegal side of graffiti. Now, Bids encourages others that want to get into graffiti to come to Tuff City and paint legally. He believes that graffiti can be used to help troubled kids find a creative outlet and has worked with kids at schools and community centers.

“I did it illegally 20 years ago because that's what it was as a kid,” Bids said. “But as you get older, you realize this is not what you want to be known for. What I want[ed] to be known for was for what I was doing on the walls, but I wanted to be known the right way. So I came here and that's how I started.”

Despite the positive impact legal graffiti writers are trying to make, it is

difficult for them to gain access to legal spots and showcase their artwork. Graffiti writer BG 183, of the professional mural group Tats Cru, said over the phone that getting permission from landlords can be an issue. Sometimes they will reply within a week, sometimes three months. And the landlord can flat out reject an art proposal if they don't like it. There are also “fame spots,” which are walls that get high foot traffic and usually require an artist to be well established or have good connections to get a chance to paint.

This is how a place like Tuff City comes into the picture. At Tuff City, fame isn't required, and there isn't any waiting period for permissions. Their policy is simple: purchase spray paint at Tuff City and you are free to paint there. Artists of all skill levels are welcome, whether it's a legendary subway graffiti artist or a young kid trying to put his first sketch on a wall.

But just because anyone is allowed to paint at Tuff City doesn't mean graffiti is easy to make. Artists put in hours of work to complete a “piece” (slang for a large complex work of graffiti). They spend time giving their letters a 3-D effect, and take care to fill in each letter with the right balance of color. Although they make it seem effortless, each artist has his or her own style that took years to develop.

“Just the different widths and lengths and the way it curves in certain places-- that's what takes years



and years to figure out,” said Jerms, another artist who regularly paints at Tuff City. “You can go to an amusement park and there're 15 cartoon guys that can paint a portrait of somebody but they can never do that.” He points to a graffiti piece of an artist named Soze on the wall.

But what draws graffiti artists across the city and from around the world to Tuff City is the sense of camaraderie

shared among graffiti writers. With a good amount of space and a relaxed painting policy, Tuff City is a place where old and new writers can meet and share a common interest. Two artists that have never met can work side by side and collaborate with each other. For others, Tuff City is a place where old friends can link up and relive childhood memories by painting the mock train in the yard.

“It's a really weird feeling to be honest with you, it's almost like time travel,” says Skeme as he looks at his finished piece on Tuff City's train. “And it's not until somebody says something to me and kind of snaps me out of it that I'm like, ‘Oh, it's 2016.’ But in the moment, when I'm painting, I'm totally immersed.”



DROP KICK STARTER

KYLE BARR

The Gold Standard, a bronzed man in a black and gold mask whose mouth spreads into a pompous smirk, squares off against El Super Hombre, the down-home powerhouse in the luchadore mask. The Gold Standard takes Hombre to suplex city several times over; the crowd grows wild. Then the pins last longer and longer before finally Standard pulls Hombre down to the mat and taps him out with his patented 49er Arm Bar. In the next round, El Super Hombre comes back with a huge vengeance, hitting Standard with a flurry of strikes and pulls out a win by painfully pulling Standard's arm across his back in his famous El Superhold finishing move.

It sounds a little ridiculous, but anyway, that's wrestling, and it's only a game. The cards are moved back into the decks, then both are reshuffled. An even two matches took a total of 30 minutes. Steve Resk, the owner of game company SRG Universe and producer of Super Show, an independently made and produced wrestling card game, calmly riffles his deck and bridges it with obvious practice. He gives a modest smile.

"You wanna do one more?"

The Super Show and SRG exists today mostly through the efforts of Resk, his team and a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter, which succeeded Nov. 2, 2014 with 131 backers pledging \$9,451 to create the first set of beginner starters sets and initial run of cards. A little under two years later, SRG completed another Kickstarter

campaign for a second set called "The Backlash" that completed with 138 backers, raising \$11,500 for the project.

"We've had three years of exponential growth," Resk said. "Success is enjoying what I do, even if I break even it's still a success. It's when I meet people I would have never met if I didn't do this."

At a small table in Legendary Realms, a small hobby store in Plainville, Resk is surrounded by a store full of young men settling down for a Game of Thrones Card Game tournament. He is not a hulking, bare chested, muscle bound wrestler, but the owner of a small game company and he looks more like he belongs among the young men sitting shoulder to shoulder at the few tables in the store, in his short beard, hoodie and hat.

Resk grew up playing card games and hanging out in another shop called Videogame Central in Queens, where he would mostly play a wrestling card game called WWE Raw Deal. He was good enough that he travelled to national tournaments to compete. "After that I fell in love with the gaming community, I made friends from all over the world, from all over the nation."

Four years ago, Resk had badgered his way into talks with card game company Topps, first criticizing then reforming their Topps Attax card game. "As a gamer, I was annoyed that you spend money on a product that was aimed at baseball, football wrestling, you name it, but the game had nothing to do with [those sports]." He then tried to make a deal with them for a card game he was working on based on UFC, Topps thought that communities for UFC and card games were too distinct to create a fanbase, and in the end, Resk agreed.

So he went back to wrestling and along with a new partner John Calace and a new art team, hunkered down to create what would become The Super Show.

While there is structure to SRG, Resk's co-workers and compatriots don't have definitive positions in the compa-

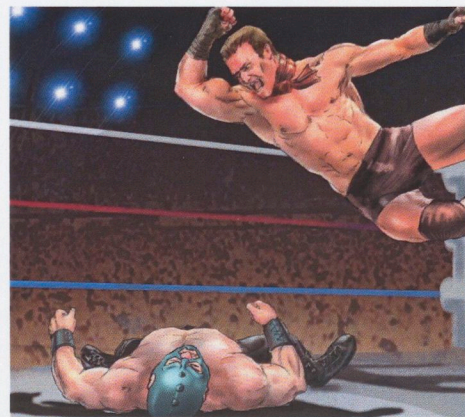
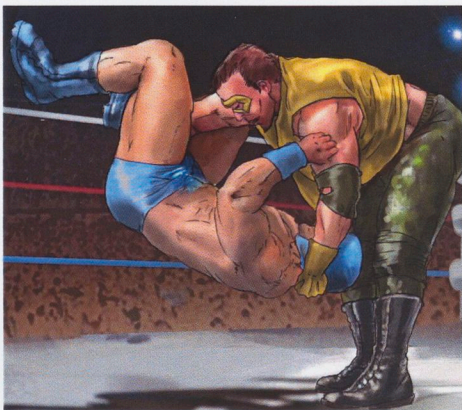
ny. When asked about his position, Pat Mulligan, a large man with a Chicago accent shrugs and laughs, but he eventually settles on Head of Creative. Samantha Jo Cretella runs off a list: Running shows, head of merchandising, "Steve's brains." Resk defines her role as "making sure I don't burn everything down."

Vincent Liquori defines his role most definitively at SRG as social media manager. "My superpower is being late," he laughed. "I started coming here a year and a half ago. I came over and he asked, 'hey you want to play this game.' We just kept seeing each other every week. I wound up getting into the game, he's such a genuine guy, he gave me a box set for free." Liquori kept coming down, eventually asking Resk if anybody was running his social media. He then asked if Liquori wanted to do it.

While UFC might not mix with card games, wrestling has always been more spectacle than sport, and in that way, it lends itself to the quick pace and sudden upsets and turnarounds the game represents through its mechanics. "I was growing up watching wrestling, one of the first things I said when I first played the game was I feel like I'm playing wrestling," Cretella said.

When Cretella and Resk started dating, she found herself getting more involved.

Before the Kickstarter, Resk and his team had very little in terms of re-courses, but Gencon, an Indianapolis



SRG
UNIVERSAL
PRESENTS



based yearly convention that is considered by many in the tabletop games industry to be the biggest event of the year, was coming up soon. They pooled their money together to print out cards, then spent weeks putting stickers on cardboard dice necessary to play the game.

"We had the cards that were professionally done, we had the homemade dice and no way to package them," said Resk. "So we started thinking of our storyline, and one of our characters his name was The Rising Sun, a Japanese fighter, we came up with the idea that he was a Japanese, Chinese food delivery guy, and that's how he recruited people into this wrestling federation."

They bought over 200 Chinese food boxes, stuck their logo onto the side, and piled it all into a car with Resk, Calace, and another friend, and drove 15 hours to Indiana. "We sold all our copies."

Rejuvenated, Resk and Calace took to Kickstarter. "I took time off from my job. We were literally promoting five, six days a week. I tried to get to every store. I promoted in colleges during game days. Every Wednesday I was in Pennsylvania sending out samples to everyone I could get. It doesn't matter how good your product is if you can't

get it in people's hands."

After a 30 day period, it came close to the wire, but they reached their \$8,000 goal three days before the end. "I put in so much time and effort, that this was the first time that I could show people that we actually succeeded... to say that 'our job has value.'

"Kickstarter is just there so you can create your idea at the bare minimum," he said. "That this game will be a reality if we reach this goal."

SRG was built from the ground up by people who know the struggles of trying to become known. Pat Mulligan is a writer who has self-published his own books. Ever since he first met Resk, he has give much of his time and effort to SRG for little to nothing.

"It was Gencon, and I walked over said, 'ah this is pretty cool.' Well he started talking about how he needed backstory for these wrestlers. 'Okay,' I said, 'give me a wrestler's name and I'll write a backstory for him.' I wrote it and said, 'Take a look at this and tell me what you think.' He looked at it and said, 'Get out of my mind.'"

Mulligan has written much of the backstories for the game's other characters. "For me that showed the type of person he is. We didn't offer him anything, but he still showed up," Resk said.

Resk and Cretella now both participate in after-school programs at the PS 207 in Queens where they help kids play Super Show, and also help create a new game with the kids called Why is there a Turkey on the Roof? It's a game where players have a ridiculous scenario and then use cards to come up with the best reason why that scenario might have occurred. The better and more complex words they use, the more points they get.

"It helps instill public speaking, grammar, just creativity. What I see is when I go to schools is kids don't talk to each other, they don't socialize, we use Super Show as an outlet," Resk said.

It's the last round. It has been a long match, and the crowd is going manic. The Gold Standard finally goes from the top ropes, a hammer fist called The Price Point. The dice roll on the mat. Resk has to beat a 12. He gets three chances. Mulligan counts down. First roll, a fail. "One," Mulligan's hand slams on the table. Second roll, another fail. "Two." El Super Hombre gets a +2 on his third roll. "Three." Hombre stays down on the mat. Resk looks up, smiling. "Good game," he said and goes to shake hands.

STONY BROOK GOES MARTIAN

JEDIDIAH HENDRIXSON & JIM FERCHLAND

In addition to his teaching position, Stony Brook Professor Joel Hurowitz currently serves as a deputy principal investigator for the Planetary Instrument for X-Ray Lithochemistry in Pasadena, which will be launched as a part of the Mars 2020 rover mission.

PIXL will study the topographical environment of our closest planetary neighbor and analyze its chemical compositions in an effort to further understand if and how life on Mars occurred.

Hurowitz explained his contributions to the study of the surface and climate of Mars during the Geology department's Open Night series on Feb. 19 in the talk, *A Rover's Eye View of the Ancient Surface and Climate of Mars*.

"Many of us who are working in the field of Mars exploration are trying to answer this question: whether or not life ever arose on the surface of Mars," Hurowitz said.

The lecture could not have come at a better time, as NASA revealed Monday, Feb. 22, its new plans for a propulsion system that could potentially revolutionize travel to Mars.

Hurowitz, a geochemist and planetary scientist, received his Ph.D. from Stony Brook in 2006 and returned to teach at the University

in 2013 as an assistant professor. He has been extremely involved in the production and assembly of the last two exploration missions, launched in 2003 and 2012.

"As we move forward in each mission, our scientific payload is becoming much more sophisticated, pushing the boundaries to answer that question," Hurowitz said. "Mars has gone through extreme geological changes throughout its history, and without the proper data we will never know how or why that happened."

Abigail Allwood is working alongside Hurowitz on PIXL out in Los Angeles.

Allwood is the principal investigator of PIXL at JPL for NASA. Specializing in astrobiology and microbial sediments, Allwood's hope is that the mission turns up new evidence on the history of the planet.

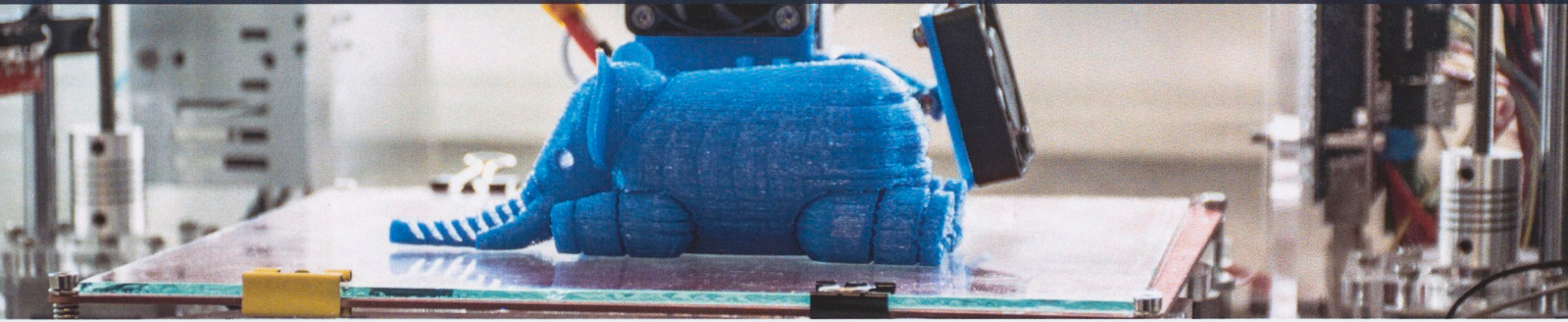
"With Mars, there is no smoking gun," Allwood said. "Although it could be nearly impossible to find any sign of actual organic life on Mars today, what we can find is evidence that life did at some [time] exist. And the key to that is what PIXL will be studying, which are the rocks."

Allwood also expressed interest in another payload on the Mars 2020 mission, the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman &

Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals (SHERLOC), paired with PIXL, will detect and image chemical compositions as well as search for signs of any organic compounds. "With the combined capacity of PIXL and SHERLOC, as well as the five other components of the missions, I believe that after the 2020 mission, our understanding of Mars will never be the same," Allwood said.



TALES OF A TENTH GRADE INVENTOR



DEMI GUO & TIFFANY LEE

A tenth grade student from Nassau County became one of 41 finalists in the international Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge on Feb. 18. Scott Soifer, 15, of North Shore Hebrew Academy High School, placed in the Health and Nutrition category for his invention, the Vehicular Heatstroke Prevention System.

Designed to combat heatstroke deaths in cars, the VHPS detects life using a nondispersive infrared sensor for carbon dioxide and a micro-electro-mechanical system thermal sensor for temperature, Soifer said. When the device senses high cabin temperatures, through carbon dioxide from human respiration and changes in body temperature, it alerts caregivers and emergency personnel. Most importantly, it does something similar inventions were never designed to do: activate the vehicle's air conditioner.

Nancy Conrad, the founder of the competition, said the panel looks for submissions that use existing technology as a blueprint and "this is exactly what Soifer's invention does."

After all, Soifer isn't the only inventor tackling heatstroke in cars. Last October, San Jose-based inventor

Marti McCurdy created "iRemind", a car seat alarm notification system that costs \$99.99 on Amazon. Soifer said he would sell VHPS for \$150.

"When he chose to work on this heatstroke project, it was just amazing," Felice Soifer, Scott's mother, said. "Right now, in the market, there are products that are reminder systems, apps and devices to help parents not to forget about their babies in the car. Most of the devices just buzz, but what Scott's does is that it actually cools down the vehicle itself to prevent heat stroke from happening."

Twenty-three minors died from staying in overheated cars in the United States last year, according to Kids and Cars, a nonprofit child safety organization, and 47 percent of the average 37 deaths per year are unintentional. In Florida last month, Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto co-sponsored a state bill allowing Good Samaritans to break into overheated cars to save children and pets without liability.

A lifelong mechanical tinkler, Soifer reused some parts and bought others off eBay to make both his 3-D printer and VHPS.

"They say that you can 3-D print a 3-D

printer," Soifer said. Parts of his printer were made with another 3-D printer from school. The plastic boards used to hold up wires in the VHPS in turn were 3-D printed.

It cost about \$400 to make the printer, Soifer said. He built it last January.

"When Scott built his own 3-D printer, I remember it was all these crazy pieces and in the middle of the night he talks to all these people from India and China," Felice said. "He will always be on blogs, asking people questions, doing research. These are the things he loves."

Under his school research director, Lisa Runco, Soifer has sent letters to senators and the president about a plan to have the VHPS installed in every car manufactured in the United States. As a finalist of the Conrad Challenge, he is now a 2016 Summit Diplomat who, according to the challenge's founder, Nancy Conrad, will attend the annual Innovation Convention at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and have his system patented. Winners, she added, will also receive a free manuscript on advising them on marketing and further innovating their submissions.

"Anything electronic, Scott takes it apart very quickly," Felice explained. "There's nothing in our house that he has not touched."

Today, Soifer is tweaking a replacement walking stick, a box that vibrates when it senses an object or sudden drop ahead. The device is three times the size of a smartphone.

"Scott has this ability to see things spatially that I cannot see and cannot understand," said Todd. "Sometimes I just wonder where does he get all these ideas from. He finds things that really has a purpose that can help people."

"I tell my mom not to call the electrician or plumber anymore," Soifer said.



SAMANTHA BEE GOES

FULL FRONTAL



RONNY REYES

Full Frontal with Samantha Bee is pushing boundaries in the male-dominated late night talk show game.

Full Frontal continues Bee's satirical take on politics, a skill she refined during her tenure as correspondent on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. The opening theme to Full Frontal—which depicts a fight between Bee, the Statue of Liberty, the Wall Street Bull, Lady Justice and what appears to be George Washington—suggests that she'll take on all of the key aspects of America's identity, venturing outside her comfort zone and providing a unique female voice to late night television.

Bee breaks from the standard "sitting behind the desk" formula by standing during her entire show—she destroyed her desk with a sledgehammer in an ad—and it looks like she's going to get her point across without relying on the traditional talk show methods.

Like her fellow Daily Show alumni, Larry Wilmore and John Oliver, Bee is pushing her show to be a little more than just a Daily Show alternative, with only half an hour every week, it needs to be. By bringing in her own perspective, she is delivering something new to the table, for you rarely see a woman with her own late night talk show, let alone a comedy based one.

This was touched on during the beginning of her very first episode, where a press conference is held for her, and all the re-

porters ask what she will do as a woman. Within seconds the reporters start shouting ridiculous questions, one of which is, "How does it feel to be a female woman?"

As though answering the reporter's questions, Bee includes topics for women that other hosts may not cover. Like when she went after Kansas Senator Mitch Holmes and his sexist dress code proposal, which asked women working in the state's capital not to wear anything that might entice men, urging the women to think of their co-worker's wives. She also wrote, "Don't be cunt," on her wrist in order to remind her how to please her audience, a jab at the popular perception of what "annoying" women are that of as.

Bee drives her jokes home thanks to her quick wit and over-the-top acting, like when she responds to agreeing with Donald Trump over Planned Parenthood's support for women. She

cries "Donald Trump is making sense, so I'll lose my bread and butter," while panicking and lying in a fetal position. And it doesn't end there. Her segment on Jeb Bush's poor campaigning was brilliant, portraying Bush as a weak and sluggish turtle at the mercy of Trump, a big, obnoxious alligator. The segment's style mimicked a German nature documentary on Bush's dying dream, it almost made you feel sorry for him. Almost.

Bee also took the show global by going to a Jordan refugee camp, and facing the supposed terrorists who are sneaking into the United States, only to find a camp filled with mostly widows and orphans. One of the few men there believes America is wondrous and bonded with Bee while watching It's Complicated, as the refugee expressed his love of Alec Baldwin.

Some reviewers and critics are calling Bee the new Jon Stewart, but she's not. She's the new Samantha Bee, funnier and more daring than ever.

With some of Bee's best episodes still to come, like her interviews that demonstrate how the Department of Veteran Affairs ignores women, Full Frontal is a refreshingly funny late-night show with a new perspective.





BROAD CITY

SAMANTHA MERCADO

"She's pretty good for a girl comedian." People still say this in 2016. Crazy, huh? Especially because some of the hottest comedians right now are women. Standup comedians Amy Schumer, Jen Kirkman and Iliza Shlesinger are taking the entertainment world by storm.

Female comedians are finally getting the praise and limelight they deserve.

ular because they show what the 'average girl' looks like and acts. When I watch Broad City and see Glazer dig a Cheeto out of her bra, I laugh because: 1) That is hilarious, and 2) I can relate. There's no overly quirky/awkward character in real life. The 'perfect girl' isn't there either. We're all just a nice balance of bra-digging Cheeto eaters, and

beauty of your 20's: You're broke and have absolutely nothing figured out, but at least you have your best friend who's just as lost as you are.

Broad City also does a good job of breaking the idealist filter that is often placed over New York City in other shows. Yes, New York City is an amazing and bustling city filled with oppor-



Shows like 30 Rock and The Sarah Silverman Show have given women in comedy the platform they needed to not only be funny, but also to be raw and not look back.

Broad City is brilliant because of its unapologetic humanness. Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson are two perfectly average girls in New York City; they have frizzy hair and imperfect bodies and no shame whatsoever, the way real women do. I love sitcoms. There I said it! I have nothing against New Girl or Friends, but they lack a certain relatability. Real life in NYC in your 20's doesn't look like a Central Park apartment (no matter how many roommates you have). Your 'average girl' doesn't have mile long lashes and a thigh gap. Shows like Broad City are so spectac-

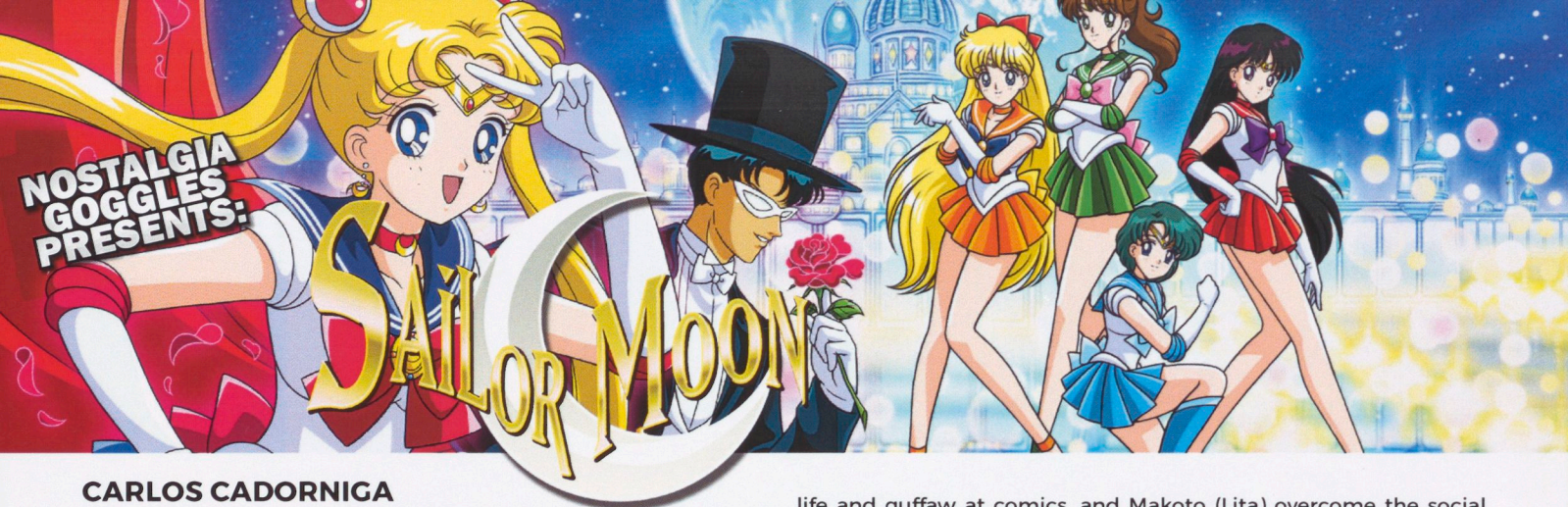
I am more than okay with that.

Broad City also highlights the beauty of a show centered on strong female leads instead of a love interest. The bond between Glazer and Jacobson is so genuine and platonic that their relationship generates a lot of the comedy. It's the energy they feed each other that makes the show so great. The way a rant about unplugging from 'the matrix' turns into an adventure and then into a dog wedding is priceless and impossible to look away from.

Nothing shows the extent of their friendship better than the bathroom sequence that opens the latest season. Nothing says best friends better than matching Madonna costumes and bathroom dance parties. Glazer and Jacobson's relationship highlights the

tunities around every corner, but it's also dirty and, most of the time, kind of mean. Glazer and Jacobson don't shy away from the gritty side of New York, dealing with cat callers and the not so glamorous hustle and bustle of the Big Apple in only the most hilarious and 'unladylike' fashion.

In all, Broad City isn't the kind of show that you watch and say, "Wow I really want to be like those girls." It's the kind of show you watch with a friend and say, "Holy shit, I knew other people did that too. That's hilarious." We don't need more examples of what we should look and act like. It is beyond refreshing to see a show mirror many 20-something's realities.



**NOSTALGIA
GOGGLES
PRESENTS:**

SAILOR MOON

CARLOS CADORNIGA

Most of the boys I grew up with were obsessed with *Dragon Ball Z* and *WWE*. As for me, I was happy to dedicate a large part of my childhood to the one named Sailor Moon.

I must have been about four or five when I first started watching the magical girl anime classic. I was ecstatic to know, as a little boy who sought role models in fictional female characters—and wasn't allowed to watch *Dragon Ball Z* for some time—that there was an entire team of them. To this day, my favorite Sailor Guardians are the intelligent and collected Sailor Mercury and the tough and confident Sailor Jupiter. As an aside, their feline companions Luna and Artemis were and still are adorable.

My penchant for pretty transformation sequences and anime soundtracks first emerged through the Sailor Soldiers. My first Japanese song was "Ai no Senshi" (Soldier of Love), which was included in a US *Sailor Moon* CD. As the series progressed and more characters were introduced, my love for this team of female superheroes fighting evil by moonlight only grew. Though they were abrasive and dismissive towards my original faves, the coming of Sailor Uranus and Sailor Neptune shocked and awed me with their badass destructive force. There were too many things that I enjoyed about *Sailor Moon*, but only now do I see how much it's influenced me.

As fun as it was to watch the Sailor Soldiers be superheroes, watching them live as regular girls and women was very important in my formative years. Seeing Usagi (Serena) klutz her way through

life and guffaw at comics, and Makoto (Lita) overcome the social stigmas of her tomboy tendencies and accept all sides of herself introduced me to the simple concept of female characters being as complex and interesting as their male counterparts at a young age. I started being wary of other things that I watched, looking out for red flags like plot points that relied on definitive gender roles or stories where the girls only served as hollow eye candy or bland love interests. The connection between Uranus and Neptune was also incredibly educational for me. The two of them were in a lesbian relationship that ran rather deep. I might not have fully understood it as a child, but having not bought the English dub's shoehorned "cousins" claptrap for a second, I knew something was different about them. Finally finding out what their intimate relationship was like, I was shocked that people even tried to hide that. I'd argue that those two were the first step in my early acceptance of same-sex relationships.

These days, I've still kept up with a lot of magical girl shows that—for all intents and purposes—I enjoy more than *Sailor Moon*. I've only watched a bit of the new series out of nostalgic obligation, and it's very okay (for being based on the original manga which I *also* didn't much enjoy). My inclination towards female characters as role models has also persisted with countless other media, albeit with some much-needed expansion for other genders. But I'll never forget what *Sailor Moon* has done for me as a child and how much of my current self I owe to the Sailor Scouts.



THE PULL LIST THE VISION #1-4

TOM KING, GABRIEL HERNANDEZ WALTA, JORDIE BELLAIRE



SEAN FISCHER

The cheery, Rockwell-esque covers of the first two issues of *The Vision* suggest another quirky slice-of-life series in the vein of *Ms. Marvel* or *Squirrel Girl*, but this makes writer Tom King's macabre story of a dysfunctional or rather, malfunctioning android family all the more striking. There's a well crafted atmosphere of foreboding doom throughout these early issues that can best be described as a cross between a Jonathan Franzen domestic drama and a classic Vertigo title. This likeness is best exemplified by King's stylish narration. King's distinct omniscient narration serves to thematically tie together some of the more heady issues featured in the work, such as the ethics of creating artificial intelligence or whether or not said A.I.'s are capable of understanding morality. Naysayers who balk at the idea of the Avengers' premiere android creating a family of eerily similar units would likely find King agreeing with them. This becomes the book's main source of tension and what distinguishes it from many current Marvel titles that are radically changing the status quo of their characters. Instead of trying to desperately justify this change, King brings attention to how unnatural it is, amplifying tension throughout the series while ultimately developing an uneasy sense of inevitable tragedy. Gabriel Walta's subdued art perfectly matches the tone King is establishing; the Vision's family looks equal parts sympathetic and at odds with the rest of the suburban setting. The same can be said for Bellaire's muted colors, which are a far cry from the bright and bubbly art in the books concerned with the day-to-day lives of other Marvel heroes. This is easily one of Marvel's best new series for its atmosphere alone, and it's a necessary read for anyone looking for something different, or something that's just a bit more nuanced.

THE DC CINEMATIC UNIVERSE'S CRUMBLING FOUNDATION

CARLOS CADORNIGA

Remember when Iron Man came out? It was a fun, summer superhero flick with a post-credits sequence about something called "the Avengers initiative" that gave everyone a sense that something big and exciting was on the way. The Incredible Hulk teased a little bit after that. Then subsequent movies Iron Man 2 and Thor really shaped the expanding universe into what these were all moving towards. Soon after Captain America dropped, we got the big blockbuster hit of 2012, The Avengers, and even that turned out to be a prelude to a far bigger story than we ever thought possible for movies. For better or worse, Marvel Studios has finally earned its status as the creator of a cinematic universe that stretches far beyond a single movie.

Remember when Man of Steel came out? It was a mediocre, pretentious Superman adaptation that presented an incredibly unsympathetic hero who couldn't care less whether his adopted home planet lived or died. It easily could have stood on its own as another bland superhero movie.

Now, with a DC cinematic universe (DCCU) about to emerge, the franchise has opted to reverse Marvel's formula by selling the crossover as early as they can and leaving its few setup films in the dust before they even come out.

When Man of Steel first premiered, I was incredibly curious to see where a DCCU would go, even with a lukewarm reaction to a Superman movie shot with a bleak sepia tone where the "righteous hero" snaps his adversary's neck. I would have been excited to see him square off against Batman and team up with the likes of Wonder Woman and Aquaman to beat up bad guys in the eventual Justice League movie. But even back then, I already knew that the bar had been set too high. Whereas Marvel Studios waited a good number of films to present a threat large enough to level Manhattan, DC showed off two tiny guys destroying the entire city of Metropolis in their first movie alone.

The next movie would have to top that already-unwieldy level of action, because that's how sequels tend to work.

With Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice on the horizon, DC and Snyder have spared no expense in trying to hype up moviegoers and comic fans alike. Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor drives a lot of that hype in advertising, with his character often making grandiose statements that can be translated to "look at this movie and how big and amazing it will be", ie., calling their conflict "the greatest gladiator match in the history of the world," and warning Bruce Wayne to "not pick a fight with [Clark Kent]." It already seemed a little shaky that the DCCU was kicking off from such a subpar movie. Likely sensing that unease, DC felt the need to restore anticipation in their impending universe in the only way they apparently know how: by giving us everything they think we want already.

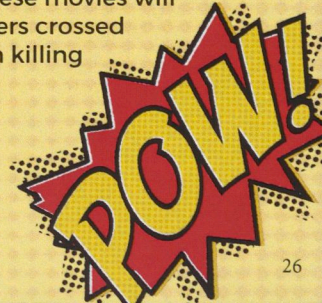
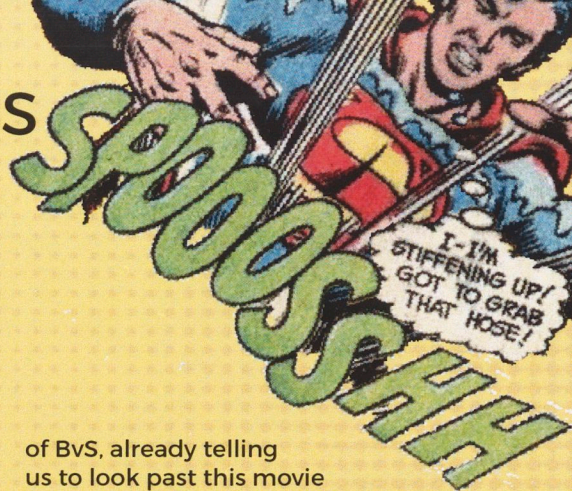
One of the trailers for BvS made the controversial move of showing off Doomsday, a classic DC villain, as the reason the two heroes (and Wonder Woman) team up. While it shouldn't come as any surprise that the Dark Knight and Caped Crusader were going to team up anyway, spoiling the third act of such a highly-anticipated movie would be enough to knock down any hype that people may have generated. Unfortunately, that poorly conceived trailer portended a string of bad decisions in an already troubling lead-up to this universe.

With the reveal being poorly received by fans, the studio responded by assuring them that Doomsday was not the biggest threat in the movie by eventually revealing what is likely Darkseid's debut in the movie. In other words, they tried covering up their spoiler by teasing with yet another spoiler that only further discounts any lingering excitement people might have still had for the movie. Snyder has even stated that people should start thinking of the "bigger world" outside

of BvS, already telling us to look past this movie and towards Justice League. It's a truly desperate move to get people excited when a director tells people not to look forward to his own film so they can anticipate another.

Suicide Squad set to release in August, while looking marginally more exciting than BvS, still makes me nervous. What is clearly DC's answer to Marvel's surprise hit, Guardians of the Galaxy, the villains-as-heroes movie shoehorns every DC baddie the layman has never heard of and prays that shallow interpretations of the Joker, played by Jared Leto, and Harley Quinn, played by Margot Robbie, can drive the movie home. What peeves me about Suicide Squad is that Marvel, through years of careful filmmaking that gradually established a faithful audience, earned their right to take a chance on a group of unknown characters and make a movie out of them. DC is only riding on the coattails of Guardians' success without even proving that they're good enough to do so.

The mad rush to show us everything that the DCCU has to offer is only proving that it really can't have much to begin with. I'm not saying that because I prefer Marvel over DC. I like DC, which is why this upcoming cinematic universe is making me angry. We have directors discrediting their own movies so they can hype up next year's model, and a studio that thinks it can copy other comic adaptation formulas that have done well without appreciating the work that goes into actually making them good. DC's hectic movie schedule is upsetting enough while barely having started, and I can only hope against all hope that any of these movies will be enjoyable. (Fingers crossed for Wonder Woman killing it.)



GENDER ROLES

are for

A-HOLES

CARLOS CADORNIGA

My mother has always been one of my personal heroes and is a huge reason why I'm so opposed to gender roles.

She's been a pediatrician for longer than I can remember. For years, she's been working twelve-hour shifts in the emergency room at Queens Hospital, taking care of kids and young adults with all kinds of problems, from colds to seizures to physical violence brought on by mental disabilities. She's gone through more than her fair share of sleepless nights in the ER dealing with other people's kids when their parents couldn't, but never once has she forgotten about her own children. As wonderful as she is as a doctor, she hasn't been anything less than a perfect mother. When I was little, I never really noticed how often those long hours

must have tired her out because her love and wisdom in taking care of me and my brother have always shone through. I have always

appreciated and loved my mother for raising us the way she did, but it wasn't until I grew up a little that I began to see how hard she worked to make her family happy. Because of that unyielding dedication to everything she did, I didn't really grow up with the mindset that most boys grew up with: that girls are inherently worse at things than guys.

Defining someone's entire life and personality by whatever is in their pants seems narrow-minded and incredibly boring to me.

Don't get me wrong: If a woman wants to be a housewife and raise her kids while she cleans the house or a man wants to hole up in a man cave and break out some brewskies with the fellas to watch the big game, then that's their prerogative. What I don't like about gender roles is the idea that men or women or anyone under a different category must be inherently one way or another in a black-and-white (blue-and-pink?) society. Being a housewife or watching sports should be considered choices, not obligations.

Early on in my childhood, I started balking at the idea of people being divided by their gender, with society largely believing that girls had to like pink and play with dolls and that boys had to like blue and play football.

When it came to "male-coded habits" like enthusiasm for sports or cars, I never actively rejected any of them. I enjoyed lifting weights at the gym and would watch the occasional baseball or football game with my family, but I wasn't trying to fulfill any of society's expectations by doing things like that. I just did them.

I've never really thought of any aspects of my lifestyle to be strictly guy stuff or girl stuff. I've always considered them to just be "me" stuff. I haven't had the proper terms for the way I live my life until recently, but I know now that the last thing I ever want to do is to be restricted by what my penis indirectly decides I should be doing. I'll get moderately buffed up at the gym and I'll sing and dance to Lady Marmalade while imagining myself as a sexy courtesan in

the Moulin Rouge and not let my gender stop me from doing that and so much more.

People can be more than what their gender

Gender roles are bricks that support a wall of bullshit, and I'll spend my entire life smashing them.

I wanted to try and shake up that monochrome world around me. At a family reunion, the boy and girl cousins each separated into their own rooms. Without much thought, I found myself hanging out with my girl cousins for most of the time. They welcomed me with open arms without much regard for my gender. Out in the real world, I openly displayed my love for magical girl superheroes by enjoying things like shojo manga for girls and decorating my locker with pictures of my favorite heroines.

"dictates." These days, learning that gender extends far beyond what people are biologically born with, I'm happy to know that nothing in society has to be so blue-and-pink anymore (even if most of the world still needs to catch up). Gender roles are bricks that support a wall of bullshit, and I'll spend my entire life smashing them.

I LIKE JUSTIN BIEBER, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT

JAMES GROTTOLA

When Justin Bieber's new album, *Purpose*, dropped, I was shocked by how many of my friends were posting on social media about it. But my friends defy gender roles and stereotypes because they're not boring white-bread people, so I figured it was just a typical "let's defy conventions" type of thing.

That all changed when I heard "Sorry" for the first time. I was blown away. The hook was absurd. It was spicy, it was fun to listen to and it was a song that made me want to listen to it again.

My jaw nearly hit the floor when I found out this was the new J-Beebz hit.

Unfortunately, Bieber is a noted asshole. I was hoping it was something that comes with being a teenager who is constantly in the public spotlight, but it seems to have carried over into his adult life.

So when I say, "I like Justin Bieber," I don't mean that he's somebody I would want to spend even a minute of my life around. I mean that he (or at least the ghost writers making these tracks) makes incredible pop songs that I genuinely enjoy.

After I got out of my early teenage "I'm edgy because I like metal" phase, I didn't care that people liked Bieber. I thought his music was entry-level pop nonsense marketed for children and that he was an absolute asshole of a person, but I wasn't bothered that he had fans.

But today my ears thank a higher power that somebody at Universal was able to market his puberty instead of letting him fade into obscurity the same way most teen boy pop stars do.

Simply put, the songs off of "Purpose" are going to be the gems of our mid-decade pop. "Sorry" is one of the best uses of a trumpet of all time, "What Do You Mean?" has excellent instrumentals and some great vocals and, while it teeters dangerously close to what I call 'ass rock,' "Love Yourself" has an excellent hook and a catchy melody.

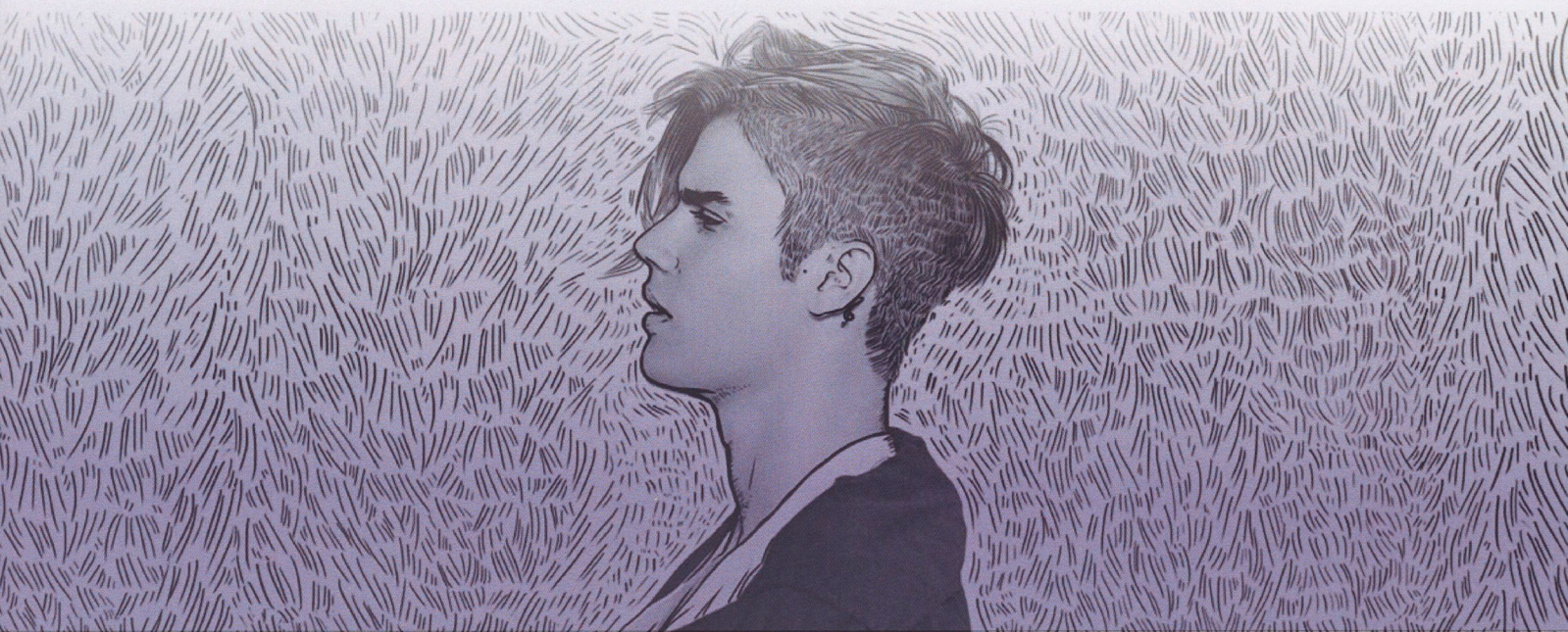
I like Bieber and I don't give a shit. If you do too, you shouldn't either. I'm a big advocate that the term "guilty pleasure" is a waste and perpetrates the myth that there is such a thing as perfect taste.

I don't care if there's somebody who thinks I'm not masculine enough for

wanting to jam "Sorry" every moment of my life. I don't care if there's a kid, like every other teenage boy, who is super mad that Bieber is famous for just being himself. I don't care if there's a dad who is too traditional to understand that I'm blown away by a really good pop song.

Luckily, if Twitter is any indication, there's a large number of people that agree with me. This piece isn't for them. This is for the people that can't see Bieber in his new and handsome form. It's for the people that heard "Baby" once and immediately branded the Canadian transplant as the biggest threat to American culture since Nickelback (that's what I meant when I was saying 'ass rock' before).

The point is that whether you admit or not, the new Bieber tracks are pretty damn catchy, and even if, for some reason, you irrationally hate Bieber to your core, there's no way you can't at least bob your head to his new tracks.



THE LIES AMERICA TELLS ITSELF

ANON Y. MOUS

It's easy to buy into America's mythology, glorify the Constitution's framers, forgive slavery, justify Manifest Destiny, allow genocide, proclaim emancipation and forget the disenfranchisement of millions. But history without context isn't history, it's ignorance.

Perspective is key to understanding and coming to terms with America's injustices. In a society that continues to be dominated by straight white men, perspective can be lacking. Its absence can be seen and heard in presidential candidates and leading politicians demonizing Syrian refugees. It's easy to say that refugees of the Syrian Civil War want to spread radical Islam and change the American way because people want to believe it. Fighting against the tidal wave of propaganda is difficult.

Getting over the cognitive dissonance from seeing a refugee crisis as a result of America's foreign policy failures in the Middle East can be a bit much to ask for from a typical person, but this is what's required of us to allow for a more just world. Most of the two thousand refugees are moving across the world to get away from the atrocities in Syria, to create a stable and happy future for their children. Most would have preferred to stay in their native country if it wasn't being run by a genocidal dictator. But ignorance on an immense scale allows the facts to be manipulated to push a political agenda.

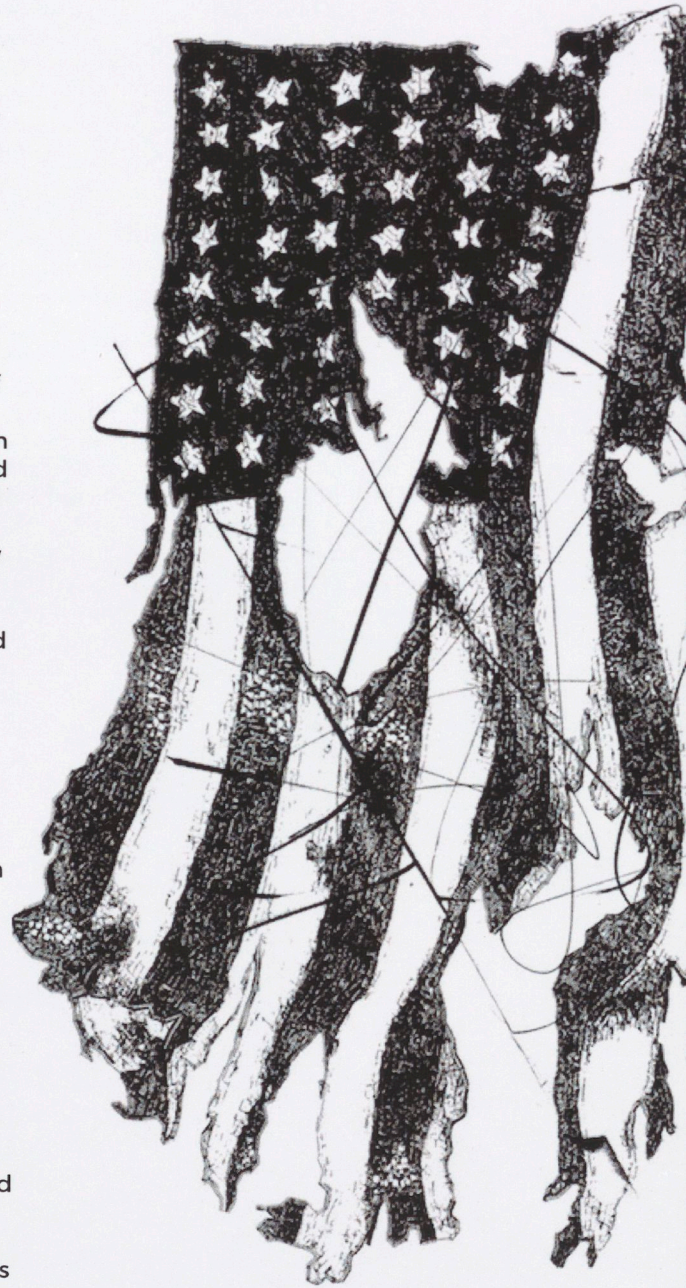
This lack of perspective doesn't just end with xenophobia. The ignorance of facts is also the cause of the centuries old American tradition of terrorizing African Americans. This includes Jim Crow, burning crosses and lynchings that have taken on a modern form in Voter-ID laws, poisoned water and police brutality. Understanding the black perspective in America is almost impossible for anyone not born into the culture just in terms of the severe racism that permeates through every aspect of society specifically geared against African Americans. But that isn't an excuse to lack empathy.

With higher unemployment rates, higher incarceration rates and higher dropout rates, black men and women face an incredible onslaught of discrimination in their day-to-day

life. Despite these statistics, the historical context of the way African Americans were treated, and even with recorded footage of a black man being choked to death for the crime of selling loose cigarettes, many Americans quickly dismiss the cry of "Black Lives Matter" as whining and reply that "All lives matter."

American history isn't without precedent for these prejudices. Refugees flowing from Italy in the aftermath of an earthquake in the 1900s faced severe discrimination in America. The same happened to the Irish escaping a ruined economy and famine. But these groups were eventually absorbed into the growing definition of what an American is, even as the word continued to exclude Native and African Americans. The modern discussion of Mexican migrant workers in the southwest draws an eerie parallel to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned Chinese immigration to protect American jobs. But even with these events to learn from, America continues to make the same mistakes. They continue to draw from the same well of hatred to target different groups of people.

The only way for America's infected wound of bigotry to heal properly is to understand what caused it. Ignoring it will only make the situation worse as America approaches a point where non-Hispanic whites are becoming a quantitative minority and people of color begin another wave of civil rights protests. Acknowledging the terrible injustices perpetuated against minorities in America and working to understand their perspectives is the only way for racial tensions to ease. America has to begin meaning more than just skin color; it needs to reflect the ideals and hopes of the millions who helped build it.



STONY BROOK MEN'S BASKETBALL GAINING NATIONAL ATTENTION

JIM FERCHLAND

Under Head Coach Steve Pikiell, the Stony Brook Seawolves men's basketball team have once again had a fantastic 20-win season. Since 2011, Stony Brook has won 23 games or more every season, but all have fallen short of one primary goal: the American East Conference Championship.

Pikiell has completely transformed the team into one of the hottest basketball programs in the country. The Seawolves were a subpar 4-4 team after a heavy and challenging road schedule against big name schools, but this was Pikiell's strategy: to improve the team's performance by having them square off against the powerhouse schools early on the road.

"We'll grow from it," Pikiell said prior to the season starting about the rough road schedule, which included games at Notre Dame, Vanderbilt and Western Kentucky. "We're getting the best in every league that we're playing." Following a tough loss at Northeastern, which gave SBU its fourth road loss of the year, the Seawolves had been nearly unstoppable; until the team was defeated by the University at Albany Great Danes on Feb. 17, it had carried the longest winning streak in DI collegiate basketball this season. It was also the longest winning streak of Pikiell's 11-year tenure. Over the past five seasons, he's led Stony Brook to 116 wins.

But since falling short of an NCAA bid, in an excruciating loss to Albany last year, there's almost no significance for Pikiell



in winning a lot of games.

This season, the program has received national attention for its record and winning streak. Its outstanding performance in games has earned it a possible AP Top 25 votes for the first time in the school's history. According to Pikiell, it's not a meaningful accolade. He went 4-24 in his first season at Stony Brook back in 2005.

"It means nothing," Pikiell said. "Coach Jim Calhoun, who won two national championships at Uconn. 'He said this to me the first time we won 20 games: 'You're happy you won twenty, and oh yeah, we used to lose twenty.' he said to me. 'Well, win twenty games five more times and then call me.' I have a lot of pride in the program but it is hard to win one game." It took Pikiell a month and a half to win his first game here as head coach.

The team carries lethal artillery on the offensive end of the floor, with Jameel Warney, Rayshaun McGrew, Carson Puriefoy and Ahmad Walker all averaging 10 points or more and receiving 30 plus minutes a game.

Jameel Warney is a potential NBA prospect who has broken almost every school record in Stony Brook history this season. He was recently named to

the Naismith list, which honors the best NCAA basketball players every season. He's leading the America East conference in points, blocks, rebounds and field goal percentage. He's surpassed 2,000 career points and looking at a possible second Conference Defensive Player of the Year award; he did it last year in his junior season. He's averaging 19 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks a game in his senior season. At the same time, he also feels that the winning streak and national attention does not really do anything for the team.

"It's great exposure for us and the whole community, but apparently it does not help us with getting wins," Warney said after the victory against New Hampshire on their former winning streak. "It just really does not do anything for us."

Warney also added that during this time of year, late in the season, it is crucial to play great basketball. "We love pressure right now," Warney said on the team's success. "We need to play our best basketball at the best time."

The team thrives on becoming better and better every game. Their rigorous teamwork has paid dividends with the way they're playing this season.

It all paid off on March 12 when, for the first time in the school's history, the Stony Brook Men's Basketball team became America East champions by beating Vermont 80-74 and will be heading into March Madness.





THE STONY BROOK FENCING CLUB

MICHAEL DESANTIS

The Stony Brook University Fencing Club will look to have a successful semester in competitions despite some financial shortcomings that may prevent them from performing as well as other schools' teams that have a larger budget than its \$15,397.

"We're a club team, so all these others schools have designated coaches," senior Michael Dadurian said. "We're like the only club team that participates in tournaments that doesn't have a coach in each specialization."

In fencing, points are awarded depending on which of three weapons are used, all of them being metal. A foil, a flexible sword with a rectangular blade that weighs under a pound, can only be used to strike the torso. A sabre, a sword with an X or Y-shaped blade, can be used to slash the arms and mask as well. An epee, with a three-sided blade, allows the fencer to strike anywhere on the opponent's body.

The club's coach, Kevin O'Grady, specializes in using the sabre. Junior Brianna Bawayan, the club's treasurer, said that the team would benefit

from finding additional coaches that specialize in the other two weapons.

"[O'Grady] has done an amazing job with helping us prepare for our tournaments," Bawayan said. "However, he specializes in only one weapon, and although he does his best to help out the entire club, we would like to find coaches that specialize in epee and foil."

Dadurian finds it hard for the club to compete against teams that are trained by specialized coaches, since they have better structured practices nearly every day of the week.

"We help each other out when we can," Dadurian said. "The competitive team kind of just needs to know how to adapt every match since we don't have a coach to tell us what to do."

"If the club had a higher budget, we would go to more tournaments, get more involved in the community and get new equipment and outfits," said sophomore Mierhamza Rahimi, the club's president.

Although the fencing club would attend more tournaments, a significant portion of the budget is needed to rent out cars and hotel rooms for the competitive team. "Compared to other schools, I would say that our budget is fairly low," Bawayan said. "Some universities, such as University of Florida and William and Mary, can easily afford to take buses in order to get to competitions that are held quite a distance away from them. For our club, we need to apply for a grant so we don't waste more than half our funding on attending a tournament held in places like Tennessee or Virginia."

A couple of financial factors that determined the fencing club's budget is the amount of the student activity fee and the needs of other clubs. "A lot of sports clubs in particular have the issue of comparing themselves to other schools," USG Treasurer Taylor Bouraad said. "Not every school has a club ice hockey team, which takes up a large majority of the club budget (\$99,146), and ice hockey needs that

budget to function."

The fencing club could utilize grants more often. Clubs can get up to two national or regional event grants per year, which would cover \$4,000, 80 percent of the total cost of the trip or \$400 per person, whichever is less. Clubs usually get the \$4,000 for each trip, Bouraad said.

"The club's goals for the semester are to improve competitively," Dadurian said. In addition to competing, the club supports newcomers by teaching them recreationally.

"We try to promote more of the competitive team, obviously," Rahimi said. "At the same time, we also want to keep people at the level they're comfortable with."

Fencing requires a very unique skillset. A good fencer doesn't try to be too fancy but uses finesse, speed and control when performing basic actions like parries and lunges, according to Dadurian.

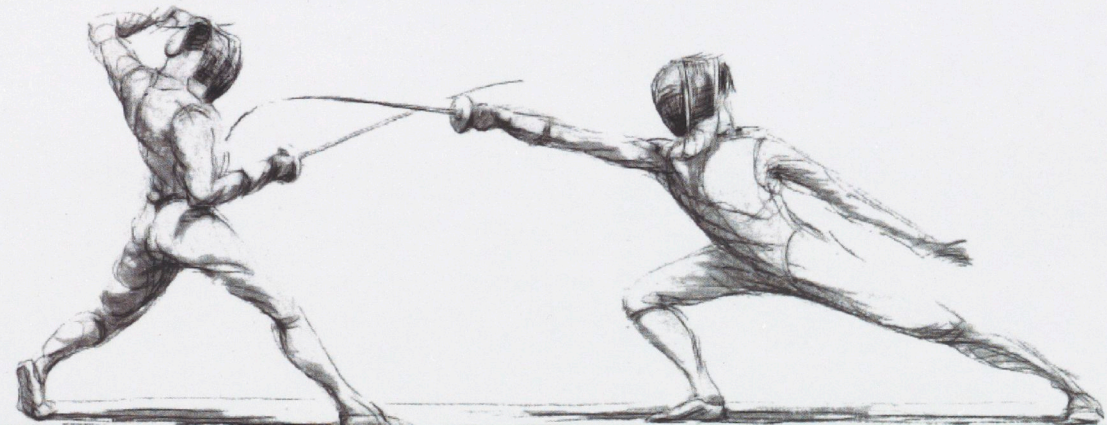
"New fencers display a lack of control and gameplan," Dadurian said. "You have to play to your strengths when fencing, and that's what new fencers don't know how to do. They're just trying to remember how to stand and do the basics."

It goes to show that anyone can pick up fencing with enough hard work; Rahimi didn't start fencing until his first semester of college.

"In the beginning, I was like everyone else," Rahimi said. "You see swords and you think it's cool. At first, it's difficult and you want to give up, but once you really put yourself into it, you discover how exhilarating and intense it could be."

Rahimi said he tries to limit the competitive team to 24 people so the budget works out, but there are over 50 people in the club altogether.

Despite the blend of competitive and recreational members, the fencing club melds together well. "As new members keep pouring in, we're just as welcoming," Bawayan, who has been fencing since her junior year in high school, said. "We're a close circle."





FROM STARS TO SCARS

HOW ACL INJURIES CAN CHANGE A LIFE

NIKOLAS DONADIC

Pressure can burst pipes or make diamonds. Some athletes crack under the immense stress while others become legends when they step up to a tense situation. But the most important pressure nowadays is not the metaphorical pressure of competition. It's the actual pressure placed on the knees of these athletes.

In the past few years, it has become all too common for a star player to tear their Anterior Cruciate Ligament and have their season come to an abrupt end. Some of these players return at the same level or stronger, which has often been attributed to a combination of luck and hard work.

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson had an MVP season following his torn ACL. Denver Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller won Super Bowl MVP after his and Toronto Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry has played a solid NBA career after suffering his. But for every one of them, there are countless more who have limped and fallen to the wayside.

Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose, who was the NBA's youngest ever MVP, has still not returned to form after his ACL tear. Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, who set the NFL on fire as a rookie phenomenon, has yet to mentally recover from his torn ACL, and Golden State Warriors' guard Shaun Livingston's NFL days may be

numbered after his explosive tear. Marcus Lattimore, the former South Carolina running back, suffered two tears, and his professional career with the San Francisco 49ers was cut short before it even got a chance to start. These men were fierce and talented competitors, but their bodies prematurely failed them.

This massive upswing in knee injuries in professional athletics begs the question. "What has caused this increase in torn ACLs?"

"Awareness and improvement in MRI technology has increased the rate and accuracy of diagnosis," Dr. James Penna, chief of the sports medicine division of Stony Brook orthopaedic, said. "The rest is somewhat subject to debate and opinion..."

In order to truly understand some of the potential causes, one must first understand how the ACL works. According to an interview with ESPN, Dr. Tarek Souryal, the head team physician of the Dallas Mavericks, says, "The ACL is one of the four main ligaments in the knee and is the primary stabilizer. It's the smallest of the four, but it serves the most important function: It stabilizes the knee for rotational movement. When you cut to change direction, that's when the ACL comes into play."

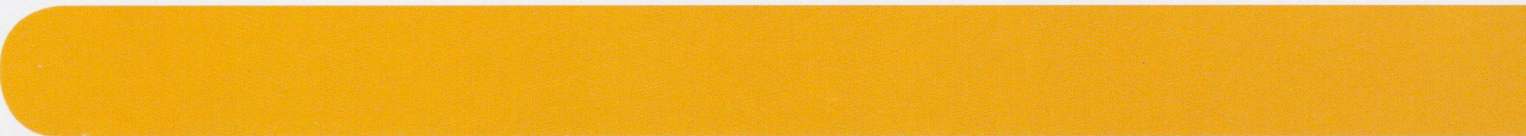
Therefore when one's ligament is damaged or has been in the past, it can cause instability physically and

most certainly will mentally. It's like driving an old car on ice, you know you're going to slide, but you just don't know when.

Penna named modern turf substitutes a potential contributor to the upswing as well as sheer workload. "The other statistic, which I have yet to mention, is exposure, the hours of training and competition are vastly different from where we were even 10 years ago," he said. "There is no offseason for any sport, there is no rest, there is very little true cross training. It is conceivable that rates (of injury) are not changed by much- it's just the competitive hours of exposure are much higher."

Heightened athleticism, coupled with shortened recovery time as well as increased knowledge of the injury itself, combined with advanced technology, may be the reason for this rash of severe injuries.

Each and every one of the athletes who sustains an ACL tear suffers a critical loss, whether it be a lost step, lost confidence, a lost mentality or quite possibly, a lost career. One wrong step and their livelihoods, their childhood dreams, everything they worked for and everything they adore flashes before their eyes.



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