



THE DISPATCH

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HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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2016-2017
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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1200 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. The Dispatch staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

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

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

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

ACTRESS, AUTHOR, ICON CARRIE FISHER DIES AT AGE 60

BY KATY DARA

On Tuesday, December 27th, 2016, Carrie Fisher passed away. The *Star Wars* actress suffered a heart attack on a flight from London to Los Angeles on December 23rd.

First coming onto the scene when she was cast as Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* franchise in 1977, Fisher was only nineteen years old when she quickly became a screen icon. She also starred in films such as *The Blues Brothers*, *Shampoo*, and *When Harry Met Sally*, and also made an appearance in the *Star Wars* franchise's 2015 installment, *The Force Awakens*.

Fisher was more than just an actress. She was a successful writer of both novels and films, a feminist, and mental health-awareness activist. She had a hand in writing some of Hollywood's most iconic films. "Script doctoring" is a skill that often goes uncredited and unacknowledged in Hollywood. Writers will get hired to clean up an existing screenplay; just like doctors, they diagnose problems and suggest solutions. In the case of script doctoring, that means anything from adding one-liners to reworking entire scenes. Carrie Fisher began her career as a script doctor in the 1990s. Fisher was responsible for polishing *Hook*

in 1991, *Sister Act* in 1992, *Lethal Weapon 3* in 1992 and *The Wedding Singer* in 1998.

Although Entertainment Weekly called Carrie Fisher "one of the most sought after doctors in town" in 1992, she was not credited by name as a writer for any of the films in which she had a hand. In some ways, this is Carrie Fisher's unsung legacy. She also authored several books, such as *Postcards From the Edge* and *Wishful Drinking*. She adapted the former into a screenplay, and the latter became a one-woman play. Most recently, Fisher published her autobiography *The Princess Diarist*, where she opened up about her experiences as an actress, the most controversial being her affair with her *Star Wars* co-star, Harrison Ford. Fisher also openly spoke about her diagnosis of bipolar disorder and her addiction to prescription drugs. Up until a week before her death, she had been making public appearances and appearing on talk shows

such as *Ellen* and *The Graham Norton Show*. Her death was sudden and unexpected.

Carrie Fisher's daughter, Catharine "Billie" Lourd said, "She was loved by the world and she will be missed profoundly. Our entire family thanks you for your thoughts and prayers." Fisher's movie-star mother, Debbie Reynolds, died the next day after suffering a stroke. It is presumed that the news of her daughter's death triggered the attack. Reynolds, age 84, was known for iconic films such as *Singin' In the Rain*. Their family has informed the public of plans to have a joint funeral for the two stars.

In a recent interview, Fisher was asked how she'd like to be remembered. Her response: "That I was a crazy, blurred, charismatic, weird, aging, kind person." Yes, she certainly was, and she will be sorely missed.

• • •



Carrie Fisher was only 60 when she passed away.

CHICAGO CUBS ARE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

BY
CHRISTIAN BELLISSIMO



Having ended their 108-year championship drought, the Chicago Cubs are the 2016 MLB champions. The last time they won the World Series was in 1908, when the Cubs swept the Detroit Tigers four games to one.

Beating the Cleveland Indians was not easy to do; like the Cubs, the Indians were in a long championship dry spell. Their chance had finally arrived.

Game one was on Tuesday, October 25th, at 8:08 PM. Played at Progressive Field in Cleveland, it was led by Corey Kluber, the Indians' pitching and defense was unstoppable and shut out the Cubs' hitting lineup. With Kluber's nine strikeouts, the Indians 6-0 took game one.

Game two took place on Wednesday, October 26th, at 7:08 PM in Cleveland. In game two, the Cubs' line up went off--players like Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist, and Kyle Schwarber were finding

the gaps all night. The Cubs took game two 5-1.

Game three was on Friday, October 28th, at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The Indians 1-0 won it by an RBI single, delivered by none other than Coco Crisp.

Game four took place the next night. Once again, the Indians got their way: Kluber's excellent pitching, and home runs by Carlos Santana and Jason Kipnis led to a 7-2 victory.

At this point, Cubs fans



were getting nervous--the Indians needed only one more win to be champions! Game

five was thus very important. The Cubs needed to win or their season would be over, and the drought would go on. Luckily, the Cubs won 3-2 with help from Jon Lester's great pitching, and Aroldis Chapman's save, keeping the Cubs in the series.

Game six was on Tuesday, November 1st, in Cleveland. The Cubs won 9-3 with homeruns by Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant and Addison Russell, setting up the final game: game seven.

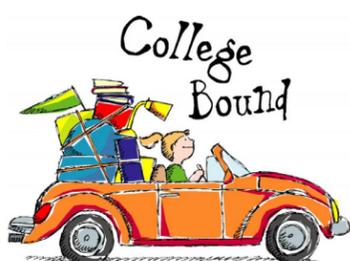
This nail biting finish was on Wednesday, November 2nd in Cleveland. The game went into extra innings and was held up due to a rain delay.

Then, Ben Zobrist hit a game winning RBI double, naming the Chicago Cubs World

Series champions in this epic finish.

The world couldn't believe it: Chicago had been waiting for this moment for 108 years. Even elders in their nineties were lit up with smiles. The series was having an impact on everyone: "I know so many people who are thinking of their grandfathers and fathers now in Chicago, and that's what it's all about. It's bigger than these 25 guys, it's bigger than this organization. It's about this city and the fans who have stuck by this team forever," said Jed Hoyer, the Cubs' president. At the Cubs victory parade, five million people showed up to get a glimpse at this historic group of men.

"I mean, people were hanging out of trees and buildings," explained Ben Zobrist while he was on the talk show Conan. All in all, the Cubs made history this year and have brought smiles to faces around the nation.



BY ALYSSA BAILEY

READY OR NOT, HERE COLLEGE COMES!

When students first enter high school, their first thoughts are typically about their classes and where their friends are (or who they will be). There are other thoughts, however, that should be given priority: those concerning college and what their college career will consist of. With the proper research, those questions should be easy to answer.

While the college research process is long and strenuous, it can easily be mastered if broken down into the following four steps.

The first step is to identify your priorities. This involves thinking about what colleges interest you, and what you might want to study. For a more clear and in depth

search, you should look at criteria such as location, size, cost, and the academic programs that the school offers. This will give you better insight as to what colleges you should be generally looking into.

The second step is a bit easier. Search for schools using an online college finder. One college finder that is used by many students is "College Navigator." With College Navigator you can check the location, size, what programs the college offers and the cost of the school's tuition. With the program's newest update, you can now look at statistics for the school and even add it to your "favorite schools" tab, allowing you to continue

looking at the school later.

The third step is to consider your admission chances. Once you've narrowed down your choices significantly, you need to compare your test results to those of students who the school has already accepted. To make this step slightly easier, you can look up the school's testing requirements, or set up a meeting with your college counselor. The counselor may explain to you that even though you may not necessarily reach the school's testing requirements, you can still apply and have a chance to be accepted. These are known as a "reach schools." Of the schools that you are applying to, these should be kept to a minimum.

The last step of the college research process is for you to make a final, definitive list of what colleges you want to apply to. There should be a decent amount of schools that you have a high chance of getting into. Although you should definitely put several "reach schools" onto your list, "safety schools," schools that you have a high chance of getting into, should fill up a majority of the finalized list. In the end, you should have between five and eight colleges on your list, although this is definitely flexible.

While the college research process may be long and difficult, in the end the whole endeavor will finally be worth it.

LAS PÁGINAS EN ESPAÑOL

TRANSLATIONS BY ARIANA STRIEB

EL NORTE

POR ILSI MARTINEZ E.

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THIS ARTICLE IS SEEN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE, TITLED, "THE NORTH."

El futuro presidente de los Estados Unidos, Donald Trump, quien pelió fuertemente contra la candidata demócrata Hillary Clinton, ha prometido construir un muro entre la frontera de Estados Unidos y México. El señor Trump también prometió deportar a todos los inmigrantes viviendo en los Estados Unidos. Esto a causado mucha polémica en la mayoría de la raza hispana, puesto de la mayoría de indocumentados son latinos.

Las familia inmigrantes aseguran que solo vienen a los Estados Unidos en busca de un futuro mejor para toda su familia y de un salario. "tengo miedo que me deporten para El Salvador, y tengo miedo que deporten a mi

familia también, porque si regresamos estoy segura que corremos mucho peligro, corremos el riesgo de que hasta nos maten" dijo una estudiante de la escuela secundaria Huntington High School. Las amenazas del señor Trump tienen atemorizados a la mayoría de los inmigrantes. Esto hace que ahora las personas caminen con miedo por las calles que los llevan a sus trabajos. Trabajos por los cuales las personas sacrifican muchas cosas en el camino por llegar a "el norte" en el camino por llegar donde vive la muerte.

Desde el momento en que decidimos salir de nuestros países como inmigrantes, estamos arriesgando nuestras vidas,

porque nunca sabemos que nos podemos encontrar ahí. Pero una vez estando en el camino que nos lleva a "el norte" nos encontramos con muchas realidades al ver todo lo que pasa en esos caminos, muertes, hambre, miedo y sobre todo mucha sed. Sed de llegar a la tierra de las promesas, la tierra que nos promete trabajos y libertad. Pero ya una vez estando en "el norte" nos encontramos con oportunidades y sin ganas de dejar el país. Pero nos sentimos con miedo, porque no queremos de ser deportados cuando hemos hecho muchas cosas y hemos sacrificado tantas cosas para poder estar en "el norte". Pero esa es la realidad que muchas personas no pueden

ver porque no saben los sacrificios que hacemos para poder llegar a "el norte."

Si tan solo "el norte fuera el sur" si tan solo en nuestros países encontremos un trabajo honrado. Si tan solo en nuestros países encontremos la seguridad de llamar a la policía y saber que contamos con su respaldo. Si tan solo en nuestros países tengamos una esperanza de que las cosas vayan a cambiar. Ahora solo nos queda esperar a que el señor Trump no cumpla con sus promesas de crear ese muro y de reportar a tantos indocumentados, porque si es así nuestra esperanza de un futuro mejor estará perdido, todo nuestro sacrificio estaría hecho en vano.

With the addition of Ariana Strieb to our editorial staff as our new Spanish editor, The Dispatch is proud to announce the introduction of translations of Las Páginas En Español.

"ACCEPTED"

BY ILSI MARTINEZ E.

Although I didn't choose to play with dolls, I don't remember playing with a ball, kites or toy cars either. Everyone knows it's "bizarre"--I like to dress how my heart dresses. I am someone special. People view me differently, but I'm really not that different. I have hands and legs. I have eyes and

a mouth. I have more than just this, but no one wants to be apart of my heart; they perceive it to be different from theirs,



but it is in fact the same.

On June 28th, my heart was full of emotion. It wanted

to be free and accepted for who it is. My heart forgot that this door will only open for it. My heart has many more closed doors with padlocks and chains hanging on them. Why don't they want to enter? Why do they treat me like this?

I will continue using red lipstick. I want to show the size of my heart,

which is the most valuable part of me. I want to dance with you and fly with you like a butterfly that has just come out of its cocoon. I want to yell love! Love! Love, for the whole world to see. I am the same as everyone—I want to be free.

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THE SPANISH VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY FEATURED IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE OF THE DISPATCH TITLED, "ACEPTADO."

SI TU QUIERES A ESCRIBIR PARA ESTO SECCIÓN, USA EL REMIND PARA EL DISPATCH (TEXTO @HDISP A 81010), VEN A NUESTRO SESIONES MIÉRCOLES DESPUÉS DE ESCUELA, Y EMAIL ARTÍCULOS Y PREGUNTAS A HHSDISPATCH@GMAIL.COM

THE NORTH

BY ILSI MARTINEZ E.

The future president of the United States, Donald Trump, having fought strongly against the democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, has promised the construction of a wall on the border of the United States and Mexico. Mr. Trump has also promised to deport all illegal immigrants living in the United States. This has caused a significant amount of controversy within the Latino community, due to the simple fact that the majority of undocumented people are Latinos.

The families of immigrants rightfully maintain that they only come to the United States in search of a better future for their family and a bet-

ter salary. "I am scared of being deported to El Salvador, and I am scared that my family will be deported as well, because if we go back, we risk danger and risk being killed," said a student at Huntington High school. The threats Mr. Trump makes has frightened most immigrants, regardless of the legitimacy of their citizenship. This has resulted in people heading to living their lives and going to work in constant fear. These are jobs for which people have sacrificed a lot for, on the road to the "the north"--the road where death lives.

From the moment that we decide to leave our country, as immi-

grants, we are risking our lives because we never know what we will find on the journey. Once we are on the road that takes us to "the north," we are faced with many realities: death, hunger, fright, and a lot of thirst.

Thirst for reaching a land of promises--a land that promises work and freedom. But once in "the north," we find work, opportunities and an unwillingness to leave the country that we now call home. But we are filled with fear-- we do not want to be deported after having sacrificed so much to get to "the north." This is the reality many people cannot see because they do not know of the sacrifices

we have made to get here.

If only "the north was the south," if only in our country we could find honest jobs. If only in our country we could find security calling the police, knowing that we could count on their support. If only in our country we could have hope that things will change.

Now, we can only hope Mr. Trump does not stay true to his promises to create that wall, and deported the many undocumented Latinos. If he does stay true to these promises, then our hope of a better future is lost. All of our sacrifices would have been made in vain.

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A NEW WAY

BY MARILYN MENJIVAR



I walk through the winding hallways of Huntington High School that are like a labyrinth unraveling the path to my destiny.

Everyone looks at me; I distinguished myself as having brown eyes, black hair, brown skin--these qualities identifying me as having Latino blood. The sadness invades my thoughts, and this is the reason for which I have broken the law. The ground that I walked on to freedom would also be the ground that I would have been buried under if I had not broken the law. I did not have dreams because I lacked rights. As I get further from my country,

time felt as slow as water flowing through a dam. Memories make me cry and remember the situation in my country, as I wipe the sea of tears from the dyed sleeves of my shirt. My serene heart opened like a treasure chest at the border of the American dream. It was not easy--I had to make decisions of a woman, when I was only a little girl with dreams. This path, hot as hell, and the burnt hope of a humble and dreaming Latina. We had a bottle of water that we knew would be our salvation while it lasted. Until innocent angels beg you for a drink of water to moisten your parched

throat, knowing the true value you of it with the thirst we had, it was gift from the heavens.

When we looked back everyone yells that "there is no turning back." The stars guided our path, for those same stars watched from the night sky, guiding us in the terrible desert. We were in a sand dune, seeing nothing, hearing nothing, thorns piercing our worn shoes while the words running through everyone's mind were "there is no going back." When I put my battered and painful feet on the promised land, freedom screamed and I listened with clarity. I am here now, and

I remember every minute that I spent crying and wanting to give up. It breaks the depths of my soul when negative stereotypes are made about us, just for having Latino blood. I look at both sides of the school watching the envious sun--for no matter how long it was alone, it was always bright and shining.

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THE SPANISH VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY FEATURED IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE OF THE DISPATCH TITLED, "UN NUEVO CAMINO."

HUNTINGTON'S MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE: A SCHOOL-WIDE SUCCESS

BY LINDSAY SAGINAW

This November, Huntington High School took on the Mannequin Challenge: a school-wide event that was the envy of college football teams and Thanksgiving feasts. After the bell rang on Tuesday, November 8th, students filled the halls and promptly froze.

Students from the high school's video classes were the masterminds behind the whole challenge, and managed to set a date and formulate the details in under just a few weeks. Around three o'clock, students heading to their extracurricular activities and sports stopped in the hallway. They took different positions, such as an exciting rock-paper-scissors game, eating a sandwich, or simply freezing in place. A highlight from the event was the administrative staff gathering in Principle Brendan Cusack's office to record the challenge, with each teacher performing some sort of silly antic, frozen in time.

It was amazing to see

our student body gather in such large numbers to collaborate on this project. It is believed that this phenomenon was started by students in Jacksonville, Florida in mid-October, where a video of the students freezing on campus while music played in the background quickly went viral. It managed to catch the attention of famous athletic and music groups, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, the United States women's gymnastics team, and Designer.

The challenge is basically a group of people that stop in the middle of carrying out their daily activities, typically while the Rae Sremmurd song, "Black Beatles," plays in the background as a videographer captures the whole event on film. Through the utilization of social media platforms, such as Twitter and Instagram, the Mannequin Challenge garnered incredible interest and became a nationwide trend rapidly.

#MannequinChallenge went viral as more and more people began uploading their take on



The entire school--even the administration--was involved in the project.

the competition, each one more complex and elaborate than the last. It is being compared to the frozen bullet scenes in popular movies such as The Matrix and X-Men: Days of Future Past.

"It went awesome. Everyone cooperated really well. It was amazing to see everyone come together and work on something so fun. I feel lucky to have been the one to film it!" said Jackie Caravetto, who recorded the entire challenge on her phone before taking it back to the video room to make edits before it was uploaded to YouTube. Caravetto, an aspiring cinematographer currently enrolled in Video III who hopes to become the intern next year, worked along with other fellow video students to edit and film the challenge.

There is no clear reason as to why the song "Black Beatles" is the popular choice of song to have playing in the background. However, it was in the original and first-posted video of it, which has been enough of a cue for the rest of the world to follow suit with the Rae Sremmurd song. Even the

musical artists themselves have gotten in on the act. At their concert on November 3, Rae Sremmurd fans went crazy when they did a rendition of the #MannequinChallenge of their own.

According to CNN, "Social media's been rocked by a new trend that involves doing nothing whatsoever. Seriously."

Whatever the explanation behind this challenge may be, most HHS students and teachers alike were very impressed by this school-wide demonstration of support for each other and collaboration. If only it had been during school hours.

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SCANNING THE QR CODE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE'S VIDEO ON YOUTUBE.



The filming extended into the classrooms of Nicole Castaldo, Edward Florea, Kristin Singer, and Brian Reynolds, among others.

Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

MR. KROLL: A PERSONALITY PROFILE

BY SONIA CHERERISOV

Steven Kroll is an English teacher at Huntington High School. He teaches English and ENL (English as a new language) to 10th and 11th graders. Despite the fact that Mr. Kroll has been teaching at the high school for only one year, he stands out due to his unique teaching style and appealing personality.

Mr. Kroll grew up on the east coast of Long Island. As a teenager, he was clueless as to his future career plans. However, when college came around he began exploring several majors. Throughout this process, he discovered his passion for literature and would eventually major in English.

"I started college at Suffolk County Community College, then transferred to Stony Brook University, and did my graduate work at Columbia," he explained. "I hasten to add that I graduated from Stony Brook as valedictorian, and I worked in construction for seven years to



support myself through college."

As a result of Mr. Kroll's outstanding academic success at Stony Brook, many doors opened for him. "I wanted to become a teacher because I really enjoyed English in college, and I was accepted to Columbia University's Teachers College, so I said, 'why not?'"

Before arriving at Huntington High School, Mr. Kroll taught in Long Island and the Bronx. He also worked in communications for one year and construction, as previously stated. His interest in a diverse school brought him to the high school, where he now "loves teaching and working with [the] good students" that Huntington High School has to offer.

"Mr. Kroll has always been a very supportive teacher. He has helped me improve my English in many ways and I appreciate his willingness to help me whenever I need help," says junior Edgar Rivas, one of Mr. Kroll's students.

Mr. Leavy, Chairman of the Humanities department, has nothing but positive things to say about Mr. Kroll. "His sensitivity for the needs of all of his students and his passion for literature can not be understated, as well as his ability to connect with all types of learners -- one of his strongest attributes."

Aside from Mr. Kroll's academic life, he has traveled all over the world, from Colombia, to London, Germany,

THIS CRUD WILL SHOCK YOU!

BY JULIA GILES

Back in the old days, when people actually read newspapers--if you could believe it--most folks were safe knowing that most of what they read was true. However, with the advent of the internet, fake news has become as bad and as easy to spread as a horrible cold.

Fake news is just what it sounds like: made-up stories passed off as real. They are usually presented with eye-catching icons and clickbait taglines like, "What This Man Did for His Wife Will Break Your Heart," or "What Mara Wilson Looks Like All Grown Up Will Shock You." All of this fancy nonsense is used to trick the average web surfer into thinking that the story is legit. When they click on it, to their dismay, the actual article turns out to be a pile of garbage. This tactic is often referred to as "clickbait," and can be found on nearly every site. Facebook, YouTube, Tumblr, Pinterest--you name it; nobody is safe from the fake news or clickbait of the world wide web.

Spain, and all over America. "I enjoy riding my motorcycle, as well as working out, reading books, and playing with my cat."

"A weakness I have is overthinking things, similar to Hamlet's problem [in Shakespeare's Hamlet]. However, the stakes aren't as important

You might be thinking, "well, so what? Nobody pays attention to the news anyway, so how will fake news affect my life?" Counter argument: The 2016 election, or, as it's more commonly known, "I Just Want to Hide Under My Bed and Pretend None of This Ever Happened." Fake news about both presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, spread like wildfire on Facebook, with *actual* headlines like, "Pope Francis Shocks The World, Endorses Donald Trump as President," and "Another Clinton Associate Found DEAD, Bill and Hillary's Body Count Increases!" Despite these stories and many more are completely false, many voters believed them, spread them across the internet, and influenced the election. Whether you're happy with the election results or not, this was a very ineffective way for voters to view the candidates. Even Donald Trump fired one of his employees for spreading fake news about Hillary (and I swear if that's another fake news story, I

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for me as they were for him," added Mr. Kroll.

It is true that everyone is shaped through past experiences. Mr. Kroll has a very diverse background which has allowed him to become the amazing teacher and person that he is today. It is indeed an honor to have him at our institution.

THE OBAMA EFFECT

LOOKING BACK AT THE LEGACY OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

The first 43 presidents in the history of the United States of America were all white men. With the election of Barack Obama in 2008, the *all-whites* club of the presidency had its newest addition: a *Black man*. No longer an all-whites club, the presidency would now have to settle with being *only* 98% white. Obama's election now made it possible for someone other than a

white man to be elected to the America's highest office. In *An American Dilemma*, Gunnar Myrdal studied race relations within the U.S. Myrdal believed he saw a vicious cycle in which whites oppressed Blacks, pointing to Blacks' poor performance in U.S. elections as

reason for the oppression. This being written 64 years before Obama's election poses the question, has American society changed with the election of a non-white male, so that it can be considered, as Myrdal put it, "post racial?" In looking into the effects of Obama's election in 2008 on American society, it is important to look at the controversies that came about with his election, as well as the impact his election has had on the Black community.

The first of many of these controversies was whether or not people

voted for Obama just because he was Black. Alexandre Mas and Enrico Moretti, professors at

Has America changed with the election of a non-white male?

Princeton and UC Berkeley, helped to prove this belief to be false when comparing the voting results from the 2004 election to that of Obama's

they thought that any person of color who could be elected could no way be a legitimate U.S. citizen. They thought Obama had a hidden agenda in which he would attempt to seize the power from the people, all relating to the fact he was Black. Any chance of America moving to become a "post-racial" society was stunted because of the Birther Movement's racially-based log-

ple, who now believe that they can be president, too. Yamiche Alcindor, a multimedia journalist for the New York Times, goes on to say that despite this, the fight is nowhere near over. Although Obama was elected, those Alcindor interviewed have said that they do not believe another Black president will be elected soon. Additionally, they believed that Republicans did not

want Obama to be president, perhaps because of his race, and that this is why they did not work cooperatively with him, and he wasn't able to get as much done as he would have liked during his presidency. Obama's lack of beneficial results in office has also led to a switch within the

Black community, leading many to the Republican Party. These people saw that a Democratic leader was not meeting their needs, so they began to go red instead. Blacks

It is quite evident how little American society has changed since the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

still will have to look back at the harmful history the GOP has had towards Blacks. Thus, despite the idea that Blacks now can

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believe that someone of their color can be elected, there is still significant progress to be made before they can be on the same level as whites in the political arena.

Applying the results of the latest U.S. Presidential election, it is quite evident how little American society has changed since the election of Barack Obama in 2008. The election of Donald Trump just goes to show how afraid some are of change in America, and what can come of this change. This is evident within the Birther Movement, Republican opposition to Obama in

Congress, and simply the endless list of the efforts that people have gone through in order to write Obama off as a bad president. It's no wonder so many people voted for Trump, when their minds were being fed misinformation, or more-so the idea that Obama was to be blamed for the perceived failure of America during his tenure in office. Therefore, America still has a long way to go before it qualifies, according to Gunnar Myrdal, as a "post-racial" society.

• • •
THE WRITER OF THIS OP-ED
WISHED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

THE GREAT DEAL: AN ANTICIPATION OF THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF TRUMP

BY DANNY COLLINS

After his upset win and single-handed destruction of the polling industry, Donald Trump has done what everyone thought was a joke a year ago. Now, the country must come to terms with the man they elected and prepare for the highly anticipated first one-hundred days of the president-elect's term.

Generally, the first one-hundred days are the most active and efficient, setting the tone for the rest of the president's term. For example, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first one-hundred days introduced his New Deal, which increased government regulations and programs to ease the Great Depression, and, you know, to "Make America Great Again."

My prediction--I'm calling it, "The Great Deal"--will include what I

think can actually be accomplished by March. Although not a supermajority, one must remember that the House of Representatives and Senate are both controlled by the Republican party. Thus, there will be loads of filibusters and sit-ins, so I sure hope that you enjoy a non-functioning government.

First on death row--Obamacare. The Donald hasn't mentioned this recently, but I remain confident that there will be a day-one repeal of Obamacare. While I am semi-confident some parts of the Affordable (wink-wink) Care Act will survive, the Republicans have been waiting for six years "to be released from the shackles of communism," and restore "true American values." Therefore, this thing's sure to go.

Next, R.I.P. the TPP. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, a United States-led trade deal encompassing the Pacific Rim and aimed at weakening the Chinese dominance in world trade, has already been conceded by Obama and will not be ratified by the United States.

The environment will also get trumped--he wants to "cancel job-killing restrictions on the production of American energy, including shale energy and clean coal," meaning he will want to end government subsidies to the clean energy industry. I'd be willing to bet that his Republican majority in Congress will go along with him and his claim that "global warming is something that China made up to destroy American jobs."

Trump will additionally play his hand in foreign policy, ending support for the Ukrainian and Syrian Rebels, along with "renegotiating" trade and defense deals. There is also a very real possibility of him withdrawing from the Iran Nuclear Agreement. This would result in the resumption of Iran's nuclear program, something even more worrisome, given that Israel has pledged to bomb any attempts of Iranian nuclear armament as they have done before.

Despite these possible advancements in Trump's and the Republican's agendas, there are a handful of things that the Donald should have some trouble with.

First off, Trump wants to introduce legislation that would place term limits on the House of Representatives and Senate. Something like this will never, ever, pass, given that the people who would be voting for such legislation would be the very senators and congressmen that would be affected by it. Because these are people who want to continue to be in their positions, voting for legislation like this wouldn't be in their interests.

Also, while I have no idea where he's going to get a (small) loan of a trillion dollars from for his infrastructure plan, lowering taxes certainly won't help.

Speaking of Infrastructure, we have a 2,000-mile elephant in the room to talk about. The "Great Wall of Trump" has been the only consistent point in Trump's campaign, and is something that will almost undoubtedly not pass; the impracticability and cost of a fifty-foot concrete wall in the middle of the desert would not appeal to the fiscally conservative members of Congress, and most definitely not the democrats. These two groups of opponents could effectively coalition against the pro-Trump Republicans.

That is all I currently have to say about what I think Trump will try to enact in the first three months of the next presidential term.

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BEST SONGS OF 2016

BY AFRODITI MOUNTANOS



One Dance

Artist: Drake ft. Wizkid & Kyla
Album: Views
Genre: Dancehall, Afrobeat

With yet another feel good song, Coldplay did a great job meshing their meaningful lyrics with slick electronic beats, all just coming together, creating a nice, happy song.



7 Years

Artist: Lukas Graham
Album: Lukas Graham
Genre: Soul-Pop

Simply amazing, this song is a major middle-finger, clap-back anthem, and really brings your mood up when you've just dealt with a break up. You'll value your worth more after listening to this song than you would sobbing over someone that is no longer there in your life.



Work

Artist: Rihanna ft. Drake
Album: Anti
Genre: Dancehall, Reggae-pop

With its blowing up on the charts, this song shows what new solo artist Zayn has to offer. Pillowtalk is about Zayn's intimacy with his lover. A feel-good song that hits hard with your emotions, I'd recommend it greatly.



Million Reasons

Artist: Lady Gaga
Album: Joanne
Genre: Country, Funk, Rock

Although on the slower side, this song has a great rhythm. Featured in the recent movie, "Suicide Squad," the song's about the sadomasochistic relationship between the Joker and Harley Quinn, two of the main characters in the movie. The song talks about their self-destructive behavior, and how they're truly "suckers for pain."



Cheap Thrills

Artist: SIA
Album: This is Acting
Genre: Synthpop

A very catchy number, this song is sure to put you in a good mood. The mix of Ariana perfectly hitting the high notes and Nicki's stunning solo leads to this song *immediately* putting a smile on your face.

Everyone knows this song for two things: its fantastic beat, and its being sung by Drake. With reggae and dancehall influences, the beat is felt in the riddim-centric production and the Jamaican patois that Drake adopts throughout the song. This song will make you just get up and dance, no matter what your mood is.

Hymn for the Weekend (Seeb Remix)

Artist: Coldplay ft. Beyoncé
Album: A Head Full of Dreams
Genre: Pop rock, Alternative



This is a song with a lot of meaning to it. More on the sad side than the others on this list, the group reflects on their life and wonders about growing older. A great song to listen to when you're feeling down, it's simply fantastic when you want to binge listen to sad songs.

Sorry

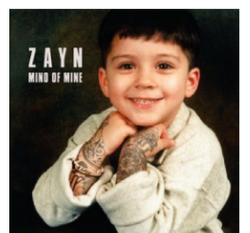
Artist: Beyoncé
Album: Lemonade
Genre: Electro-R&B



This song is about Rihanna seeking interest in a serious, deep, and meaningful relationship with the man that she's singing to (voiced by Drake). However, all he would like is one thing, and it isn't a serious relationship. Using dancehall vibes and Jamaican patois terminology, Rihanna, like the others, creates a catchy song with a repetitive hook.

Pillowtalk

Artist: Zayn
Album: Mind of Mine
Genre: Alternative R&B, Electronic



In this great song, Lady Gaga was able to create a musical number that mixes country, funk, and rock 'n' roll melodies. The song is about heartbreak and hope during a relationship. While it's a very different sound from what we are used to hearing from her, this isn't surprising given her lack of boundaries when it comes to her music.

Sucker for Pain

Artist: Lil Wayne et al.
Album: Suicide Squad
Genre: Alternative pop, Hip-Hop, Rock, Indie rock



"Cheap Thrills" became Sia's first No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. While it was actually for Rihanna's album, "ANTI," it was later taken off as it was seen as too "Brit-pop." Sia really did a great job singing and performing this fun, catchy, and summery song to dance and sing along to.

Side to Side

Artist: Ariana Grande ft. Nicki Minaj
Album: Dangerous Woman
Genre: Reggae-pop



BEST SONGS OF 2016

BY AFRODITI MOUNTANOS

Pick up the Phone's lyrics are actually rather sad. It depicts Thug and Quavo's tricky situation, where they want to be faithful to a girl despite her not wanting to reciprocate that love--the girl won't pick up the phone even when she's not busy. Regardless, the song is still fun to sing along to, with its sad lyrical meaning made up for with the great beat.

Pick up the Phone

Artist: Young Thug & Travis Scott ft. Quavo

Album: *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight*

Genre: Hip-Hop, Trap

With a great melodious beat, this song is very nice to listen to. It uplifts your mood and has a rather a different meaning than most other songs. The song is about The Weeknd's view on his stardom; it took him a long time to get to where he is in his career, with lots of negative things happening along the way.



Starboy

Artist: The Weeknd ft. Daft Punk

Album: *Starboy*

Genre: Pop, R&B, Electronic



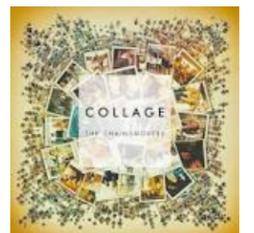
This is a pretty interesting song. Seeming to mean something different to each listener, with many saying it's a song about God, others claiming it's about having a mental illness, and some even arguing that it's just another song about missing one's significant other, whatever you take away from it, it's undoubtedly a great song.

Don't Let Me Down

Artist: The Chainsmokers ft. Daya

EP: *Collage*

Genre: Dance-pop, Trap



Black Beatles

Artist: Rae Sremmurd ft. Gucci Mane

Album: *Sremmlife 2*

Genre: Hip-Hop, Trap



With the lyrics comparing the singers to "The Beatles" to show off their fame, women and money, it's a nice song to listen to when chilling out and being carefree. It's also become affiliated with the "Mannequin Challenge," where a group of people stand in a still, frozen position while someone films it. Even HHS has partook in the challenge.

Broccoli

Artist: D.R.A.M ft. Lil Yachty

Album: *Big Baby D.R.A.M*

Genre: Hip-Hop, Trap



Despite this song's rather strange name, it's an incredibly good number. The piano, drum loop, and flute really pull the song together, with the catchy bridge part of the song getting you to sing it constantly.

Caroline is a song that will make you just want to nod your head to the beat the entire time. Aminé states that the song is not only about one girl in particular, rather that it's about multiple girls that he's met. The name *Caroline* helped greatly when writing this song--especially given his intentions to make *Caroline* into the modern "Billie Jean."



Caroline

Artist: Aminé
Album: (Single)
Genre: Hip-Hop



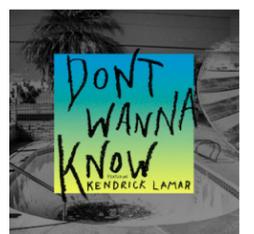
Another interesting song, *Don't Wanna Know*, is, despite its upbeat sound, more dirty than it is innocent and fun. It's a song about Lamar having a power that would be unhealthy and manipulative to a woman. His recounting of how the woman left for another man is what makes the song so interesting and appealing.

Don't Wanna Know

Artist: Maroon 5 ft. Kendrick Lamar

Album: (Single)

Genre: Tropical house



This is What You Came For

Artist: Calvin Harris ft. Rihanna

Album: (Single)

Genre: EDM



This song is yet another nice summer song. Although Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris wrote this song together, Harris performed and collaborated with Rihanna on it, for a third time. With its electronic beats and nice melody, it really puts you in a good mood.

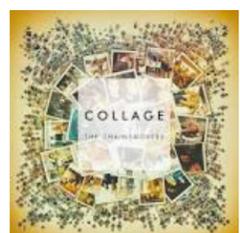
Low Life is simply a nice, chill song. Slow and meaningful, it refers to the singers' "low life" of drugs, alcohol, strippers, cheating, and exorbitant spending habits. The whole thing really makes you think about your life compared to theirs.

Low Life

Artist: Future ft. The Weeknd

Album: *EVOL*

Genre: Rap, R&B



Closer

Artist: The Chainsmokers ft. Halsey

EP: *Collage*

Genre: EDM



A song made out as an anthem for youth and heartbreak, this is really a wonderful song to listen to, as it makes you think about your youth -- how it's spent, and how well you've lived it.

NEWS IN REVIEW

PRESENTED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

BY ALYSSA BEFUMO



AAP Photos. W.H.O declaring Zika public health emergency at a press conference.

W.H.O Declares Zika a Public Health Emergency

In February 2016, a group of independent health experts from the World Health Organization informed the United Nations that the spread of the Zika virus was to be declared a global emergency. Zika had spread to an estimated 24 nations in the Americas, but still no cure had been found. Earlier studies showed that the virus was spread through mosquito bites and it was eventually found that it could also be sexually transmitted. South America saw a large outbreak of Zika patients earlier this year, prompting former Brazilian Prime Minister Dilma Rousseff to authorize health officials to control the spread of the virus, even if it meant intruding upon the private property of citizens. The first reported case of a patient contracting the virus in the U.S. occurred in Dallas, Texas.

Balkan Countries Close Borders To Refugees

In March, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia announced that they would be closing their borders, which were the main routes of refugees trying to reach Northern Europe. The countries lie between Greece and desired refugee destinations in North Europe such as Germany, Ireland and Denmark. The three nations previously provided protection for migrants on their journeys to new countries while fleeing from their war-torn homelands. The closures left hundreds of thousands of refugees trapped in Greece. This led to tense discussion between the European Union and Turkey, on whether or not asylum seekers currently in Greece should be forcibly returned to Turkey. Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar reportedly declared, “[The closures are] a new phase in resolving the migrant crisis.”



*© Getty Images
Getty Images. Refugee children at makeshift campsite on the Macedonia-Greece border*

Obama Becomes First POTUS To Visit Cuba In 80 Years

On March 20th, President Barack Obama and his family made U.S. history, by touching down in Cuba in what was the first visit to the island by a sitting President in over eighty years. Calvin Coolidge was the last President prior to Obama to visit Cuba. President Obama's visit took place shortly after an announcement that the United States and Cuba would be resuming diplomatic relations. The three day visit focused on meetings with Cuban government officials that would plan for the reinstatement of commercial ties between the two countries.

Getty Images. Cuban leader Raul Castro and President Barack Obama



Vote Decides That Britain Will Leave E.U.

On June 23rd, 2016, a referendum took place to decide whether or not the UK would stay in the European Union or leave it. Results revealed that citizens chose to “leave,” by a margin of 52% to 48%. The event became known as “Brexit” -- the portmanteau of “British exit.” Outrage amongst Britain's thousands of pro-Europe citizens resulted in massive protests across the United Kingdom. Protesters demanded that the British government needs to build strong political, economic and social ties with the rest of Europe. Pro-Brexit demonstrators argued that everyone needed to respect the outcome of the vote in order to maintain a just political system. The debate over Britain's exit from the European Union is still ongoing as government officials, including the UK's new Prime Minister Theresa May, attempt to bring forth plans for the future.

Shooting At Pulse Nightclub, Orlando Florida

In the early hours of Sunday, June 12th, a gunman opened fire at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Pulse, a popular gay nightclub, became the locale of the largest mass shooting that the United States has ever seen. The gunman, Omar Mateen, allegedly proclaimed his allegiance to ISIS before shooting. However, the CIA has yet to find any evidence connecting Mateen to the group. The attack left 49 innocent people dead, and another 53 wounded. The LGBTQ community was left shaken after the shooting, as they watched a supposedly safe space wrecked by hatred and violence. The brutal act led to peaceful demonstrations across the nation in an attempt to raise awareness about the need for stricter gun control measures, as well as teaching acceptance. The hate crime led President Obama to encourage Americans to “love one another” in a special address from the White House.

NEWS IN REVIEW

Hillary Clinton Accepts Democratic Nomination

On July 28th in Philadelphia, Hillary Clinton accepted the democratic nomination at the Democratic National Convention, making her the first woman nominated as candidate for a major political party in the US. Clinton delivered an emotional last speech to conclude the convention, citing the ideals of the Founding Fathers that the country was built on. She acknowledged her Republican opponent Donald Trump's reported plans for the country and denounced them, stating that his campaign trail rhetoric should "set off alarm bells" for Americans. The former Secretary of State and U.S. senator closed her address with the powerful words, "America's destiny is ours to choose. So let's be stronger together!" Clinton was later joined on stage by her daughter Chelsea, and husband, former President Bill Clinton.



Andrew Harnik Photo. Clinton accepting the nomination at the DNC.

Summer Olympics Take Place In Rio De Janeiro

The 2016 Summer Olympics kicked off on August 5th with opening ceremonies at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio De Janeiro. Over 11,000 athletes from more than 200 countries competed in the games. Outstanding competitors such as Michael Phelps and Simone Biles set incredible records for their respective events. Phelps won one silver and five gold medals in Rio. With a total collection of 28 medals, the swimmer is now the most decorated Olympian in history. Making her Olympic debut on the U.S. women's gymnastic team, 19-year-old Simone Biles went into the games with high expectations and did not disappoint, capturing one bronze and four gold and medals in the artistic gymnastics competition. Team USA excelled at the games, racking up a total of 121 medals over the course of the 16 days.



Getty Images. Refugee children at makeshift campsite on the Macedonia-Greece border

Dakota Access Pipeline Protests

The Dakota Access Pipeline, a massive construction project to build an underground oil pipeline between North Dakota and Illinois. As construction began in late August, Native Americans living on the Standing Rock Reservation protested that the pipeline would destroy culturally sensitive sites on their lands, and for months, stood their ground against law enforcement and contractors. Incidents of police brutality and neglect surfaced, further enraging anti-pipeline supporters across the nation. In late November, President Obama ordered that the pipeline be re-routed to not disturb any Native American lands.

Photo by Alejandro Alvarez. Protesters of the DAPL send a message to Obama.



Donald Trump Wins US Presidential Election

After one of the most intense election cycles in US history, Donald J. Trump was selected as US president-elect in the early hours of November 9th. Trump's campaign was defined by his alarming rhetoric as well as the GOP's censure of the Republican nominee. Trump took many by surprise in winning states such as Florida, Ohio, and North Carolina. Across the country, citizens were outraged by the results and almost immediately protests broke out. Much of the controversy arose because Trump had the electoral vote victory but Clinton swept the popular with almost three million more votes than Trump. When Trump reached the minimum 270 electoral votes needed to secure the presidency around 2:30 AM, he delivered a victory speech in a New York Hotel. Trump thanked the American people, his colleagues and his family.

Fidel Castro Dies

November 25th brought the death of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The Cuban revolutionary died at the age of 90. Castro had governed the Republic of Cuba as prime minister from 1959 to 1976, and president from 1976 until 2008. The city of Havana initiated the traditional nine day mourning period while Cubans in Miami began a celebration. Those celebrating were hopeful that Castro's death would mark a new era for the country. Castro had been the leader of Cuba's establishment of the embargo on US goods. Many Cuban people currently living in the United States report they had to leave their homeland under Castro's reign due to his strict rule. Trends show that older generations of Cubans are more likely to mourn his death while the younger ones are celebrating as they see much of Castro's policies as human rights violations. Police shut down streets in Miami due to the large scale of the festivities.

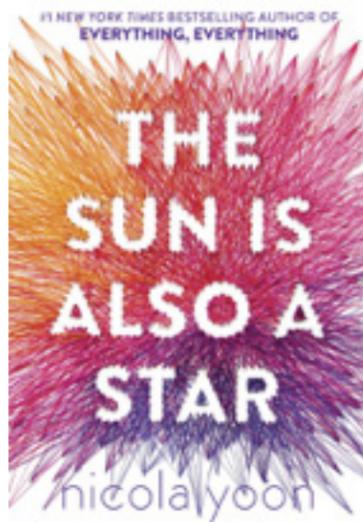
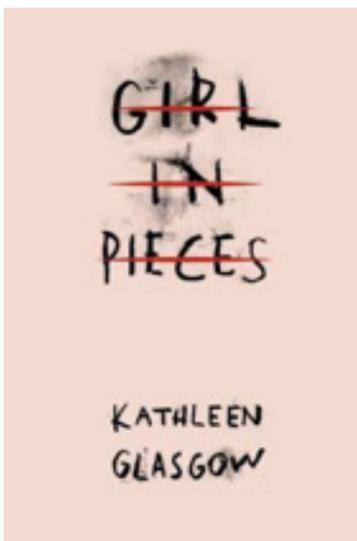
IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM: GREAT READS OF 2016

Unless you're a total bookworm, you probably didn't get the chance to read every book that came out this year. And although 2016 was a bust, here are some top novels that came from it; the first being a young adult novel by Kathleen Glasgow called *Girl In Pieces*. This is a book which will resonate with you long after reading it, as the story depicts a 17-year-old girl who has lost much, and is living in a world that seems to have nothing left to offer. The protagonist, Charlotte Davis, is working to put her life back together and live with the scars that cover her from repeated self-cutting. Placed in treatment with fellow sufferers, Charlotte is introduced to girls with scars like hers for the very first time. Not only is the plot haunting and captivating, but the author's note leaves an inspiring message for the reader as Glasgow herself has dealt with self-harm.

This next one is a graphic novel by the author of *Smile*, Raina Telgemeier, whose latest opus is *Ghosts*. This novel takes a bravely melancholy tone for a children's book, with its plot centering around two sisters, one of whom is suffering from a terminal illness. Telgemeier just recently went on her book tour to publicize the book, adventuring from state to state, and meeting fans at conventions such as Comic Con in New York City. The artwork

and writing complement each other *beautifully*. Debutting September 13 of this year, *Ghosts* delivered an endearing story to each reader, and was received with mostly favorable reviews. If you are a fan of slice-of-life stories with an emotional undertone, this graphic novel is a *must read*.

Before it comes to theaters in May, New York Times best-selling author Nicola Yoon's most recent book is another must read. *The Sun is Also a Star* attracted raving reviews, just like her previous hit, *Everything, Everything*. Depicting the point of view of the two main characters lives in New York City, the book brings to life the ups and downs of a whimsical love story all in a day's time. Daniel, an Asian-American living the life his parents set for him, finds Natasha, an illegal immigrant from Jamaica whose family is expected to leave the country in a matter of hours. With Daniel being a hopeless romantic, and Natasha a persistent realist, their story is full of endless revelations and disappointments. Her inspiration for the book can not be far from her reality: many of her character's quirks and hobbies match up with her own, such as her love for



Karaoke and a good love story.

Probably the most anticipated release of 2016 was *Harry Potter and*

It'd be a shame to let these remarkable novels slip under the radar.

the Cursed Child. J. K. Rowling, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne collaborated for this twist on a beloved adventure, to bring the eighth installment in the series to the theater. The story picks up where *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* leaves off. For some, the new approach to a story we've been following since 1997 was a bit disappointing, as it was not completely Rowling's vision and was intended for a different audience. Nevertheless, this engaging story is a wonderful addition to the collection. Set almost two decades later as the youngest son Albus is struggling to meet an unattainable legacy left for him, it's a new and nostalgic story for Harry Potter fans, leaving many questioning whether the stories were better left unchanged.

Although 2016 seemed to hit its peak quite early in the year, it'd be a shame to let these remarkable novels slip under the radar. And with the new year upon us, there are so many more to look out for.

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IN MEMORIAM

BY KATY DARA

Muhammad Ali (Professional Boxer/Activist) - 74

David Bowie (Singer/Songwriter) - 69

Fidel Castro (Political figure/revolutionary) - 90

Leonard Cohen (Singer/Songwriter/Poet/Novelist) - 82

Jo Cox (British Politician) - 41

Carrie Fisher (Actress/Writer) - 60

Rob Ford (Canadian Politician) - 46

John Glenn (Astronaut, engineer, Senator) - 95

George Kennedy (Actor) - 91

Sir George Martin (music producer) - 90

George Michael (Singer/Songwriter) - 53

Arnold Palmer (Professional Golfer) - 87

Prince (Singer/Songwriter) - 57

Garry Marshall (Actor/Director/Comedian) - 81

Nancy Reagan (Actress/Former First Lady) - 94

Debbie Reynolds (Actress) - 84

Alan Rickman (Actor) - 69

Antonin Scalia (Supreme Court Justice) - 79

Gary Shandling (Comedian) - 66

Frank Sinatra Jr. (Singer, son of Frank Sinatra) - 72

Alan Thicke (Actor/Songwriter/Television host) - 69

Robert Vaughn (Actor) - 83

Elie Wiesel (Holocaust survivor/writer/Nobel Peace Prize winner) - 87

Gene Wilder (Actor) - 83

Anton Yelchin (Actor) - 27

Alan Young (Actor) - 96

And

Eli Mollineaux

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LIVE ON MARS

BY JACOB FULLER

You know what's cool? *Space.*

For many, outer space represents humanity's boundless potential to expand and grow without limit. This, coupled with the knowledge of what an asteroid did to the dinosaurs, and by extension can do to us, creates a seemingly solid argument for interplanetary travel.

To billionaire Elon Musk, colonizing Mars is just the natural extension of this mixture of fear and curiosity. Citing the reason for the necessity of colonizing Mars in an interview with Slate, Musk stated, "Humans need to be a multi planet species." Musk has put millions into his Space X program which estimates to have humans on Mars by 2026. Musk has previously proposed detonating small nuclear warheads on the poles of Mars in order to release trapped CO₂ which he figures might accelerate global warming on the planet in order to make it habitable for life. To bad this isn't going to happen.

Despite increased demand for space travel over the years, we've known for quite some time that it's impossible. The first roadblock that we hit in colonizing Mars is that it's illegal. Like really illegal. See, in 1967 the United Nations passed a resolution that set the standard for space law. A couple key points from it

are that: a.) no nation is allowed to send nuclear weapons into or out of earth's orbit (sorry Musk) b.) no nation can claim ownership of any celestial body. This means that you can live on Mars but you can't actually own any of it. Or any region of space for that matter. So yes, if you ever bought a piece of paper that says you get to name a star, you got scammed. Sorry.



The second and pretty lethal roadblock to colonizing Mars is that there is *no actual certainty* that it can be done. Let's go over a very small fraction of the massive number of reasons why it's impossible. Fun Fact: The average temperature on Mars is -67 degrees Fahrenheit. So don't have any hope that you'd be able to go outside. But that won't really be a problem anyway due to the cancer. Yeah, one of the reasons Mars is so cold is because it barely has an atmosphere. Earth's atmosphere (particularly the ozone layer) is the only thing that protects us against lethal gamma rays. We as humans have no means of

shielding ourselves from it! The ozone layer does all the work for us. So on Mars we'd be completely exposed and helpless.

But by the time the cancer kills you, you'd already be dead twenty times over from the constant storms. Mars' storms are notorious for covering hundreds of miles and lasting for months at a time. Now let's say that by some miracle you

tion writers. His prediction of a 'colonized Mars by 2028' is as accurate as 'casinos on the moon by 1970'.

But what about the rest of space? What about other life?

The closest life supporting planet is 4 light years away. With our current means of communication that makes it really tricky to transmit messages to a human settlement there. Not to mention that the journey alone would take hundreds of years. Our best hope of actually reaching these planets is wormholes. Problem is, we don't actually know if they exist and if they do, how to create one artificially. Without them it's practically impossible. There is no other way to move from one location to the other that is faster than, or roughly equal to the light-speed. Tellin' you, warp holes or bust.

So for those who look up to the stars at night and wonder, what if? , you'll never know and you should pick up a different hobby. Go start a rock collection. And don't ever forget that there is a high probability that humanity will never progress beyond the stars and the Earth will be consumed by the Sun along with all of human civilization. Space travel could maybe happen in the future, but not yours. So be good to the Earth, because *it's all you will ever have!*

survive the long journey, entry, cancer, starvation, cold, unparalleled boredom, physical and mental effects of lower gravity, constant storms and much more... don't ever try to come back to Earth. If you spend a year out in space, and multiple years on Mars, your muscles will succumb to atrophy--fast and thus the Earth's gravity would break you like a twig.

Oh, and there is no real way of terraforming Mars--the whole concept was invented by sci fi writers.

And there lies my point. Musk may sound revolutionary, but he merely continues in the long tradition of failed predictions by science fic-

With such a controversial election, there were many different perspectives on its outcome. We've gathered two takes on the election—one liberal, and one conservative—from two impassioned students, who both wished to remain anonymous.

THE CONSERVATIVE PERSPECTIVE

2016 has been an interesting year. Since January 1st, the people of the world have experienced unexpected events for the better, for the worse, and for the future to tell. For the better, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series after 108 years. For the worse, tragedy has struck pop culture with the deaths of David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Glenn Frey, Gene Wilder, and Prince. And for the future to tell: Brexit and the election of Donald J. Trump as president of the United States.

I remember when it happened. I was up really late working on homework, and my dad was keeping up with the election on TV in the other room. At this point, it was about 2:40 in the morning, and I heard, "Trump will win Pennsylvania—twenty electoral votes—making him the forty-fifth president of the United States!" I went to the other room to see what was going on, and my dad was standing on his feet with his arms in the air. He and I watched our president-elect and his vice-president make their speeches, just laughing at the mere fact that he actually did it: he won.

I had been pulling for Trump since he won the Republican nomination for president.

Reason number one: his slogan. "Make America Great Again" has a ring to it and an optimism that attracted many voters and people wanting change. For eight years, the American people have wanted an upsurge to the economy, an increase in jobs,

race relations to heal, and a president to *all people*. And for eight years, the opposite has been happening. Even four years ago, less people voted for Barack Obama a sec-

*He is not
Hillary Rodham Clinton.*

ond time, making him the only, modern era, two-term U.S. president to be re-elected with less support than he received in the first election. I think the people in states like Ohio, Iowa, and Pennsylvania were tired of establishment "elitists" like Hillary Clinton tell-



ing them that they know what's best for them, so *Vote Blue!* Trump knows how to create jobs, and he knows how to work with people. Bringing jobs back to this country sounds more favorable than raising taxes, and his ability to get what he wants will come in handy when talking with world leaders.

Reason number two: his words. Call me whatever you want--a bigot, a racist, a sexist--honestly I've heard it all before. You see, when Trump said he wanted a ban on all Muslim immigration

into the United States, I wasn't offended by it at all. He qualified the statement by saying "until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on." He was not characterizing the religion itself when he said this—instead he was characterizing the few and the dangerous followers of Islam who are terrorists and cause problems virtually everywhere they settle that is not predominantly Muslim. Furthermore, it's worth America's reputation as an all-welcoming nation open to everyone in exchange for secure borders--the same reason

made the video! What *decent* person does that, expands a lie onto the people that deserve it *least*? Second, the email scandal is one for the textbooks. The FBI could not have done a thorough investigation if they closed the case, then reopened it a week before the election because of new relevant information that arose from a completely unrelated case. Honestly, if you, me, any Republican, or really any person whose surname isn't Clinton did what she did, we would be in federal prison right now.

Trump has promised to be a president to *all* Americans, which I think Obama did not accomplish. I honestly believe he was a president to the Left, to the Democrats, to the Progressives, to the people whom agreed with him. And this is the change that Americans voted for, so we as a people need to accept it.

This is something only the future can say of its success, so we need to let America take its course with our new president come January 20th. And, if it proves a failure, the American people will vote again in 2020 for change. Let's see where Donald Trump can take us as a nation. Our only choice now is to support our new president, wish him all the best, and help build a nation that represents all Americans.

And in the words of Donald J. Trump, "No dream is too big, no challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach."

• • •

THE LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE

When I heard the news this morning, a couple of emotions overcame me: shock, for the most part, then embarrassment, then fear. I got ready for school in a daze, wondering how we, the American people, could have let this happen. Today, I am not proud to be an American. Today, I am embarrassed that a misogynistic and racist bigot was voted into a position that once held great meaning to our country. To me, that meaning has been sullied and dirtied by Donald J. Trump's being elected president. Though Hillary Rodham Clinton won the popular vote, Donald Trump, having received the most electoral votes, prevailed. The process of our elections had been revised and rewritten for many years before powerful people in the government agreed that this was the best way in which a president should be elected in a modern democracy.

I should start off by saying that I identify as a Democrat. My political views, unfortunately, tend to have a very prevalent effect on my everyday life; I have a bit of a Democratic superiority complex. Many Republican ideas, mainly all of those supported by Trump, I disagree with passionately. Because of this, I have surrounded myself with a very liberal group of people who I call my closest friends. Our shock and anger at the election results were mutually shared and respected throughout the day. However, I live on Long Island, where the political climate here is not just stifling, it's suffocating. The island is made up of quite a few of conservative bigots who have no respect for others, mainly because they

can't see us on the ground from their pedestal of white privilege. There are some, however, who are

***“And to all the women, and especially the young women, who put their faith in this campaign and in me, I want you to know that nothing has made me prouder than to be your champion.*”**

***Now, I -- I know -- I know we have still not shattered that highest and hardest glass ceiling, but some day someone will and hopefully sooner than we might think right now.*”**

And -- and to all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.”

—Hillary Clinton, concession speech, 11.9.16

progressive and genuinely see the need for a qualified and steady candidate in the most powerful seat in our government.

Since the beginning

of this election, I have always been a Hillary supporter. Through the emails, the scandals, the

bad press, I have stuck with her through it all. Unlike many of my idealistic classmates and peers, I did not support Bernie Sanders. I adamantly do

not support Jill Stein or Gary Johnson either. With the exception of John Kasich, the debates this year seemed straight out of an SNL skit with the kind of lineup that we had. *Hillary, I wish you had broken that glass ceiling.* God, do I wish you had (and I'm not even religious!). You don't know what it would have symbolized to me, a young woman. You deserved it. I believe you really did. I do not support you on all of your policies, but I definitely do on the key issues. That's not to say that if somehow Barack Obama was able to run for a third term, I wouldn't have voted for him. I would have, because *Barry's frickin sick.*

I broke down in school today while watching your concession. *He did not deserve it.* I look at the orange corn husk that is now our president and wonder, how did this happen? Because we let it. The fact that he received over 59 million American votes is unfathomable. How did a meme become our president? His campaign was a joke in the beginning. No political experience, a horrible businessman, and an even more horrible person. Not the kind of resume you normally see in a presidential candidate. The fact is, I am living in a different America than those people, I guess. The American ideals that I thought could never waver from this country that I hold the most significant are diversity, equality, freedom, and opportunity. Only one of those ideals are guaranteed for me now.

I looked at my gay friends, my black friends, my Hispanic friends, my female friends, and I wanted to cry. The fact

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that I, as an American citizen, may not be able to one day receive a safe abortion at a Planned Parenthood clinic, is earth-shattering. The fact that my gay friend may one day legally be denied service in a bar is mind-boggling. The fact that a hard-working legal immigrant may not be reunited with his family because of closed borders is ridiculous. But the fact that people around me: parents, classmates, peers, support this guy and what he stands for, makes me the sickest of all. I am reconsidering lifelong friendships because of this election. I look towards the people next to me and think, "who would they have voted for?" And it's astonishing that one of the possibilities was Donald Trump.

Today was a rough day at school. My good friend of many years is a Trump supporter. He had always identified before as leaning toward the conservative side, but it never really registered in my head that he was the type of person to be that completely brainwashed. It is extremely upsetting to think that over the years, I chose to look past key issues that now seem to be a dividing factor of our relationship. You know what he said he did this morning when he heard the news? Cheered. *One of my closest friends for most of my life.* I didn't even know how to respond. It was like a slap in the face. As a woman, I wonder: *how can you vote for him!?* He has committed sexual assault. He has

Today, I don't want to be an American.

used slander and racist remarks to criminalize people of color and illegal immigrants. All but a few of his business ventures

have failed. I see America falling into a recession, and it can only be blamed on them--his voters.

I say "them" for a reason. America is undeserving of an inclusive pronoun. Today, I am not proud to be an American. Today, I wave my American citizenship paper of white privilege in shame, sorry that I couldn't use it for the greater good. In art class, my good friend said to me, "Why not just become a legal immigrant? It's not that hard. Illegal immigrants are destroying the economy and staining the American name. I am actually apologetic that you were born into your privilege instead of someone that deserves it, (insert name of "friend" here). The fact that he thought he had the right, the *audacity*, to speak that way is beyond me. He is not, nor will ever be, an illegal immigrant, so I have no idea where his experience is coming from. Also, you only need half a brain to know that it is most certainly not easy to apply for citizenship, especially as a refugee. That is another thing that breaks my heart. The fact that some of my classmates would rather have completely non-threatening people die rather than have an opportunity in America is appalling. Why are we moving backward in time, just when equality seemed within our reach?

As a woman, I feel personally violated that Trump has brainwashed the American public after all the bulls**t that he has pulled, since the beginning. It is disgraceful that some of my closest friends would have voted for him and still believe that they have respect for themselves. I think one of the worst parts about this for me personally is the sexism. The fact that a woman, who has years of political experience, a progressive and well-

thought out platform, and has surrounded herself with the best in the business, could lose to a

How can you vote for him?!

man with *no* political experience, several bankruptcies behind him, and a platform built on racist, sexist, and wealthy ideals



shows just how much racism and sexism continue to be a motivating force for millions of American voters. It's honestly like a slap in the face; that no matter if you are the best by a long shot, it will never be enough compared

to a man. The glass ceiling will always be too high.

Today, I am not proud to be an American. Mostly, I am just scared; scared for my future, scared for the future of millions of Americans that do not fall under Trump's definition of "the common man." This feels like the Age of Jackson, almost laughably so

with the threat of secession on the horizon. We are moving backward. I can't help to think the worst, once I know that the worst is possible. Today, I don't want to be an American.

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don't know what's real anymore.) If fake news can largely influence one of the biggest elections in the country, you *know* something is wrong.

So, what can we do to stop fake news? First, check the source. If the story is from a major and/or well respected news source, such as The New York Times or CNN, it's probably legit. If it's from a fake news source like The Onion or a known clickbait user like BuzzFeed, it's most likely untrue. Second, don't absentmindedly re-post an article solely based on the tagline. If a story looks interesting or reinforces

your viewpoint, you have to actually read it to see if it's legit. If it isn't, don't share it with others, as it can lead to big problems. Finally, look up the facts on what happened or is happening to see if the story is true. Even if a major news source publishes a story, it can be biased and muddle the details of the event. Therefore, you, the reader, must search for a 100% unbiased account of the events and form your own opinion on them, without biased influence. If only the moral of "don't believe everything you read" didn't ring so painfully true this election.

EASY

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Riddle Answer:

There are nine Mustards. Since each daughter shares the same brother, there are six girls, one boy and the parents.

The Dispatch is looking for cartoon artists! to submit a cartoon, political or comic, email digital versions to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or hand in hard copies to Rm.209 or 252

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THE MAN FROM UNCLE: A MOVIE REVIEW



BY ISABELLA SCARPATI

“The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” is a brilliant and fun story of two very different special-agents—one American CIA agent and one Soviet KGB agent—that must join forces to prevent the potential

Five stars out of five.

start of a nuclear war during the Cold War era. As cliché as that may sound, it’s a much more intense and interesting story than what it may seem like at first glance. Packed with action, humor, drama, a captivating plot, intriguing characters, and an amazing musical score, this movie has it all, and will draw you right in. A remake of the 1960’s show of

emy Award-Winning actress Alicia Vikander (“The Danish Girl,” “Ex Machina”). This encounter is rather rocky and aggressive, making Kuryakin furious when Solo is able to get away. When they’re reunited the next day to work together, understandably, there is lots of tension between them. After first taking out their rage on each other in an intense, physical brawl, the two begin their transformation into two

character have a complex background, such as Solo’s days as a personal thief or Kuryakin’s time in the Russian gulags, but the story itself develops very well. There are many unexpected twists and turns that serve to further the plot. Each character’s point of view is always well established, jumping back and forth between the good guys and the bad guys. In one car chase scene in which Alexander Vinciguerra takes Gaby

mood of the scene, while occasionally throwing in a little Italian twist.

The acting itself is rather impressive. Hammer does an excellent job in portraying the sometimes brooding, sometimes spirited, Russian operative. From the intense Russian accent to the extreme fight scenes and psychotic episodes, he very much embodies his character. Cavill, too, often makes his attractive, charismatic character

come to life with his snarky remarks and witty personality. The connection between the two is realistic and natural--from the annoyance of their clashes and disagreements, to the delightfulness of their teamwork and cooperation. In addition, Vikander’s character, Gaby, could be very



A theatrical poster from “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.”; (from left to right) Hammer, Cavill, and Vikander.

the same name, it stars Henry Cavill (“Man of Steel,” “Batman v Superman”) as Napoleon Solo, a suave, charming CIA agent, and Armie Hammer (“The Lone Ranger,” “The Social Network”) as Illya Kuryakin, an intimidating, enigmatic KGB (the Soviet Union’s CIA-equivalent) agent.

The film begins with the two agent’s first encounter, where Kuryakin’s mission is to take down Solo before he can escape East Germany with a seemingly-simple car mechanic, Gaby Teller, played by Acad-

agents who can assist and rely on one another. The main plot of the movie revolves around the duo’s mission to stop Alexander and Victoria Vinciguerra, a wealthy couple who intends to use Gaby’s father, Dr. Udo Teller, a Nazi scientist-turned United States collaborator, to build their own private nuclear weapon, and give it to remaining Nazi sympathizers.

Director Guy Ritchie and cinematographer John Mathieson do an excellent job in creating a multilayered plot. Not only does each

in a Jeep, while Solo is in another car and Kuryakin is on a motorcycle, the

Many unexpected twists and turns.

camera constantly jumps from character to character, presenting each of their struggles and actions. This is done in such a way that it grips the viewers, making them feel like they are part of the chase. To top it all off, the music throughout the movie is just incredible. A mixture of lightheartedness, excitement, and intensity--it always sets the

sarcastic and rather irritated at times, only making the relationship between the three *even more* relatable.

This film is extremely enjoyable, captivating my attention at all times; I would give it a rating of five stars out of five. Its combination of action, adventure, and comedy, as well as its great choice of music, proves to be very successful, resulting in an absolutely terrific film.

