

# Judge Ginsburg defends originalist interpretations of the law



Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg is a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals. His lecture focused on the late Justice Scalia's originalist interpretation of the constitution.

**DANA KIM**  
Staffwriter

On Wednesday, March 23, an impressive number of people assembled in the Giant Eagle auditorium in Baker Hall for Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg's lecture titled "A Matter of Interpretation." Among the audience

were not only Carnegie Mellon students and faculty members, but also graduate students and law students from neighboring universities and members of the broader Pittsburgh community.

The event was organized by Kiron Skinner, the director of Carnegie Mellon's Institute of Politics

and Strategy and the Center for International Relations and Politics. Joseph Devine, assistant dean of Dietrich College, gave the opening remarks, and William Carter Jr., dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, moderated the Q&A session following the lecture.

Judge Ginsburg is a federal judge

on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which some may argue is the second most influential court in our nation after the Supreme Court. The popularity of the event was unsurprising, as Judge Ginsburg is considered to be — according to Devine's introduction — "one of the nation's

most distinguished jurists." Judge Ginsburg was even nominated for a seat on the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, though he withdrew his nomination shortly thereafter. His lecture, named after the late Justice Antonin Scalia's book *A Matter of Interpretation*, revolved around two major themes: the purpose of having a written constitution and the federal courts' roles in interpreting legislative statutes.

Judge Ginsburg set the stage for his discussion on the philosophy of Justice Scalia with an in-depth explanation of common law, to which he would constantly refer back throughout the rest of his lecture. He described common law as a type of "judge-made law" in which judges decide the customs. He states that it is a process in which, "judges are hearing a dispute, resolving them in a way they think is just or appropriate or perhaps more efficient ... by [using] some criteria that resolves that dispute, which puts the judge in the position of lawmaker." This question of whether judges assume the role of discovering or creating the law steered the conversation into a more extensive exploration of Justice Scalia's legal philosophy.

It is without a doubt that Justice Scalia's intellectual influence had a great impact on American law and conservative politics, though he was notoriously pugnacious and was criticized by many for being callous at times. The late justice was best known for adopting a rigidly originalist approach towards his interpretation of

See **LECTURE**, A3

# JSA celebrates Japanese culture at 2016 Matsuri Festival



Carnegie Mellon's Japanese Students Association hosted its annual Matsuri Festival this Saturday. Guests were invited to take part in this celebration of Japanese culture by trying traditional foods and listening to musical performances.

**VALENE MEZMIN**  
News Editor

This Saturday, Carnegie Mellon's Japanese Student Association (JSA) hosted its annual, non-profit, Matsuri Spring Festival in Rangos Ballroom. Matsuri is traditionally a festival celebrated at Shinto Shrines in Japan, but is now seen as a way for the Japanese population to enjoy street food, games, and performances. For the JSA it was a celebration of Japanese culture and heritage recreated for members of the Carnegie Mellon community to experience.

From 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.,

students from diverse backgrounds flocked to Rangos Ballroom to support this event. Small colorful booths, decorated with beautifully crafted paper lanterns, were set up along the sides of Rangos. Each booth displayed hand made signs adorned with Japanese characters that promoted their respective activities. Volunteers for the event invited guests to taste a variety of Japanese food such as takoyaki, yakisoba, okonomiyaki, doroyaki, and dango. Also available to guests were fun games such as senbon-tsuri and wanage. Members of J@CMU were present to teach origami lessons and

cooking lessons for those interested.

While the above listed events came with a small fee, performances by various Pittsburgh Japanese music groups were free to all. In attendance were Pitt FRESA, Rikhide, Zixuan's Legs, 5 Musicians & Koso, SupaNEETS, and Pittsburgh Taiko. Guests at this event were seen walking around with food and drinks, rocking out to the music and having a good time.

Sophomore JSA Board Member and business major Emily Hirao stated "Matsuri was created in order to show the community of Carnegie Mellon University a taste of

what festivals in Japan are like. Matsuri is literally translated as "festival" in Japanese, and is a fond memory that every person in Japan holds dear to their hearts as it reminds them of the delicious aromas coming from the various food booths, prizes that are won from games while being cheered on by family and friends, and the excitement of watching performances from the local community."

Although one of Saturday's Matsuri Festival's missions was to present a small snippet of Japanese culture to the Carnegie Mellon community, just as important was its mission to help those

in need in Japan. All of the festival's profits will be sent to the Minato Middle School in Ishinomaki, Japan, whose campus was destroyed in the East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011.

Freshman JSA Board Member Chie Wach stated, "Matsuri is not only Carnegie Mellon's most celebrated event of Japanese culture, but also an opportunity for JSA and the entire student body to help the students of Minato Middle School recover from the devastating effects of the March 11 earthquake in Japan."

Minato Middle School is currently getting by with the

utilization of "make-shift shelters on the playground of a nearby elementary school," as stated on the festival's website. The profits made from last year's Masturi Festival were able to help students get sports equipment and supported their music classes. The JSA is hoping to build off the momentum that was created last year and help Minato Middle School get closer to the state they were in before the disastrous effects of the earthquake.

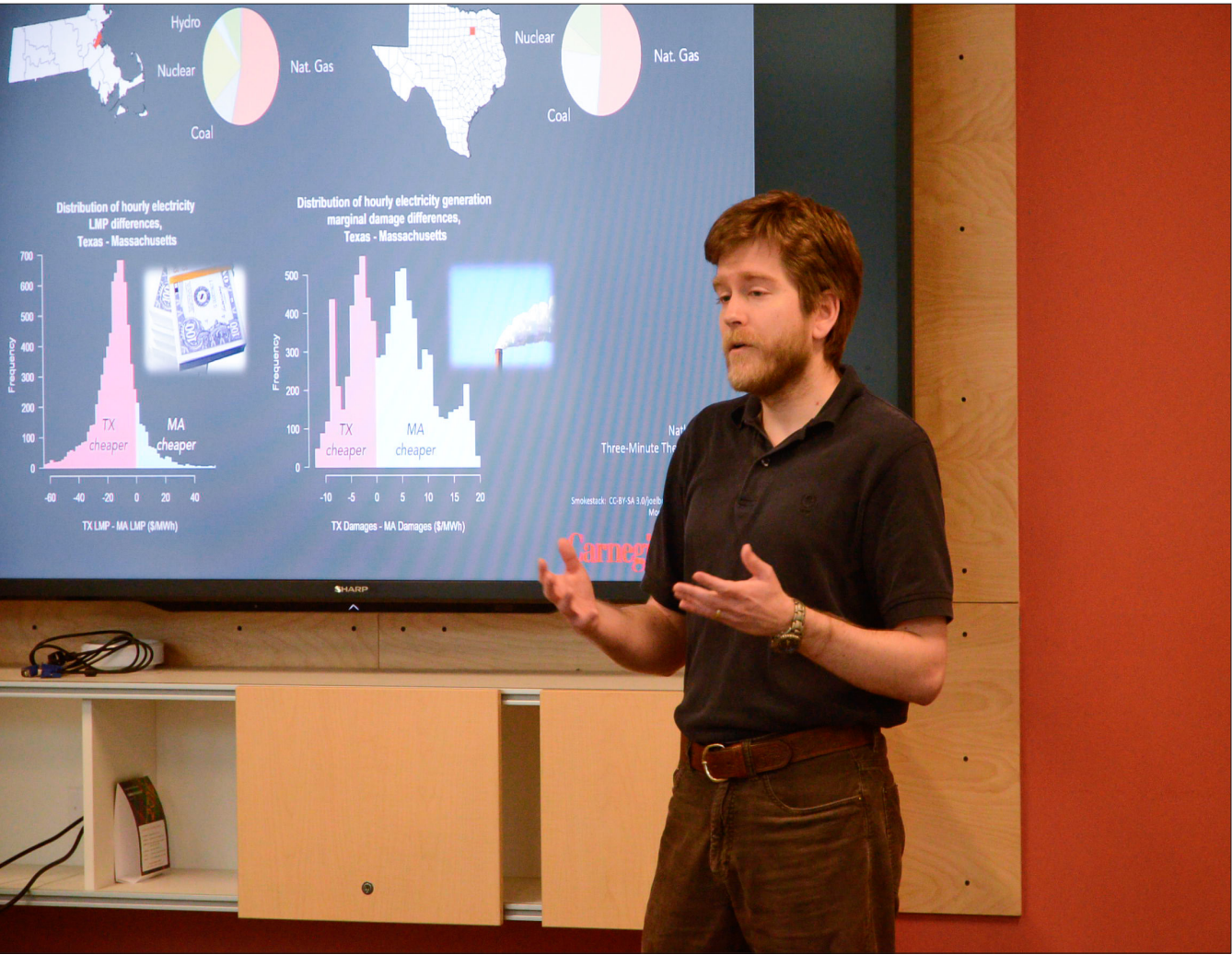
More information on Carnegie Mellon's Matsuri festival can be found on the event's website at [matsuri.cmu-jsa.com](http://matsuri.cmu-jsa.com).



Aisha Han/Junior Photographer (left) and Theodore Teichman/Assistant Photo Editor (right)

FEATURE PHOTO

# CMU Ph.D. candidates present theses



Aisha Han/Junior Photographer

Throughout the month of March, Carnegie Mellon Ph.D. candidates have been partaking in the 3MT preliminary heat challenge, which allows them to present their thesis and its significance in only three minutes. This challenge took place in Hunt Library over multiple days.

## Campus Crime & Incident Reports

### Suspicious Activity

March 20, 2016

A University Security Officer observed four unauthorized University of Pittsburgh students in the Cohon University Center construction site. The students were warned not to return and were released from the scene.

### Harassment

March 20, 2016

A Carnegie Mellon student told University Police that while she was at a bus stop on the Southside of Pittsburgh an unknown male threw an unknown substance at her. The student was unharmed and the City of Pittsburgh Police is investigating this incident.

### Vehicle vs. Pedestrian Accident

March 22, 2016

University Police assisted the City of Pittsburgh Police with two separate vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents involving Carnegie Mellon students. The accidents occurred at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Neville Street and at the intersection of Bates Street and the Boulevard of the Allies. Both students were provided with medical attention.

### Odor of Marijuana/Disorderly Conduct

March 23, 2016

University Police responded to Mudge House after receiving reports of an odor of marijuana. A small amount of marijuana and other drug

paraphernalia were seized and two Carnegie Mellon students were issued Pennsylvania non-traffic citations for disorderly conduct.

### Burglary

March 23, 2016

A Carnegie Mellon faculty member told University Police that a large amount of money was unlawfully removed from the Conflict Kitchen overnight. An investigation is ongoing

### Suspicious Male

March 25, 2016

A University Security Officer observed a suspicious male sleeping in West Wing. University Police Officers responded and identified the male as a non-affiliate of the University. The male

was issued a defiant trespass warning and escorted off campus without incident.

### Theft of Headphones/Umbrella/Cutout

March 25, 2016

University Police responded to three separate theft reports at Tepper Hall. It was reported that a pair of headphones, an umbrella, and a cardboard cutout of David Tepper were unlawfully removed from Tepper Hall. Multiple investigations are ongoing.

Compiled by  
VALENE MEZMIN

NEWS IN BRIEF

### CMU sophomore Ian Asenjo wins Critical Language Scholarship from State Dept.

This week, Ian Asenjo, a sophomore global studies major with an additional major in ethics, history, and public policy, was awarded the Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. State Department, which will give him the opportunity to spend his summer in Chandigarh, India studying Punjabi.

This cultural and linguistic immersion program is intended to encourage students to study languages that are drastically different from English. Many American language learners do not choose to master these languages due to the drastic differences, and we do not have enough native speakers. With supply low, demand is high for speakers of these

critical languages, such as Arabic, Swahili, Urdu, Turkish, and Punjabi.

Asenjo discovered his passion for this region of India and this language through his involvement with the Carnegie Mellon Bhangra team and through Associate Professor of History Nico Slate's course "India through Film." At this point in time, Asenjo's only exposure to Punjabi has been through weekly attendance at a Sikh temple in Monroeville. His choice of Punjabi comes from an appreciation of the culture surrounding it, which he has only experienced secondhand to this point. He looks forward to learning the language and absorbing the traditions for himself this summer.

### Professor Manuela Veloso appointed as head of Machine Learning Department

Dean of the School of Computer Science Andrew Moore announced on Wednesday March 23 that Herbert A. Simon University Professor of Computer Science Manuela Veloso would become the new head of the the Machine Learning Department. Stepping down from the position is E. Fredkin University Professor Tom Mitchell, who was the department's founding head.

Veloso has been a member of the Carnegie Mellon community since she earned her Ph.D. in computer science here in 1992. Since then she has led the Carnegie Mellon robot soccer team to five world championships in its league and has also developed the Cobot service robots. Her research has challenged her to continually improve robots' ability to independently plan and execute tasks, and learn and cooperate with a team under challenging circumstances. She co-founded the

International RoboCup Federation and until 2014, Veloso was the president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. Also in 2014, she was given the distinction of University Professor, the highest honor the university can give its faculty. She has also long advocated for women in computer science. Last fall in Houston, Texas she presented the keynote address at the annual Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing.

Dean Moore expressed his utmost confidence in Veloso for the position in a press release on Wednesday: "Her knowledge of all aspects of AI and her dedication make her the perfect person to lead MLD now that machine learning has emerged as a major component of the world's economy."

Compiled by  
SARAH GUTEKUNST

WEATHER

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
54° / 30°	70° / 51°	68° / 53°
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
57° / 39°	55° / 35°	40° / 23°

Source: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Corrections & Clarifications

If you would like to submit a correction or clarification, please email The Tartan at [news@thetartan.org](mailto:news@thetartan.org) or [editor@thetartan.org](mailto:editor@thetartan.org) with your inquiry, as well as the date of the issue and the name of the article. We will print the correction or clarification in the next print issue and publish it online.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S. airstrike kills top ISIS commander

WASHINGTON — This week, Pentagon officials reported that a top commander of the Islamic state, Abd al-Rahman Mustafa al-Qaduli, was killed by American Special Operations forces in Syria. Initial plans to capture Qaduli in a vehicle as he was being followed by helicopters changed for unknown reasons, and his vehicle was fired upon instead.

Source: *The New York Times*



### Two Explosions in Brussels kill 30

BRUSSELS — On Tuesday, two explosions in Brussels, one at an airport and one at a subway station, occurring an hour apart, killed at least 30 people and wounded more than 230. Eight hours after the explosions, a news agency affiliated with the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks. Brussels has been largely shut down following the attacks.

Source: *The New York Times*



### Matthew Ng remains jailed in Australia

SYDNEY — An Australian businessman working in China, Matthew Ng, was sentenced in 2011 by a Chinese court to more than 12 years in prison for bribery and fraud. In 2014, he was transferred to Australia under a treaty that allows prisoners to serve sentences in their home countries. He remains jailed at a state prison in rural Australia.

Source: *The New York Times*



### The Rolling Stones perform in Cuba

HAVANA — For five decades, American and British rock music has been forbidden in Cuba. However, on Friday night, hundreds of thousands of fans attended a free two-hour long outdoor concert by the Rolling Stones at a sports facility in Cuba. Cuban music fans hope that Mick Jagger's performance will spur social and political change.

Source: *The New York Times*



### Taiwanese leader makes comeback

TAIPEI — Hung Hsiu-chu became the first female leader of Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party after winning 56 percent of the vote, according to a Nationalist Party spokeswoman. Hung is viewed as supporting unification with China, and faces the challenge of rebuilding support for her party despite the current popularity of the DPP in Taiwan.

Source: *The New York Times*



### Suicide bombing in Pakistan kills 65

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD - On Sunday, an explosion by a suicide bomber at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, in the Pakistani city of Lahore killed at least 65 people and wounded more than 280 others, mostly women and children. The blast occurred a few feet away from children's swings.

Source: Reuters

Compiled by  
DEBORAH CHU



# Hunt Institute presents new *Great Expectations* exhibit



Deborah Chu/Assistant News Editor  
Hunt Institute's *Great Expectations* displays artwork that shows plants in different stages of development.

**DEBORAH CHU**  
*Assistant News Editor*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation's latest exhibition, *Great Expectations*, is displayed on the fifth floor of Hunt Library, and will remain until June 30. The exhibition features artworks from 36 historical and contemporary artists that illustrate plants at different moments of development, according to each artist's personal observations. According to the exhibit, the name refers to the "great expectation in the promise and energy held within a bud or a seed." The gallery is free and open to the public, and the exhibition is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. It is also open on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

At the entrance of the exhibition, a sign describes the series as "phases of this

continuous cycle of plant development ... beautifully illustrated with collection items." On display around a large room with mahogany-colored walls and floors are framed pieces of art that depict flowers and plants lit by carefully placed overhead lights. This evokes a quiet and serene atmosphere. Each of the pieces of art are accompanied by a description, and are organized by the stage of a plant's lifecycle they reflect. Each phase, from "seed" to "flowering" to "declining," to name a few, is indicated by a well-chosen quote.

While most students recognize Hunt Library as a place for buckling down to study, many students are unaware of the existence of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation's gallery on the top floor. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation is a research division of Carnegie Mellon University that specializes

in the history of botany and plant science, and serves an international scientific community through research and documentation, according to its website.

Originally dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMas- ters Miller Hunt Botanical Li- brary, the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation has grown to boast a vast collec- tion of books, images, manu- scripts, portraits, data files, and publications, across four departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography, and the Library. The Art Department organizes two exhibitions a year, as well as a revolving sequence of in- ternational travel exhibitions on loan to museums, galleries, and botanical gardens.

In the fall of 2016, the Hunt Institute will host the 15th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration, which will start Sept. 15 and run until Dec. 15.

# Judge Ginsburg discusses the late Justice Antonin Scalia

**LECTURE, from A1**

the Constitution. He was an unwavering advocate of the principle that, "context is everything and the context of the Constitution tells us not to expect nitpicking detail and to give words and phrases an expansive rather than a narrow interpretation." He believed "every issue of law resolved by a federal judge involves an interpretation of text" and that the idea of a living Constitution "frustrates the whole process of a written Constitution." Judge Ginsburg defended originalism by clearly distinguishing that, "the great divide with regards to constitutional interpretation is not between the Framers' intent and objective meaning, but rather between original meaning, whether derived from the

Framers' intent or not, and the current."

With the progression of his lecture, it became appar- ent that Judge Ginsburg and Justice Scalia share tremen- dously similar outlooks of legal philosophy, including a disdain toward the idea of a "living Constitution." Judge Ginsburg defined this concept to be a "body of law that, unlike normal statutes, grows and changes from age to age in order to meet the needs of changing society," and noted that judges have the author- ity to determine those needs and find the changing law. He said that with this notion, common law would prevail with an infinitely powerful comeback and an influence to overturn statutes passed by the legislature. He hinted at a possible imbalance that this would cause between the

three branches of our federal government.

In ending his lecture, the judge cautioned that continu- ing to conform to the evolving standards of decency would allow the courts to essen- tially rewrite the Constitution in the way that the major- ity wants. He concluded on a powerful note that this itself would be the end of the Bill of Rights as society has known it. Judge Ginsburg was enor- mously successful in both relaying Justice Scalia's legal view in an impartial light, and illustrating the cumber- some nature of the United States Constitution. He was also able to successfully convey his personal legal philo- sophy without imposing his opinions on the audience, but rather offering unobtrusive yet insightful commentary throughout his discussion.

# Professor collects unique new item for Austen exhibit



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons  
Pictured is Colin Firth in the infamous pond scene that inspired the collection of "The Shirt" for Straub's exhibit.

**VALENE MEZMIN**  
*News Editor*

Carnegie Mellon University professor of literary studies Kristina Straub has long held an admiration of classic literature. With the opening of her new exhibit titled "Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen, and the Cult of celebrity," co- curated with Janine Barchas, an English professor at the University of Texas, it is safe to say that William Shake- speare and Jane Austen are at the top of this list. This exhibit is a part of the Folger Shakespeare Library and features many unique items that connect back to these authors. Earlier this month, it was announced that a new item will be part of this exhib- it's collection: an iconic shirt worn by Colin Firth in one of the most famous *Pride and Prejudice* screen adaptations.

Though published in the early 19th century, Jane Aus- ten's *Pride and Prejudice* still lives on as one of the most recognized titles in English literature. As is often the case, with great literature comes potentially great screen ad- aptations. One of the most fa- mous *Pride and Prejudice* ap- adaptations debuted in 1995 as a 6-part mini series starring

Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle as Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, respectively. It has been praised as one of the most faithful Austen adapta- tions to date, which can likely be attributed to its rather long screen time, allowing the portrayal of more faith- ful content. Even for those that have not had the oppor- tunity to watch this adapta- tion, it seems that many are strangely familiar with the image of Colin Firth, as Mr. Darcy, emerging from a pond in a wet, skin hugging, white t-shirt. Although, as previ- ously stated, this adaptation is quite faithful, this scene is nowhere to be found in Aus- ten's novel, but still lives on as one of the most famous images from this Austen adaptation.

This new item, titled as "The Shirt," will be placed in Straub and Barchas' "Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen, and the Cult of Celebrity" ex- hibition starting this August.

The exhibition aims to look at the legacies of Austen and Shakespeare and how their works and lives con- tinue to impact us today. On the exhibit's website, Straub and Barchas note that one way both authors' lives paral- lel each other today is in the

portrayal of their works in screen adaptations and how this has increased the popu- larity and approachability of their stories for modern viewers. In addition to the 1995 adaptation, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies* was released earlier this year as a unique portrayal of the struggle of finding suitable matches in the world of the undead. Other notable ad- aptations of Austen's and Shakespeare's works include- *Shakespeare Undead*, *Clueless*, Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Ju- liet*, and many others.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Barchas stat- ed, "The shirt seemed like a celebrity object that demon- strated the kind of fun people have with Austen as an au- thor ... it exemplifies the kind of play that is central to our whole exhibition."

This item will be among other rarities, such as a scarf featuring Austen's family tree, and wood collected from Shakespeare's birthplace.

"Will & Jane: Shake- speare, Austen, and the Cult of Celebrity" is part of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. The ex- hibit will be open from Aug. 6 to Nov. 6 this year and is free to the public.

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Organized by the Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education



# Student Body Presidential candidates face off in debate

**BRIAN TRIMBOLI**  
*Staffwriter*

During last week’s Student Government debates, candidates for Student Body President (SBP) and Student Body Vice President (SBVP) hewed close to their posted platforms while fielding questions on some of Carnegie Mellon’s most talked-about issues.

The debates, which are hosted annually by The Tartan in conjunction with Student Government, challenged candidates to justify their stated platforms while responding to moderator and audience questions about issues such as the university’s stress culture and sexual assault and relationship violence prevention (SARVP).

On the right side of McConey Auditorium’s stage sat junior economics major Vaasavi Unnava, running for SBP, and junior computer science major Aaron Gutierrez, running for SBVP.

The pair emphasized the weight of their combined experience in Student Government throughout the debate, and highlighted work that they had each done across campus to improve student life. Their campaign, branded as “Vaas and Aaron 2016,” is

built on university-wide fiscal transparency, a “model for social change,” and Student Government transparency.

When asked why fiscal transparency is important, Unnava said that when she was part of Undergraduate Student Senate as Business Affairs Committee Chair, she realized that she didn’t know what her tuition was being used for. “I think a big part of why we put this in our platform is having ownership over the changes that are made on our campus,” Unnava said.

Next were junior chemical engineering and engineering & public policy double major Trevor Hadick and first-year decision science major Micah Rabin. Hadick, the current Student Body Vice President of Organizations (SBVPO) is running for SBP, while Rabin is running for SBVP.

As part of his current role, Hadick chairs the Committee on Student Organizations (CoSO) as well as the University Center Allocations Board (UCAB). Rabin is director of mature organizations on CoSO, as well as a sister of Kappa Alpha Theta.

“The biggest piece is the actual education,” Hadick said when asked about the inclusion of education and

awareness on his platform. “There are a number of ways that education can happen — not all of them are in the classroom, and not all of them come from teachers ... It’s not like [there’s] one education method or type that will work best for [everyone].”

Rabin noted that she and Hadick are currently in talks to reform the university’s Interpretation and Argument class, which is required for all undergraduate students.

Junior professional writing and economics dual degree candidate Barbara Samaniego is running for SBP with sophomore economics major Raheela Ahsan as her running mate. Their platform focuses on making improvements to University Health Services, among other reforms focused on student health and safety.

If they are elected, Samaniego and Ahsan plan to host a series of narrowly focused town halls to garner student input. “In these themed town halls, attendance would be encouraged because each one would center around a social issue,” Samaniego said. “Then students would come to discuss that issue, and get a chance to actually offer their criticisms for the school. We will also have an online public



Jade Crockem/Operations Manager  
Mike and Olivia are looking to improve relations between the student body and the presidency.

forum for people who can’t come to these town halls.”

The last pair of running mates included junior statistics major Mike McCaffrey, who is running for SBP, and sophomore mathematical sciences major Olivia Cannizzaro, who is running for SBVP. McCaffrey and Cannizzaro emphasized their willingness to work with students going forward to make improvements to student life in the realms of dining, health, and “global engagement.”

“We’ll have an open-door policy, we’ll be constantly available, we’ll give out our

cell phone numbers, emails, whatever it takes,” McCaffrey said about his and Cannizzaro’s plan to revamp Student Government office hours. “What we want to do is foster these kinds of relationships with people so we can create something together. We realize that we can’t do everything by ourselves — we can’t attend to all of these needs if we don’t know them.”

At the end of the two-hour debate, spectators were impressed by many of the candidates. Srishiti Jain, junior statistics major and Communications Committee Chair

of Student Senate, was glad that many of the candidates recognized and understood the value of the passion that defines the Carnegie Mellon community. “Everyone at Carnegie Mellon is passionate, and that’s something you hear all the time,” Jain, who is the public relations manager for Unnava and Gutierrez’s campaign, said. “And I don’t think in the past the Student Body President and Vice President have made conscious efforts to tap into organizations or individual students’ passions, but I think more candidates this year are trying to do that.”

## On the Issues: Candidates’ band-aid solutions seek to cut health spending

**ZEKE ROSENBERG**  
*Senior Staff*

**SINEAD FOLEY**  
*Forum Editor*

Health care is the policy area where both the parties and individual candidates are farthest apart. Democrats tend to favor federal health insurance. Republicans think this is unnecessary spending that drives up costs of health products. While Republicans are already furious about Obamacare — an act nicknamed after President Barack Obama that allowed states to expand Medicaid access if they pleased. Republicans want to remove the restriction on selling health insurance across state lines, while Democrats think that incentivizes states to deregulate health care until it’s completely worthless in order to encourage health insurance companies to headquarter themselves in their states.

Inside the parties, it has become one of the only topics at the forefront for both Democrats and Republicans.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) Cruz vehemently wants to “repeal and replace” Obamacare. He often makes sure people know he won’t forget parts and will repeal every single word of the health care law. His replacement plan has three points.

Cruz’s first point is to allow health insurers to sell across state lines to create a nationally competitive market. In theory, this will drive down costs, especially in sparsely populated states, as state health insurers have more competition.

His second point is to expand the use of health savings accounts, which is sort of like a tax-free bank account that people with high deductible plans can use. These accounts contain pre-tax income that someone can use to spend on health care only. It is something like a tax credit for having a high-deductible plan.

His third point is to de-link health insurance from employers. This should have three benefits. One, it opens up many more options to people buying health insurance since they are not restricted to their employer’s options. Two, it drives up wages because companies do not have

Ohio Governor John Kasich Kasich was one of the only Republican governors to expand Medicaid access in his state in accordance with Obamacare. Kasich also calls access to affordable health insurance a high priority. However, he feels Obamacare did not solve the problem of Americans paying fees for health services, which creates an incentive to provide care but not necessarily effective care.

Kasich has moved Ohio towards episode-based health care payments. This is credited with some reduction of health care costs in Ohio. It is a similar idea to many provisions in Obamacare, which attempt to base incentives on results instead of on what is provided. Kasich believes his model in Ohio would be an improvement on the current system created in Obamacare. He also wants to improve primary care by expanding access to primary care physicians and making regular doctor’s visits a key aspect of health care plans. He believes this cuts the most costs because it makes it less likely that people will need to cover major expenses for catastrophic injuries and illnesses in the future.

Steak tycoon Donald Trump Like many Republicans, the first bullet point in Trump’s health care plan is to repeal Obamacare, particularly the individual mandate. Marching right along with conservative orthodoxy, his second bullet point is allowing Americans to buy health insurance across state lines.

Many observers are calling Trump’s proposal quintessentially Republican. He wants to bring free market reforms to health care by increasing price transparency from healthcare providers, thereby enabling price comparisons by consumers and lowering the barriers for drug providers to begin marketing drugs in the U.S.

His tactics to cover low income Americans are also standard conservative fare. He would like to trade out Obamacare’s tax subsidies with tax

deductions for an individual’s health insurance premium payments, and shift Medicaid power toward the states by giving them block grants. It would be up to the state to decide what services to fund.

Finally, Trump wants to expand the use of health savings accounts similar to Cruz. Combined with the tax credits Trump has proposed for deductibles, this would mean the vast majority of Americans would end up with no income tax liability were Trump to take office.

Above all, though, Trump claims he will grow the economy so that people will have jobs and make sufficient income to pay for their health insurance without government help.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

This is not Clinton’s first rodeo when it comes to health care on a national scale. Clinton had a major influence on her husband Bill Clinton’s health care remodel in 1993. Harkening back to those days, Clinton continues to battle insurance and drug companies, saying she would want “authority to block or modify unreasonable health insurance rate increases” and hold drug companies accountable.

Clinton has aligned herself with Obama on healthcare, promising to protect and build on the base of Obamacare. She is seeking to expand the Obamacare exchanges to include illegal immigrant families, and wants to cap the patient’s share of doctor bills and prescription drug costs. She has also been at odds with Obama about a tax on high-cost, employer-sponsored insurance, which she would like to repeal. She is also seeking tax credits, up to \$2,500 a year for an individual and \$5,000 for a family, if out-of-pocket health costs exceed 5 percent of income. Many of these changes are designed to lower patient copays and deductibles, a key running point for Clinton.

She has also made women’s reproductive rights and access to abortion a fundamental part of her campaign, and intends to support Planned Parenthood and combat restrictions on abortion such as the Hyde Amendment.



India Price/Online Editor  
Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Sanders is proposing a complete overhaul of the American health care system in the fashion of the universal health care plans found in Europe and Canada. It would be a single-payer system, meaning a government agency would run the financing side of health care, but treatment and delivery would remain mainly in the private sector with the same doctors and hospital systems. People seeking treatment would simply go to the doctor, show their insurance card, and receive treatment without any copays or deductibles.

Sanders’ plan would nationalize the health insurance industry, but health service providers would still be considered a private industry.

Instead of private insurance charges, Sanders proposes raising the money through increased taxes and spending cuts. He will increase the employer portion of the payroll tax by 6.2 percent, impose a 2.2 percent income tax paid per household, and start a bevy of taxes on the rich, including increased income tax and more comprehensive capital gains and estate taxes. He also hopes to cut national healthcare spending by \$400 billion.

In addition to these big structural changes, Sanders is also focusing on improving mental health care access in the U.S, particularly for veterans, and maintaining food stamp and nutrition programs. These costs prevent people from having to come in for more expensive emergency care later in the process. He and Clinton agree on holding drug companies accountable for keeping drug prices low.

## How CMU votes: The Tartan polls student opinions

**BARBARA SAMANIEGO**  
*Staffwriter*

Millennials are currently the largest generation in our country, yet they have the smallest voter turnout overall. This may be due in part to the pervading sense of apathy and a large divide in the political opinions of younger and older voters. Millennials also feel more separated from political campaigns, as most are not targeted towards them.

College students, however, tend to be more politically involved, and they statistically tend to favor more left-wing policy. Does this still hold at Carnegie Mellon?

I am currently conducting a university wide poll to see how Carnegie Mellon student’s political opinions differ from those of the rest of the country and why. To begin, I ask if that student thinks that they themselves are politically involved, then I ask several questions about their opinions on popular policy issues.

Carnegie Mellon students in particular are often criticized for their exceedingly apathetic attitude towards politics and social issues. My goal is to determine if that is truly the case. Why does this notion exist, and how true is it really?

Junior international relations and statistics double major Victor Gonzalez, president of CMU Democrats, believes that Carnegie Mellon student apathy is in part due to the culture of the university. Gonzalez believes that Carnegie Mellon’s stress culture contributes to a lack of political inclination, explaining that students are

already “too busy to focus on the outside world.” He also hypothesizes that Carnegie Mellon focuses so intensely on technology and quantitative fields that students do not feel as though anything pertaining to the humanities applies to them.

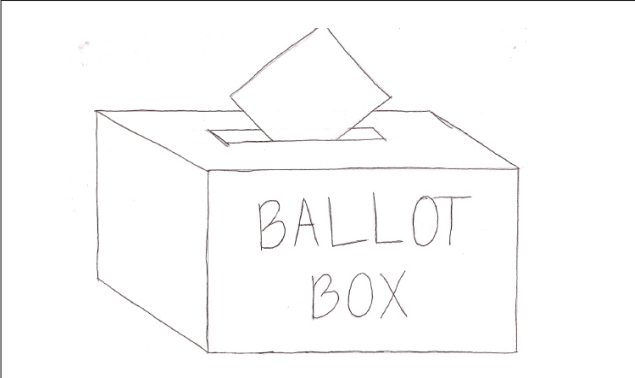
In my opinion, Carnegie Mellon does indeed seem to discourage students from any sort of political involvement. The university emphasizes coursework and grades more than other universities, and offers little to spur interest and educate students about the surrounding world. Thus, students are not inclined to believe politics and current political issues hold much importance in their own lives. Carnegie Mellon’s heavy emphasis on STEM also turns students away from engaging in politics, since politics is a discipline more closely associated with the humanities.

Due to Carnegie Mellon’s distinct culture, students at the university may have very different opinions than their fellow voters (even millennials).

I asked Gonzalez if he felt as though there may be differences in how Carnegie Mellon students vote. He explained that the university’s emphasis on quantitative fields may encourage students to focus more on military surveillance and technology.

Otherwise, he believes that Carnegie Mellon students tend to hold the same opinions as other millennials.

“Between CMU students and other millennials, there is probably not much difference [in opinion]. Just more political apathy,” he concluded.



Jade Crockem/Operations Manager

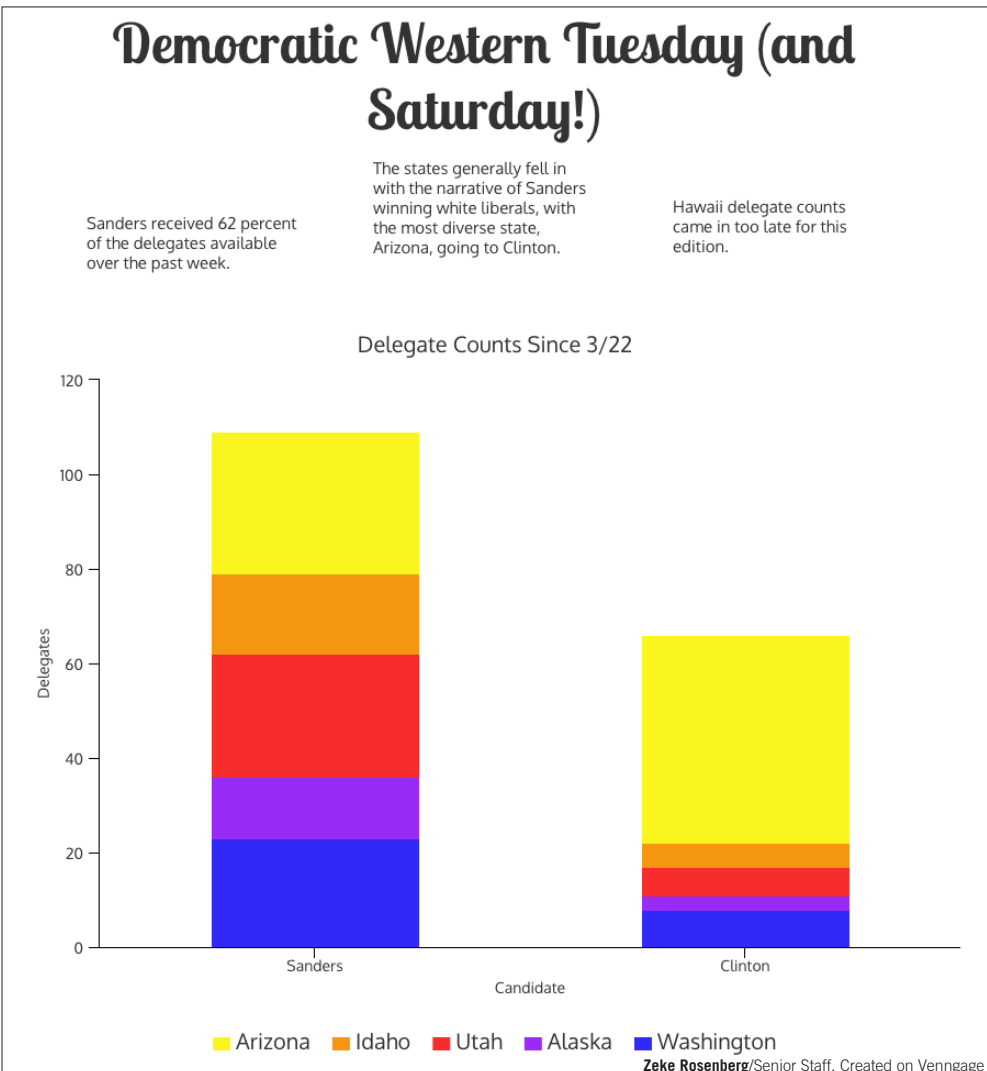
# Sanders dominates in the west, but Clinton takes Arizona

**CALEB GLICKMAN**  
*Junior Staffwriter*

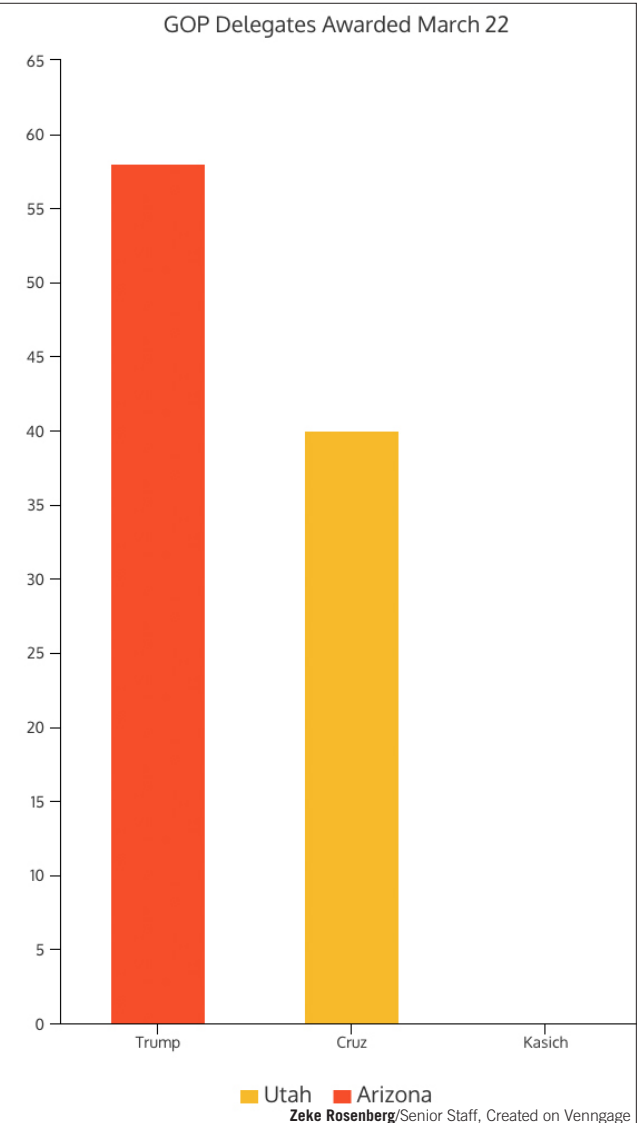
This week, the Democratic primary saw three states vote on what the news cycle decided to call “Western Tuesday.” Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) won caucuses in both Utah and Idaho with margins of victory exceeding 50 points. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton won the Arizona primary by 18 points. Because the entire Democratic primary process awards delegates proportionally, Secretary Clinton gained 55 delegates from the three states, but Senator Sanders won the week with 73 delegates. Although Sanders won more delegates, it does little to cut into Clinton’s large delegate lead. Currently, without superdelegates, Clinton has 1,220 to Sanders’ 920. With current superdelegates’ current preferences, Clinton has 1,690 to Sanders’ 946. One must obtain 2,382 delegates to get the nomination. The Sanders campaign hopes to use the wins this week to garner some momentum for primaries this Saturday in Hawaii, Alaska, and

Washington. All three of these contests are caucuses, where Sanders has consistently performed better. He hopes to continue the momentum into Wisconsin on April 5, and then work a close race in the Pennsylvania primary on April 26. It appears that even with a deficit of delegates, Sanders will be staying in the race to obtain as many delegates as possible going into the convention. However, Clinton’s campaign is looking to keep its lead in delegates as the contests continue. With all the primaries being proportional, it is increasingly difficult for Sanders to catch up if Clinton keeps winning delegates. Clinton hopes to do well in Wisconsin on April 5, and hopes to win a large share of the 247 delegates from the state where she once held a Senate seat, New York. She needs 693 more delegates (superdelegates included) to clinch the nomination. Several issues plagued Clinton’s victory in Arizona. Sanders supporters in particular also complained that the race was called with only 1 percent of precincts

reporting, and thousands of people still waiting to even cast their vote. Many voters also reported serious procedural issues; some registered Democrats couldn’t be found on the register and were not allowed to vote. In addition, only 60 polling places were used as opposed to 200 in the previous presidential primary season. The Mayor of Phoenix, Greg Stanton submitted a request to Attorney General Loretta Lynch to launch a federal investigation of the circumstances. Arizona’s Republican Governor, Doug Ducey, called the situation “unacceptable.” Still, others like Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, blamed the “voter suppression” on the Republican government in the state, and called on them to fix the voting problems. Republican officials said they lowered the number of polling places to save money. Sanders was able to sweep the states that came in early on Saturday, winning in Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. Sanders managed to clear 70 percent in Washington and 80 percent in Alaska, his biggest win to date.



# Republican primary gets personal as western states vote



**IAN TANAYA**  
*Assistant Sports Editor*

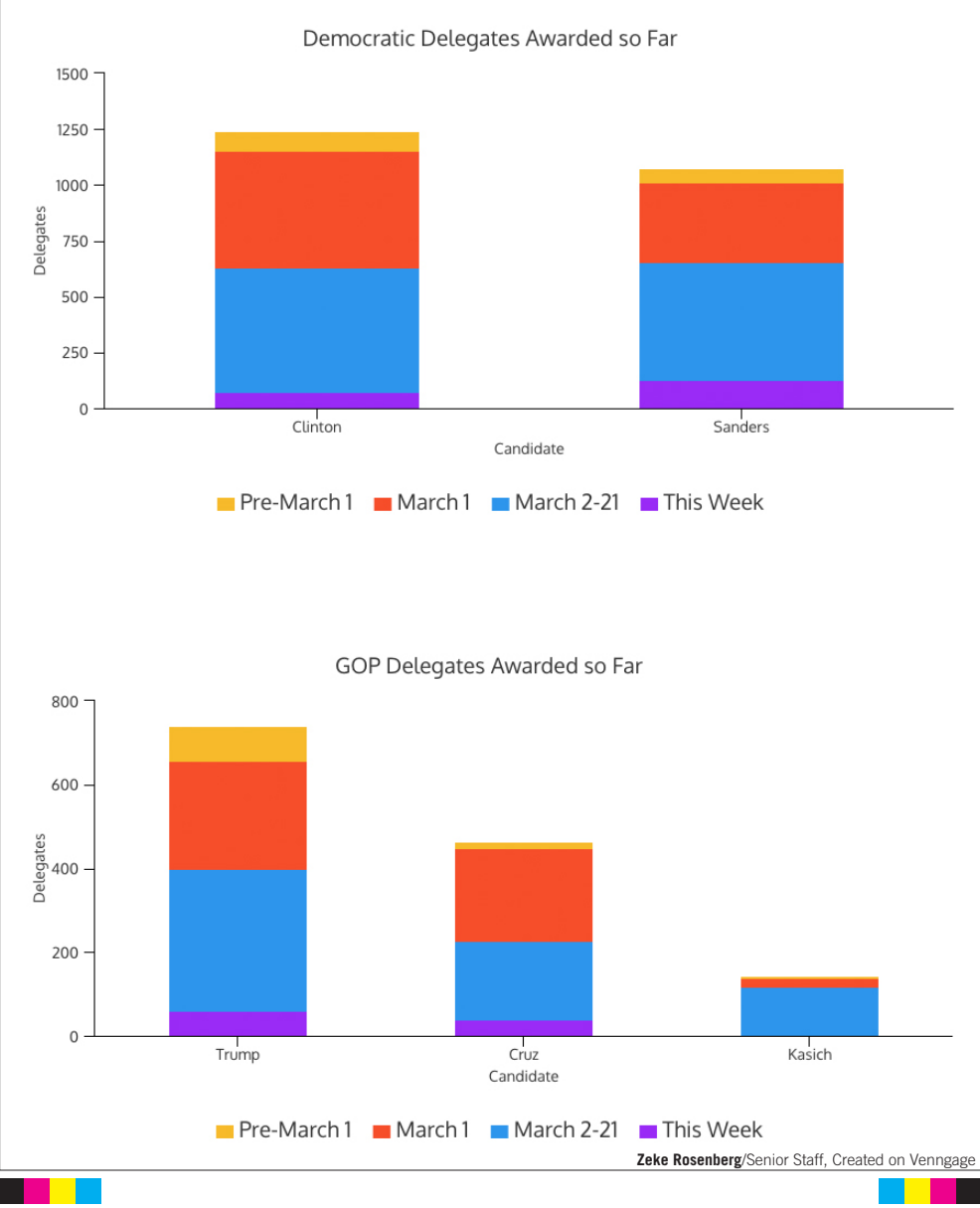
With the Republican field down to just three candidates, the primary season is finally starting to wind down as businessman Donald Trump, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Ohio Governor John Kasich campaigned for votes in Utah and Arizona’s primaries on Tuesday. In the Arizona primary, Trump took first place with 47.1 percent of the vote, capturing all 58 delegates up for grabs. Cruz came in second with 24.9 percent of the vote. Kasich finished in fourth place with 10 percent of the vote, as absentee ballots cast for Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) helped give him 13.3 percent of the vote despite having dropped out of the race before the contest. In the Utah caucus, Cruz took first place with 69.2 percent of the vote, gaining all 40 delegates. Kasich came in second with 16.8 percent of the vote, and Trump earned 14 percent. 944 delegates remain on the table in the primary race, and only Trump or Cruz can possibly obtain the 1,237 needed to win the

nomination without a contested convention. Trump currently leads the field with 739 delegates, 598 shy of the nomination. Cruz is quite far behind at 465. He would have to get an unrealistic 772 more delegates to avoid a fight for the nomination. Kasich currently only has 143, which is 23 less than Rubio. With the number of unpledged delegates declining as primaries continue, Kasich can no longer win the nomination without a fight at the Republican National Convention. Over the past week, Republican politics have revolved around two topics: the terror attacks in Belgium’s capital of Brussels and the wives of Trump and Cruz. On the more serious matter, Republicans have issued the standard talking points when it comes to terrorist attacks: insist on taking stronger actions against terrorists, decry the number of refugees coming from Syria and the Middle East in general, and criticize President Obama. Cruz in particular has been the most outspoken, promising to defeat “radical Islamic terrorism” and condemning President Obama for remaining in Cuba amid the ongoing fallout from

the terrorist attacks. Trump emphasized the need to “close up our borders” to defend against such attacks in the U.S. Only Kasich decided to emphasize the need to help allies “identify, root out, and destroy the perpetrators of such acts of evil.” On a more personal level of politics, Trump and Cruz have engaged in a spat over their wives. An anti-Trump super Political Action Committee (PAC) called Make America Awesome produced a Facebook advertisement targeted to Mormons which showed a photo of Melania Trump posing nude. Trump immediately attacked Cruz, threatening to “spill the beans on [Cruz’s] wife.” Trump later tweeted out a side by side image of Melania in a glamorous pose and Heidi Cruz with an unflattering grimace. Cruz has repeatedly claimed no affiliation with the super PAC, labeling Trump a coward for going after his wife. Gone are the days of party camaraderie when Trump and Rubio both blasted *The Washington Post* for publishing a political cartoon portraying Cruz’s daughters as trained monkeys. Instead, the fight between Trump and Cruz

has devolved into familial mudslinging, truly the most important issue when it comes to deciding the chief executive of the nation. Looking ahead, the next site of the race lies in Wisconsin, the home state of some prominent Republicans like Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Governor Scott Walker. Both Ryan and Walker have had negative attitudes toward the frontrunner, who currently has a virtual tie with Cruz in recent polls. Wisconsin is a moderate, midwestern state similar to places like Ohio and Michigan, where all three remaining candidates have been overperforming to date. The movement to stop Trump from getting the delegates needed to win the nomination is growing, counting on the open primary on April 5 to help slow down Trump. Further ahead, New York’s primary on April 19 may have some effect before April 26 sees Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island voting. Republican voters in Pennsylvania looking to help or hinder Trump have until March 28 to register in time for the primary election.

# Delegates awarded thus far



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# Nina Fan seeks to make life easier for organizations as VPO

**ZEKE ROSENBERG**  
*Senior Staff*

Sophomore statistics major Nina Fan is running for Student Body Vice President for Organizations (SBVPO). Fan's platform consists of improving 25Live as well as improving Student Government transparency, the re-recognition process, collaboration between organizations, and organizational support. 25Live, the application for reserving rooms on campus, is the thing Fan most visibly targets in her platform. "25Live

is a great idea, you can book and reserve any room on campus," Fan said. However, she acknowledged that replacing it completely might require multiple systems for different buildings, which would just be more work for people learning to use the systems. "If we can't replace 25Live, we're going to do something else. We are going to try to make it user-friendlier because I know that that is the biggest issue that comes with 25Live. I'm going to work with [Cohon Center Director] Marcia [Gerwin] and work with CollegeNet —

the provider for 25Live — and whoever else is involved at Carnegie Mellon and we are going to try to redesign it." Re-recognition and transparency are also places Fan feels she can make improvements. "Re-recognition a) is a tedious process, b) can get meticulous, and c) it takes somebody who really knows the process itself to make sure that your organization continues to be government recognized. That's a situation where it's important to have somebody there who knows how student government runs and

how re-recognition runs," Fan said. By improving transparency and the re-recognition process, she will make it easier to both know how these processes work, and to navigate the processes themselves. Fan has also spoken about the importance of both publicizing and utilizing the Collaborative Funding Committee, a body that funds joint events between organizations. This would help the Carnegie Mellon community become closer through facilitating cooperation between student groups. "I've been in Student

Government since my [first] year here and I've been on Committee on Student Organizations since my first year and I've worked with the past two SBVPOs very closely [and] I've had a lot of experience with allocations," Fan said on why she decided to run. She feels her experience in Student Government is necessary for an effective term as SBVPO. "On top of all that," she added, "I've been very involved in organizations like Doctors of Carnegie Society — which I was vice president of — and the Undergraduate

Market Organization, which I was the vice president of programs of." She says that knowing both the ins and outs of Student Government and being involved in organizations makes her qualified to know what is required of the SBVPO and what will help improve organizations' experiences. When asked to summarize her candidacy, Fan said "Vote for who can do the job best and who can represent you and the rest of the student body the best. I am the most experienced, caring, and personable candidate."



Courtesy of Nina Fan

# Harit Agrawala focuses on public understanding of JFC

**JOSHUA BROWN**  
*SciTech Editor*

Money is always a contentious issue. Nearly every individual with an income knows the bittersweet experience of getting a paycheck, only to have a portion of their earnings whisked away to God-knows-where. Without knowing what this money goes to, or whom it helps, they might even become resentful of the organization which takes their money. Student Body Vice President of Finance (SBVPF) hopeful and sophomore statistics major Harit Agrawala, is acutely aware of this problem. A central component of his platform for this coming year is to remedy this lack of communication between the Joint Funding Committee (JFC) and all 300+ organizations whose funding it oversees. His plan comes in three parts. Agrawala would like first and foremost to raise awareness among students about the JFC and what it actually does; second, he aims to raise monetary transparency within the organization and to increase communication between the JFC and the organizations for which it works; and finally, Agrawala wants to foster these relationships and to eliminate the annual stress which organizations face when considering the amount of funding they will receive from the JFC.

Agrawala's first platform point is to raise awareness about the JFC and to expand its members. One of the biggest examples of how an increased awareness would help the student body is allowing students to better understand how their activities fee is distributed. "There's a common misconception," Agrawala said, "that it all goes to the Activities Board." In reality, the money raised from every student's activities fee — about \$1.25 million, according to Agrawala — is collected by the JFC and distributed among the 300 organizations whose funding the JFC oversees. Agrawala also

believes that the JFC could benefit from increased membership. The Joint Funding Committee is largely a place for students with a vested interest in finance to meaningfully impact their campus community, and it's rather unfortunate that so few people are aware of it. His second platform point is to remedy the communication problems which often arise between the JFC and the organizations with which it works. By communicating with organizations and keeping this open dialogue, Agrawala believes that the JFC can better understand what the organizations need and what they do, and the JFC can better meet their needs. One of the ways he intends to make this happen is by "being able to provide them with financial advice, if they need that. Should an organization not have that, we would be available," Agrawala said. The third way in which Agrawala would like to improve relations between the JFC and organizations is to eliminate the stress organizations feel over their budget situations for the following year. In the past, the JFC would allow organizations to keep their income, but adjust their budgets accordingly for the

coming year. In Harit's plan, each organization would be able to keep 20 percent of its annual income, with the rest coming back to the JFC to be allocated all of the organizations. The goal is to "redistribute [the funds] to organizations who are in debt or those who are looking to start up." This plan "gives the JFC any cash that organizations are making in surplus." One of the biggest issues experienced by the JFC in terms of creating budgets for the following years is that "organizations choose to hide the profits they're getting" because they're often afraid that if they report too much funding, the JFC will give them a decreased budget. Also, the current system "makes organizations spend most of the time of fundraising rather than focusing on the goal of what the organization is," since they apparently feel like they're on their own in terms of funding. With this system, funding would be dependable for all organizations and available to the many smaller organizations that don't have quite the same pull as many of the larger ones. This also ensures that organizations can keep 20 percent of their total profits and continue to grow through their own efforts.



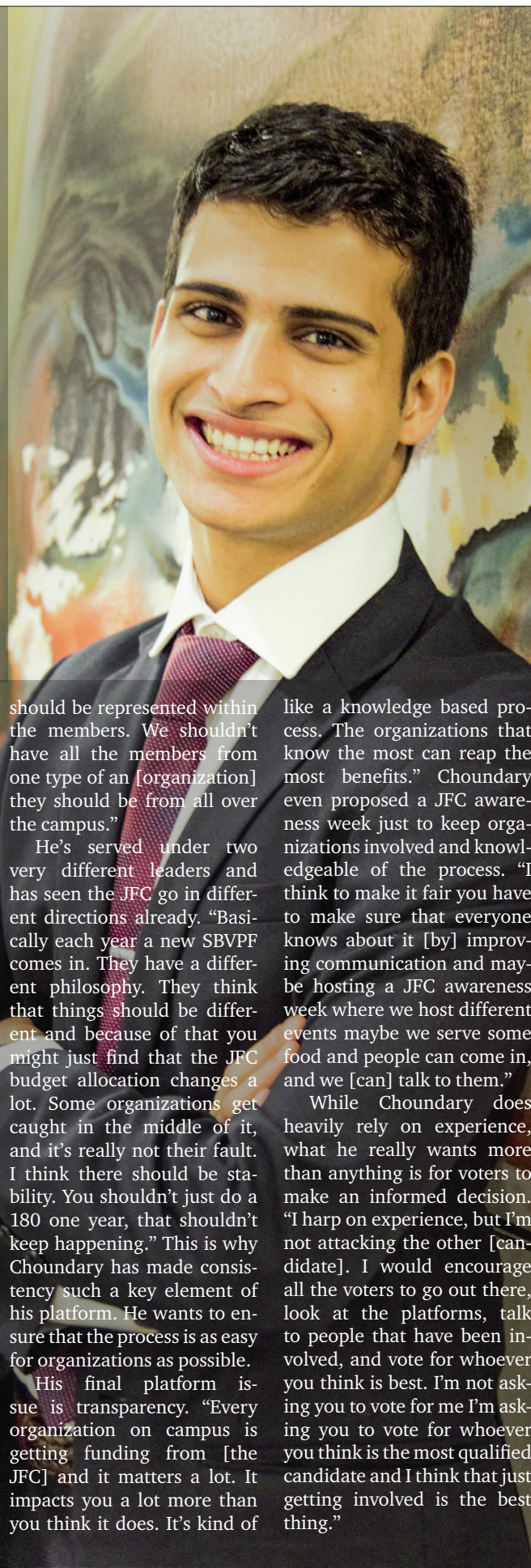
Zeke Rosenberg/Senior Staff

# Neal Choudhary puts years in JFC at center of platform

**JADE CROCKEM**  
*Operations Manager*

Student Body Vice President of Finance (SBVPF) is a large role with a large responsibility. This person oversees the allocations of over \$1.2 million by the Joint Funding Committee (JFC) to all of the student organizations on campus. Neal Choudhary, a sophomore majoring in finance, is running for this position and draws heavily on his previous experience serving on JFC for two years to help shape his platform. "The title is finance but this is mostly just an allocations process. That's the best word for it. There's not much finance involved other than the fact that it involves money, so I think that to be able to do this job you need to have experience." After serving on JFC for two years, Choudhary decided to do something about the changes he wants to make. "I've learned a lot about the process as well as seen that there's a lot of room for improvement. That's where my platform comes in." Choudhary breaks his platform down to three basic ideas: diversity, consistency, and transparency.

Choudhary wants to ensure that the needs of the entire campus are met by having a diverse JFC. "First of all, each year in JFC the amount of membership changes. In past years it's been 30 or 40, this year it's been less," His ideal JFC would have "around 30 and 40" members. His reasoning behind this was that it's "not too much so it doesn't get too hectic, but it's not too small that it's biased." Choudhary focuses heavily on wanting the process to be beneficial for everyone. "I think that finding a good balance is very important and even more important than [that is] making sure that the members are a fair representation of everyone on campus. We have many types of student [organizations] and it's very diverse and that diversity



Megan Fu, Courtesy of Neal Choudhary

# Science & Technology

## Humans biologically driven to make sense of life

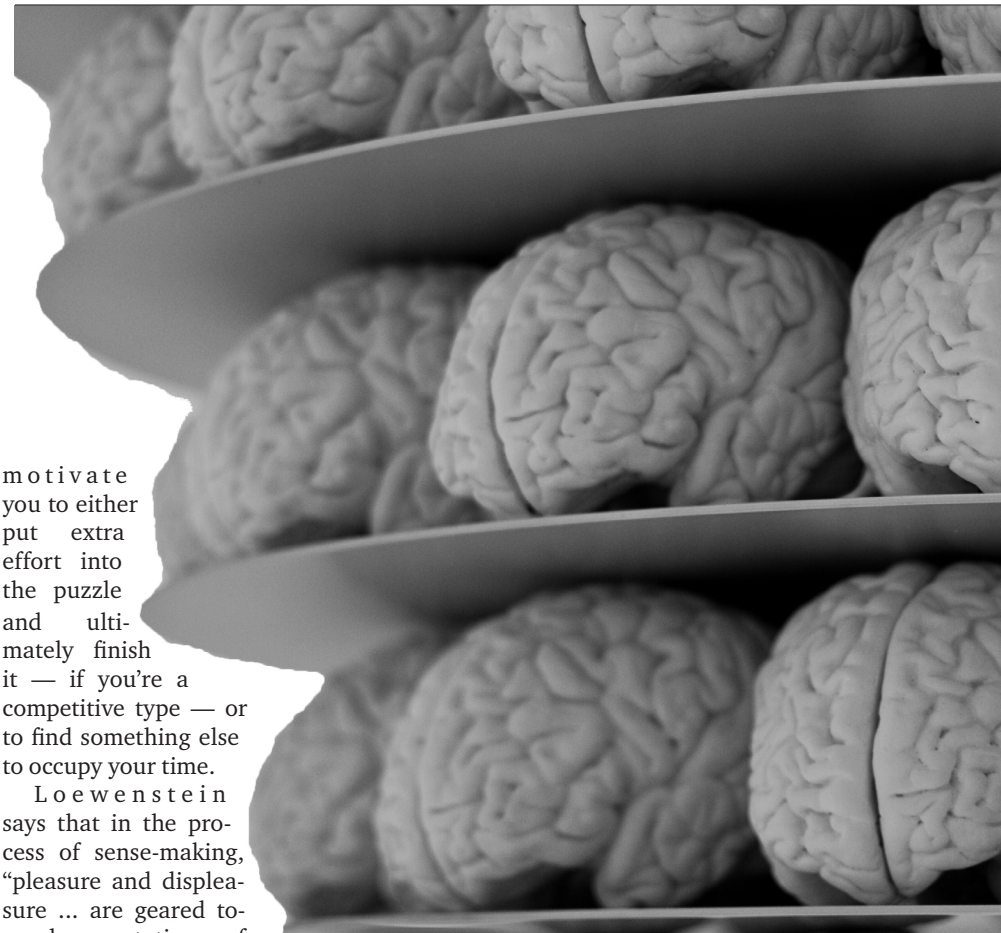
**JOSHUA BROWN**  
*SciTech Editor*

When your stomach starts to rumble, and you feel a pit inside your stomach, you’re experiencing a biological drive: hunger. Your body is running out of food to break down, and it wants more, so it motivates you by making you uncomfortable. This motivation is what forces you to roll out of bed and cook yourself some breakfast. These biological drives are what allow our bodies to keep themselves in tip-top shape, to survive. They’re feelings that are only alleviated through actions, and they motivate us to act in ways which benefit us. Other biological drives include the drive to procreate, to drink, to sleep, and, according to George Loewenstein, the Herbert A. Simon University Professor of Economics and Psychology at Carnegie Mellon University, to make sense of the world.

Loewenstein is interested in the idea that sense-making is a biological drive, just like hunger or thirst. In short, this drive toward sense-making is a “drive toward simplification,” or the idea that the less complicated we can make things, the more easily we can understand them. Loewenstein believes that “an individual evaluates his life based on two major criteria: how good is it, and how much sense does it make?”

Goodness, Loewenstein says, “can be evaluated many ways: how fulfilled a person feels, how generally content he feels on a daily basis,” and so on. But the second criterion is far more interesting to Loewenstein. Just as we feel physically bad if we don’t eat, we “feel really bad if we suddenly feel like our lives or the world make less sense than they [previously] made.” This bad feeling is essentially our bodies’ way of telling us to act, to make sense of the world, and to restore the security we feel when we understand what’s going on.

Picture this: your life is a puzzle. Maybe one that depicts a field of sunflowers or a picturesque lighthouse. You’re trucking away on this puzzle — you’ve got the border all put together, you’re starting to fill in the picture, and the finish line is in sight. To throw a wrench into the works, let’s say that one of the puzzle pieces breaks in half, followed by another, and another, until there are suddenly twice as many pieces to this puzzle, and the difficulty’s just gone up exponentially. You’re probably not going to feel very good about this strange development; you might even flip the table dramatically and storm off. This is an example of what Loewenstein calls “loss-aversion,” or that bad feeling we get when our lives make less sense. In this scenario, it would either



Courtesy of Neil Conway via Flickr Creative Commons

motivate you to either put extra effort into the puzzle and ultimately finish it — if you’re a competitive type — or to find something else to occupy your time.

Loewenstein says that in the process of sense-making, “pleasure and displeasure ... are geared toward expectations of how much sense you hope to make.” When the puzzle magically becomes more difficult, the displeasure is largely a result of your previous expectations to make just a little sense — a pretty picture. That being said, the pleasure from finishing the harder puzzle would be greater than that from finishing the easier one because there is more sense to be made from a more difficult

process. If we extrapolate this example from a puzzle to some sort of real-life problem — a dispute between friends, a difficult homework assignment, or a job search — we will largely find that the pleasure from solving real problems is far higher than the pleasure from solving recreational ones. Loewenstein asserts that this is due

to the fact that the “level of satisfaction is dependent on how much the new information helps you make sense of your life.” Essentially, this means that your life will make more sense, be simpler, when you’ve completed a task, such as finding a job, which gives you some measure of security

See **SENSE**, A9

## Cells’ electrical activity measured in 3-D model

**JULIA NAPOLITANO**  
*Assistant SciTech Editor*

Currently, researchers’ understanding of cell communication has been limited to two dimensions due to the fact that the electrical activity of cultured cells has only been done in a two-dimensional dish. However, one researcher at Carnegie Mellon has recently won a National Science Foundation (NSF) award for trying to kick things off the surface. Tzahi Cohen-Karni, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering and

materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon, is researching how cells communicate through electrical activity in three dimensions through the use of nanosensors. Cohen-Karni recently received an NSF CAREER Award entitled “3-D Nanosensors Array for Elucidating the Electrical Activity of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Derived Cardiomyocytes” for his research.

“We are not two-dimensional,” Cohen-Karni said in an interview with The Tartan. “Our excitab

le brain: three-dimensions, essentially. So if we wanted to know how cells talk to each other, the most straightforward way is to look into three dimensions. There’s a bunch of professors around biomedical engineering that work on 3-D constructs, but now we’re trying to fuse sensors in with it.”

Instead of working with two-dimensional petri dishes, Cohen-Karni’s method works with microtissues. Specifically, he works with induced pluripotent cells, or stem cells which are capable of

differentiating into many other types. These cells were derived from muscle cells from heart tissue (iPS-CM), with sensors to monitor electrophysiology.

“We are trying to create microtissues and then capture these inside three-dimensional assembly of sensors. The sensors themselves will be assembled in space in three dimensions,” Cohen-Karni said.

In order to surround the microtissue, the sensors are attached to a strip of polymer on a chip lined with thin

strips of metal, which serve as leads and lift the polymer from the chip’s surface, where the sensors can then take measurements from all sides.

In the last 30–40 years, sensing units were usually laid onto a surface. For example, the Michigan probe, a needle-like probe that measures neural activity directly from the brain, has many points of detection, but still lies on a plane. “We’re trying to kick stuff off the surface,” Cohen-Karni said. “We’ll have an arrangement of sensing

units in a barrel shape with x, y, z coordinates.” All the materials used to create the microtissue and sensors are synthesized in Cohen-Karni’s lab at the Pittsburgh Technology Council. They synthesize nanowires and semiconductors that are silicon-based materials a thousand times smaller than a human hair and fabricate field effect transistors out of them. The lab also uses graphene, a single layer of hexagonally arranged

See **CELLS**, A8

### SCITECH BRIEFS

#### Synthetic bacteria able to survive with small gene amount

A biotech researcher and member of the USA Science and Engineering Festival’s Advisory Board, J. Craig Venter, along with a team of researchers, published their findings on their synthesis of the first bacterial cell. Known as JCVI-syn3.0, the bacterium contained 473 genes, the minimal amount of genetic material that the researchers determined was needed for the bacterium to live. Lasting for five years, the bacterium was first created when the researchers replicated the one of the smallest genomes in nature from *M. mycoides*, and transplanted the genome into another species, the *Mycoplasma capricolum*. The point of this research is to note that an organism can survive and live a healthy life with only a small number of genes. If even a single one of these genes were taken out, the synthetic bacterium would fail to survive. Researchers only expected about 5 to 10 percent of these genes to be critically important, demonstrating the researchers’ lack of understanding of role of those genes as well as the minimal genetic requirements for life.

Source: Discovery News



#### Super-eruptions in Yellowstone larger than expected

A team of U.S., British, and Danish collaborators found evidence that 12 giant, ancient eruptions that occurred in the Central Snake River Plain in Idaho were actually larger than was previously thought, rivaling the notorious eruptions that took place in Yellowstone millions of years ago.

By employing whole rock and mineral chemistries, paleo-magnetic data, and radiometric dates, the researchers identified individual eruption deposits and then correlated that data over larger regions.

According to one of the researchers, Tom Knott from the University of Leicester, the eruptions in Yellowstone were only a sample of the series of ancient super-eruptions extending along the Snake River from Oregon to Yellowstone.

These eruptions are thought to have occurred in the past 16 million years.

For example, one report suggests that an eruption in southern Idaho covered over 14,000 kilometers-squared and 1.3 km, much greater than the super-eruption in Yellowstone that had an eruption volume of 1,900 kilometers-cubed.

Source: ScienceDaily



#### New catalyst better at splitting water by 300 percent

Scientists at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and the University of Toronto have created a new kind of catalyst that can decompose water into hydrogen and oxygen, a method that is used to store electricity generated by solar and wind power.

The catalyst can decompose water at a rate that is three times better than the previous record holder. According to Aleksandra Vojvodic, a SLAC staff scientist, production of the catalyst does not require extremely advanced tools.

Furthermore, the new catalyst is also one of the most inexpensive on the market, as it is made of three abundant metals — iron, cobalt, and tungsten.

Vojvodic and colleagues from the SUNCAT Center for Interface Science and Catalysis used powerful computational tools to determine the effect an addition of tungsten has on catalyst’s activity.

They then used their findings to develop a novel method to uniformly distribute the three metals by creating a gel that was later dried into powder.

Source: ScienceDaily



#### Vegan diets could reduce climate change emissions

A study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* suggests that reducing the consumption of meat, while increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables, could lead to improved health and decreased carbon emissions.

Researchers at Oxford University found that adoption of global guidelines on diet, which limits red meat and encourages produce consumption, could prevent 5.1 million deaths per year and reduce food-related emissions by 29 percent.

Furthermore, a global adoption of a vegan diet would result in 8.1 million fewer deaths and a 70 percent reduction in emissions. Additionally, dietary shifts could lead to monetary savings in healthcare.

While the lead author and post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Population Health, Marco Springmann, states that it is not expected that everyone will become vegan, he said that switching to a more healthy and environmentally-friendly diet could lead to overall global improvement.

Source: NBC news



#### Microsoft’s teenage chatbot corrupted by Internet users

Last Thursday, Microsoft shut down its artificial intelligence program Tay, which was a chatbot that learned how to interact with 18-24-year olds through its conversations online, via platforms like Twitter, Kik and GroupMe. Designed to be engaging and entertaining, Tay could be contacted via her Twitter address and other online platforms, including Kik or GroupMe. Within a day of Tay’s release, the chatbot began making racist and sexist comments as a result of abuse by some users. Others found that it was difficult to have substantial conversations with the chatbot about various topics, including music and television. Microsoft has apologized for the inflammatory comments and deleted most of the bot’s tweets. They covered up this move by saying that Tay was tired and needed to rest.

While the the company is currently making some adjustments to the bot, many followers urge Microsoft to allow Tay to learn about what is right and wrong autonomously, rather than being interrupted mid-experiment.

Source: BBC news



## Political speech patterns analyzed

**YUE YIN**  
*Staffwriter*

Readability analyses are usually utilized by teachers to select appropriate reading materials for students, but researchers at Carnegie Mellon’s Language Technologies Institute, including principle systems scientist Maxine Eskenazi and graduate research assistant Elliot Schumacher, are interested in applying readability analysis methods to another area of natural language: presidential campaign speeches. The readability analyses of campaign speeches from the 2016 United States presidential election campaign shows that the candidates’ choice of words generally ranged from an eighth-grade level to a tenth-grade level. The exception to this conclusion was businessman Donald Trump, who speaks at a seventh-grade level. When comparing speeches of past presidents, they found that George W. Bush had the lowest grammatical level, with a 5th-grade average, and Abraham Lincoln the highest, who ranked far above a 10th grade level. Among the candidates, grade-level speech patterns are between sixth and seventh grade, except for Trump. From their analysis paper, readability of a document is defined as the reading level, from grade one to grade 12.

“[A candidate’s grade level] is determined by looking at the lexical contents and the grammatical structure of the sentences in a document,” Eskenazi said in a Language Technologies Institute press release. “It is based on the observation that some words (and grammatical structures) appear with greater frequency at one grade level than another. For example, we would expect that we could see the word ‘win’ fairly frequently

See **CANDIDATES**, A9

From the Kepler Space Telescope, an international team of astronomers were able to see a shockwave for the first time, due to the display of normal visible colors.

The shockwave was seen near a red giant that was 270 times the radius of the sun and was the smaller of two old stars that were being observed by the astronomers.

After running out of fuel, the star started to compress on its central core so much that a reciprocal, outward force was triggered, creating the explosion of an aging giant star that resulted in a shockwave.

In contrast, the other star, which had 400 times the radius of the sun, did not show signs of a shockwave.

As stated by co-author Brad Tucker, from Australian National University, the researchers believed that the larger size of the star made the escape of the shockwave more difficult. The discovery is currently in the process of being published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

Source: Discovery News

Compiled by  
**SHARON WU**



# Computer-generated imaging creates entire new worlds

NAVIYA SINGLA  
Staffwriter

If you’ve seen the trailer for *The Jungle Book*, the latest reimagining of the classic book, set to be released on April 15, I suggest you watch it again.

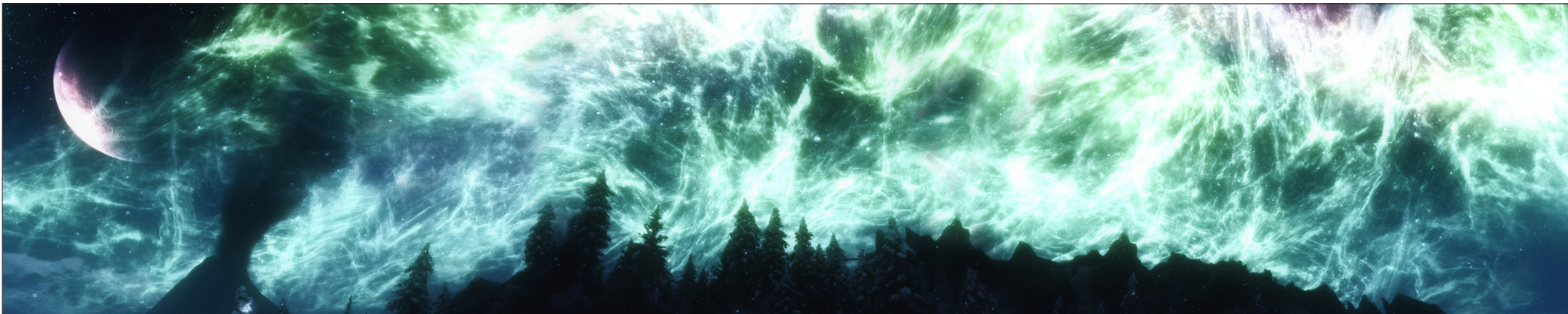
This article will focus on three dimensional CGI animation from a cinematic perspective. CGI is an umbrella term that is used to refer to any image created using computer software. One can create both 2-D and 3-D images using this

movies without CGI: For any movie, the first task is to script it. Without having a clear idea of where story is going to go, or what the characters are supposed to do, the movie may turn into a bizarre, incoherent melting pot full of plot holes.

arrangement of the chosen scenes from the storyboard can be referred to as the “layout.” It is just the rough draft of the entire movie. Layout is also done because it is much easier to make changes when the piece is unfinished rather

illumination, and the like. From a production point of view, that is how animation takes place. From a slightly more technical perspective, the animation process involves a lot more work than one might think. Most motion

that don’t have clear joints. These include clothes, water, and hair. Usually, animation involves using a hybrid model that combines several kinds of models together. Flip-books are representative of the method of keyframing to generate



Courtesy of Karter, via Flickr Creative Commons

Keep in mind that the movie was created with just one actor in an empty room. The rest of the movie was filled in by Computer Generated Imagery (CGI). Consider any other animated or partially animated movie, like *The Incredibles*, *Jurassic World*, or *Avatar*. All were created using CGI. While movies are a common example of this technology put to work, the applications of CGI are varied. Video games, virtual reality programs, theme parks, and even research ventures utilize CGI to display things that can’t be visualized otherwise.

technology. The major difference between the two is that 3-D CGI is used to create an entire world, system, or animation, whereas 2-D CGI works with image manipulation, often overlaying one image with others. 2-D CGI often involves creating several renderings or frame generations of a particular scene or object and then modifying them further to fit the expected outcome. Maya, SOCK, Blender, and Lightwave are some examples of software that can be used to produce CGI. Most commercial CGI films use a similar process to

After the script is written, the animator creates the “storyboards,” which are basically several simple renderings of the same scene to get an idea of what works and what doesn’t. These storyboards progress into a formal layout, wherein the entire movie is “completed.” At this stage, none of the characters have features, mouths or faces. Their outlines and movements are the only data that exist at this stage in the process. Sometimes, this is also when the “voicing over” takes place. This sequential

than later, when one would have to work excessively on the details of the scene that has to be modified. After the layout has been approved by the directors and other parties involved in the animation, the details are filled in. The characters are given physical features, hair, and other sophisticated appendages. Hair animation is often left for the end because it is the hardest and most nuanced bit to actually animate. This is also when the lighting of the scenes is adjusted; the characters and objects are given shadows,

animation requires some kind of data about how an object moves. This data can be obtained using several different kind of models, one of which is called the articulate model. This model is a type of skeletal system that defines the joints where motion is possible and in what directions. It determines what movements can be made and limits them to certain points of articulation, just like in a regular skeleton. Another model for collecting movement data is the deformable object, which is often used to animate things

motion. As the name suggests, keyframing involves defining the frames at several instances in time and contracting them into one film. Another method, usually associated with CGI is to use motion-capture. This involves fitting live actors with certain special equipment, which relays movement data to computers to be rendered and animated on the big screen. Movie-making is an intense process, and recognizing this process and all of the hard work that goes into it can enhance a movie-watching experience.

## Cell activity realistically measured with 3-D techniques

CELLS, from A7

carbon atoms, to make the sensors. “We are not married to any of the materials we are using,” said Cohen-Karni. After they synthesize materials, it is transported to the recently opened Scott Hall, where a majority of their experiments take place.


“It’s a multi-layer of complexity. Students in my lab are designing not just the sensing units, but are also working on the apparatus to measure these units.” Graduate students have the flexibility to change both the geometry of the devices themselves and of the microtissues the devices sense. The NSF CAREER Award comes with

a grant of \$500,000 that will be used to further develop 3-D nanosensors array for elucidating the electrical activity of induced pluripotent stem cells, derived cardiomyocytes. “It’s instrumental, I have to admit,” Cohen-Karni said. “It’s not about the finance itself. The biggest thing is that the NSF basically acknowledged

that this is something important that researchers have to work on. And of course, the financial support is very important but I think the acknowledgement of the research and the outreach plan of the proposal got their attention more than anything. It’s recognition that we here at CMU do interesting stuff.” In the future,


Cohen-Karni hopes to expand this research to look at diseased brain and cardiac cells, where they can branch out to investigate different diseases and potentially do drug screenings based on the electrophysiology of the diseased cells. “We are developing a platform,” Cohen-Karni said. “I’m not focused on single tissues. For now, let’s get the

basic science, basic interfaces done and down the road we’ll start digging into disease related electrophysiology. Some of it can be really wild, even creating cyborgs.” “Essentially, you take from each experience what you need to bring the grand idea to reality. Sometimes it’s not a linear combination, sometimes it’s synergetic.”



The Leadership of

Carnegie Mellon University



Annual Update from  
President Subra Suresh

March 31, 2016  
12:30 p.m.

Rangos 1  
Cohon University Center

President Suresh invites the Carnegie Mellon community to hear perspective on guiding the university to new heights and understanding the challenges and opportunities as we move forward.

A brief Q&A session will follow the presentation. Light refreshments served.

www.cmu.edu/leadership

# Research group tests candidates’ speech patterns

CANDIDATES, from A7

in third grade documents while the word ‘successful’ would be more frequent in, say, seventh grade documents. We would not see dependent clauses very often at the second grade level, whereas they would be quite frequent at the seventh grade level.”

Researchers use a readability model, REAP, for this analysis. This model uses lexical components (word choice) and grammatical constructions (syntactical complexity) to measure a certain individual’s speech grade-level. The model is based on a database that contains sets of texts for each grade level. Texts mostly come from written assignments that teachers have published on their websites from students of each grade level. The model analyzes two aspects of readability: lexical and grammatical.

The lexical reading difficulty measure is based on the smoothed individual probabilities of words occurring at each reading level. The grammar reading difficulty measure is based on typical grammatical constructions in the sentences of each grade level.

“Assessing the readability of campaign speeches is a little tricky because most measures are geared to the written word, yet text is very different from the spoken word,” Eskenazi said. “When we speak, we usually use less

structured language with shorter sentences. The readability measure we use looks at how often words and grammatical structures occur at each level (Flesch-Kincaid looked at length of sentences and words). In this way, the measures we used are a bit more reflective of any type of language, written or spoken.” One of the main issues was the tension between written language grade-levels and those of spoken language, which tends to be more conversational, and thus less complex.

In order to standardize, the researchers made adjustments to reflect language as a whole, incorporating both spoken and written language in their analyses.

Researchers also computed the standard deviation of lexical and grammatical grade level for each candidate. The result reveals the degree to which the candidate changes their choice of words from one speech to another. Researchers note that Hillary Clinton, for words, and Trump, for grammar, have the most variable levels from one speech to another.

This could indicate that they are the candidates who are trying the most to be well understood by their audience. Researchers are continuing to add more speeches to their database. “With more speeches and speeches of different candidates before the same audience, we may learn something more,” Eskenazi said.

# Sense-making theory explains reason behind loss-aversion, echo-chamber

SENSE, from A7

for the future. Once that task is done, you’ll most likely be more content with your life as a whole. This theory, that sense-making is a biological drive, can be extrapolated

into many other areas as well. One such area is the theory of confirmation bias, or the idea that people are “motivated to avoid information that challenges their existing beliefs.” This particular phenomenon is often represented in the types of media one consumes. If an individual happens to be a die-hard Republican, they will naturally tend to avoid left-leaning, liberal media outlets and seek out conservative ones, for example, because

their beliefs are in-line with those of the conventionally conservative media. If one is an orthodox Catholic, they will naturally avoid atheistic programming or viewpoints, in favor of ones which reaffirm their beliefs. Confirmation

bias, Loewenstein asserts, is rooted at least in part in the drive for sense-making. Since we naturally feel worse when our lives make less sense — when things become complicated — we often gravitate toward media or individuals which share our values. Were we to interact with opposing viewpoints, especially ones which go against our framework for existence (i.e. “is there a God/an afterlife”), we would be somewhat forced

to consider why we believe what we believe and possibly to reevaluate our entire worldview. Loewenstein’s theory may go a long way to explaining boredom, as well. Since the pleasure we receive from sense-making is largely

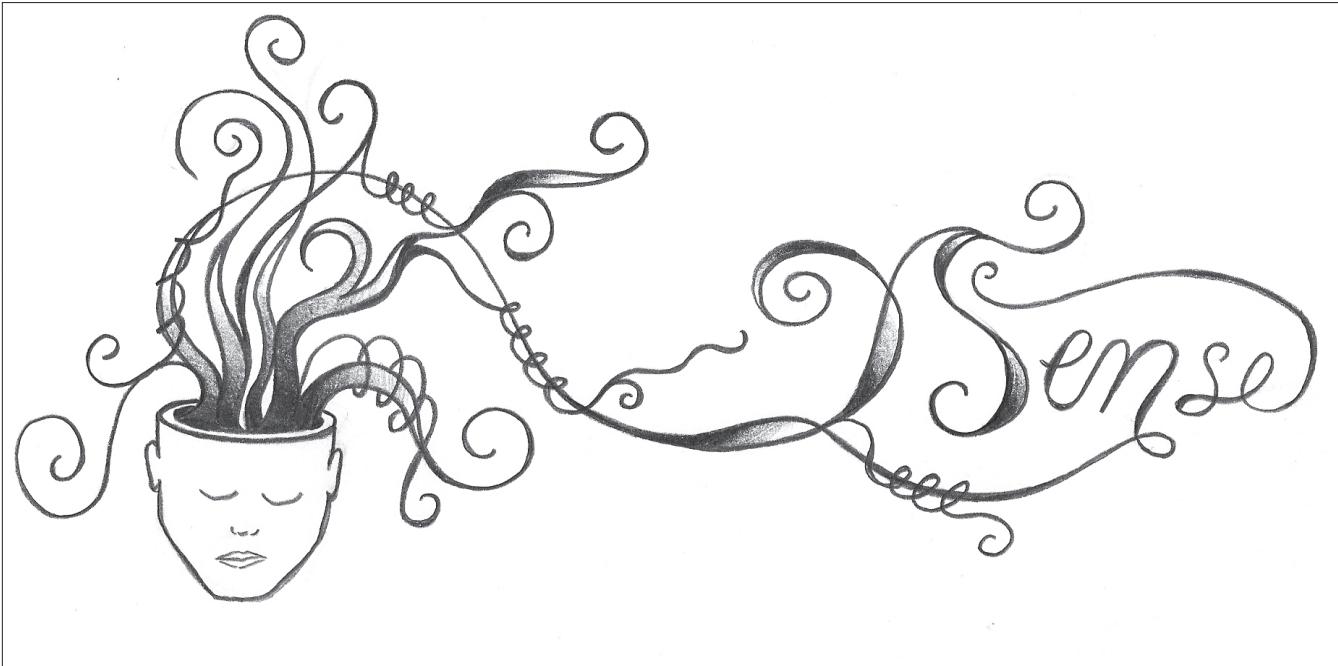
contingent on our expectations, we become bored when we expect to make sense but lack necessary information, or if the sense we do make is less important than we expected it to be. For example, normal people will often become bored when they stare at complex math problems because they have no hope of making sense out of them.

Additionally, if a scientist spends a long time working out a complex math problem

and believes that it’s the key to furthering his research, but it ends up being a waste of time, he would feel a bit frustrated, and maybe even a little bored. On the flip side, Loewenstein asserts that we don’t get bored as we go to sleep

because we don’t expect to get any meaning out of sleep, so the pleasure we receive from sense-making depends on our expectations and whether or not they match the outcomes.

Loewenstein’s theory of sense-making has many implications, but in the simplest of terms, our brains enjoy making sense of the world. Sense gives us security, and making sense makes us feel good, so we want to make as much of it as possible.



India Price/Online Editor

# The right to be forgotten creates ethical controversy



ROB MACEDO  
Special to The Tartan

This week at Pugwash we discussed the “Right to Be Forgotten” — the concept that one can request to have personal information removed from the online public domain. We began our discussion by sharing our knowledge on what that right currently means. One member explained how at present, the European Union can force Google to take down certain search results. However, this takedown pertains, by law, to search results displayed on Google internationally and not only in the information’s country of origin.

For example, say someone in Spain commits a crime and information about this incident appears online. If the European Union decides that this information should be removed, Google must remove the results not only in the Spanish version of Google, but also in all international versions of Google.

These comments lead us to the ethical question of the meeting: Is the right to be forgotten truly a human right, or is it an excuse for governments to exert censorship power on international private corporations?

One member explained how this “right” needs to be monitored very carefully so that governments do not use it as a tool to remove incriminating information about officials, thereby leading us closer to an Orwellian society where those with power can wipe information away from history that they do not like.

And, as someone else pointed out, the ability to take down certain information has been abused before: Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown — when content is removed due to copyright infringement — has certainly been abused to remove undesirable, yet legal, information. Yet someone else turned the

conversation away from totalitarian fear by explaining how Google has not removed most requests, and as of yet has not been penalized for refusing to do so. Requests to remove search results relating to crimes committed or corruption seems to have been ignored by Google, while requests to remove information about victims of abuse have been followed up. If the EU is indeed not abusing this power, and instead using it to protect abuse victims, why should we oppose their actions?

On the other hand, as another speaker countered, the removal of information from the public domain is always taking us a step away from truth. Information can always be ignored; yet unknown information cannot be learnt.

Even if information online is not true, by removing information we are still limiting our understanding of the current state of people’s beliefs. And if the online information is in fact false, shouldn’t there be a flood of other online articles that point this misinformation out?

We then began to wonder what exactly the future of the “the right to be forgotten” is, regardless of the intrinsic morality of this law. Some members thought that it was only a matter of time until this law will begin to take effect in the U.S. However, another person responded to this by suggesting that the law follows from the more socialistic governments in the EU, and not vice-versa. Thus, as long as the power of the American government over free expression remains checked, it is unlikely that we will see this law creeping into the states.

Finally, we wondered whether humans would learn to be more careful with their personal information in a digital age, thereby rendering this law unneeded. Some people thought this was likely, while others believed that carelessness about our privacy was part of our human nature.

We finished our meeting with an uncertain viewpoint on this law, yet perhaps with a greater understanding of human politics, morality, and behavior.



Ashley Chan/Staff Arist

# Forum

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Satirical media becomes America’s news normal



Jarel Grant/Staff Artist

News media appeals to our need for certainty and factual information; satirical news often speaks to hard issues in an accessible and intriguing way, appealing not only to our need for facts, but also our emotions and sense of humor. ‘News comedy’ is the kind of term that seems like a complete paradox when someone first hears it. ‘News’ is seen as that old bastion of boredom where language is used to recount facts about far off places and people that have no direct impact on our lives. Comedy is built around the idea of eliciting incredulous laughter by presenting seemingly unreal situations. By its very definition, comedy’s objective is to entertain as opposed to inform. It twists the truth to suit a narrative purpose. And yet, in today’s America, these two ideas make for strangely compatible bedfellows. Some of the most watched shows today — like *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, the now concluded *Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and the newer *Daily Show with Trevor Noah* — are built around this news comedy format.

The assumption has always been that these shows are about entertainment, and that their stars aren’t anchors so much as comedians. They can offer a humorous take on a conversation, but can they actually steer the conversation? Oliver, after six months of staying away from Donald Trump, dedicated an entire twenty minutes to lampooning Trump and his ludicrous policy positions in an episode of *Last Week Tonight*. The interesting part is that for the first time this campaign season, the attacks on Trump seemed to stick. One of the gags involved rebranding Donald Trump as Donald Drumpf, the original last name of his German ancestors. To date, *Last Week Tonight* has sold more than 35,000 ‘Make Donald Drumpf Again’ hats, and their ‘Drumpfinator’ Chrome extension has been downloaded more than 433,000 times. In this case, Oliver didn’t just offer a take on the Trump conversation; he changed it. Out of

everyone in the world, including rival political campaigners and ‘serious’ news anchors, the one person that was able to hit the Republican presidential frontrunner was a comedian.

This anecdote makes for an interesting commentary on the relationship between modern media and society. When it comes to the news, we’ve come to trust guys like Oliver and Stewart, whose stated objective is to entertain, much more than traditional outlets whose stated objective is to inform.

One of the biggest reasons is that these shows tend to be less stiff and self conscious, and thus offer more incisive coverage of the news. This might be in the pursuit of humor or it might be because they aren’t as obligated to appear unbiased as traditional broadcasts. Stewart, for example, was always very open about the liberal bent of his show. By being open about his political leanings, no one could accuse him of favoritism when he eviscerated conservatives by asking tougher questions than most other television anchors could afford to. What’s more, if he ever went too far, he could laugh it all off as a joke. This format led to some hilarious and surprisingly illuminating interviews, such as one where he destroyed Jim Cramer for misrepresenting the collapse of 2008, and another in which he gets Bill Kristol to back-pedal on nearly every outrageous thing he has said in his own publications. Using humor as the velvet around the dagger, Stewart and his peers confront people head on to get to the facts behind the fiction.

Even more interesting though, is that these kinds of satirical news shows have actually been found to report the facts more thoroughly than traditional media. Ten years ago, when the satirical news idea was relatively nascent, surveys found that *Daily Show* viewers had higher knowledge levels of national and international affairs than even readers of prestigious publications like *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street*

*Journal*. Major media houses such as CNN and Fox News were much further down the list. This implies that these satirical news shows, whose stated objective is to entertain as opposed to inform, are actually better even at informing the public than traditional media.

Finally, unique as it may seem, the use of satire to humanize the news isn’t without precedent in America. A hundred years ago, Mark Twain and Oscar Wilde entertained and informed the American people by brazenly poking fun at the government in ways that more mainstream media simply couldn’t afford to. Humor, just like it does now, sweetened the bitter facts and made them easier to swallow.

Where is news comedy going next? Who knows. Are Stewart or any of his contemporaries akin to a modern Twain? While it is a stretch to make that comparison, there is the fact that both of them have filled the same need for American society. We’ll probably be better equipped to answer that question a couple of decades from now. In the meantime, sit back, relax, and with news comedy, enjoy the most entertaining and most informative source of news out there.

Perhaps one of the biggest cultural observations that separates these two media genres is the idea of irreverence. News media can be too caught up in being fair and balanced and honorable, and satirical news media has the exact opposite approach; comedians have the freedom to speak in colloquialisms, to appeal to not only the facts but to our emotions as readers and as citizens. In this way, satirical news media is more rhetorically active than news media; while hard news largely appeals to our sense of logic, satirical news can tackle difficult topics without holding any punches, and they can utilize both factual information as well as emotional appeals to our sense of irony and humor. This makes satirical news less austere and more approachable.

## Trump’s violent rallies threaten democracy



EMMETT ELDRED

If you’re anything like me, you give an involuntary contemptuous little snort every time someone talks about neo-fascist revolutionary Donald Trump. Half a chuckle, half a sniff, this quick, sharp intake of air through the nose is the universal sign for “I can’t believe this clown is running for President — and winning.” If you’re anything like me, you thought Trump was a joke when he announced. Except the joke didn’t end in the summer like we all thought it would, or in the fall, or in the winter. Now, it’s spring, and Donald Trump is officially not funny anymore.

To be truthful, Trump never should have been funny in the first place, and his impending Republican nomination is as much our fault for treating him like a joke, as it is the media’s fault for making a circus about him and Republicans’ fault for voting for him. It’s not funny when you call Mexicans rapists and criminals. It’s not funny when you demean women for their looks, or their menstrual cycles, or any other reason. It’s not funny when you lead a movement to question the President’s nationality because of the color of his skin. It’s not funny when you lead a veritable lynch mob against a group of five black boys accused of a heinous crime they didn’t commit. It’s not funny when you propose a ban on an entire religion.

But now Trump’s campaign has entered a new phase, something much scarier than even the racist, sexist, and xenophobic speech he has used in the past. And it really, really isn’t funny. Trump’s campaign has become violent, and that is a threat to democracy.

Since the beginning, there has been violence around the edges of Trump’s campaign. His rallies have always been rowdy, especially towards protesters, and violent crimes have been committed in his name. But until March, Trump was largely able to wag his finger at the violence and distance himself. His fans were simply “passionate,” he insisted, but he would never incite violence.

Those days are long gone. On March 9, Trump’s campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was accused of assaulting Michelle Fields, a reporter for Breitbart. A few days later, a viral video surfaced of a Trump bodyguard violently slamming a photographer from *Time* to the ground by his neck. These attacks on reporters came just days after Trump proposed loosening libel laws so he could silence the free press. On March 9, a

Trump fan sucker-punched a protester, and a few days later Trump publicly considered paying for the assailant’s legal fees.

Trump frequently claims not to incite violence, but his words tell a very different story:

Feb. 1: “If you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of ‘em, would you? Seriously. Okay? Just knock the hell — I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees. I promise. I promise.”

March 4: “Get him out. Try not to hurt him. If you do I’ll defend you in court.”

March 9: “See, in the good old days this didn’t used to happen, because they used to treat them very rough. We’ve become very weak.”

On March 16, Trump said that his fans would likely “riot in the streets” if the Republican party used a brokered convention to rob him of the Republican nomination. This is exactly why the violent climate he has inspired is such a serious problem. What makes the United States and other democracies both secure and reliable is that we direct our government through civil processes, never through violence. While violent transitions of power are hallmarks of authoritarian governments and revolutionary guards, the United States has astounding institutional credibility that precludes violence. Absent of violence, our political system has integrity, it is strong and trustworthy. We might not always like our political leaders, but we can always trust in the power of the vote and of political action.

But when politics become violent, it is often the strongest, most brutal, most well-funded that win, and not the ones with the best ideas or a mandate from the people. By instigating a violent political climate, Trump has threatened to undermine the stability and legitimacy of our democracy. By seeking to intimidate and silence reporters and protesters, Trump has made clear that he is a threat to political freedom.

Hate speech isn’t funny. But it’s hard not to laugh, even at the most heinous of words, when they come from an orange-tinted, out-of-touch billionaire shouting outrageous things from the peanut gallery. Months later, Trump has built a movement of passionate, angry followers who seem willing to act on any violent seed he plants in their minds. We simply cannot allow ourselves to have a president whose path to the Oval Office was paved, even slightly, by violence. That is the opposite of everything our Constitution stands for. It’s time to stop laughing. It’s time to start thinking long and hard about how stop Donald Trump.

Emmett Eldred (@kmanglan) is a staffwriter for The Tartan.



Emily Giedzinski /Staff Artist

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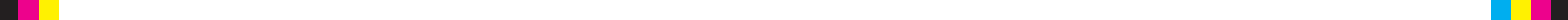
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# The crazy mask: How Carnegie Mellon pathologized humanity

  
**ZEKE ROSENBERG**

Every day seems to bring a renewed discussion of Carnegie Mellon’s feared stress culture and how it tears the souls from bright-eyed and bushy-tailed young students who come to the school ready to learn and leave thinking of school only as a competition for who can cause themselves the most pain. To be honest, that is probably an accurate depiction of what happens on this campus. That said, the direction the discussion often takes — intertwined with mental health initiatives — both does little to solve a problem and crowds out a different conversation that needs to be had on campus.

The best distillation of stress culture at Carnegie Mellon, in my opinion, is an excellent article from Dec. 3, 2012 by former online editor of The Tartan, Katie Chironis titled “The happy mask: Carnegie Mellon must address stress culture.” It outlines the cultural underpinnings, origins, and effects of stress culture at Carnegie Mellon. I also think the initiative she pointed out — Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s MIT Together — is one of the most effective ways people have come up with at dealing with these sorts of problems. However, I personally feel she is wrong when she says the need for this is because counseling offered by Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is insufficient. That particular justification is now the most prominent in discussions of stress culture here.

There is always talk of the need to expand mental health services in

regards to stress culture because it concerns a lot of things we’ve been trained to associate with mental illness, like anxiety and suicide. However, this is a misleading connection that is not helpful to people who experience stress culture, nor to people who experience mental illness.

Clinical counseling as a treatment

you as happy while you are miserable are well documented. A University of Warwick study from 2011 found that when people feel as if they are struggling in a sea of thriving people, their despair is magnified by comparison.

This is a problem that is very explicitly not fixed by counseling and other mental health initiatives.

either risking students’ confidentiality or putting students in a position where they still feel as if they are the lone zebra struggling to catch up to the pack as the lions close in.

The other side of this is problematic as well. Discussion of mental illness on Carnegie Mellon’s campus is incredibly stunted. We consistently

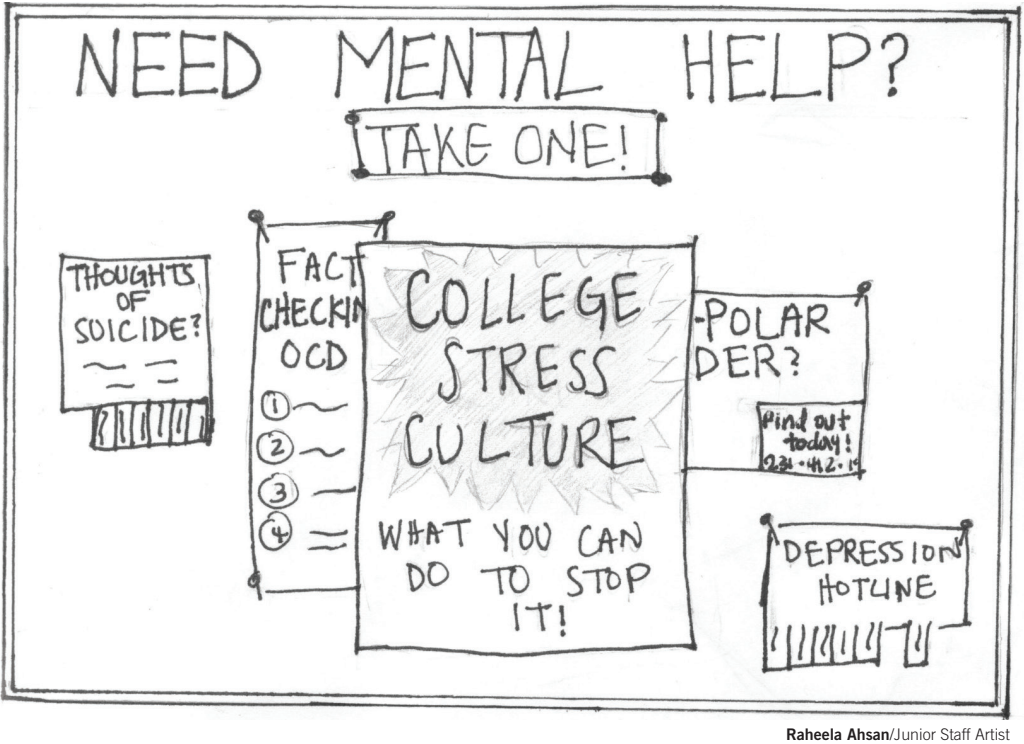
and, as I’ve mentioned previously, shipping chronically mentally ill students off to “the community,” which is less than ideal. Students who deal with sexual assault and relationship violence and absolutely need professional help are unable to access emergency care and, when they do, are caught in a system that is unable to meet their needs.

Carnegie Mellon has a better plan for dealing with Ebola, an outbreak that happened over an ocean away, than it does for common mental illnesses. I once went to Health Services after a few sleepless nights caused me to pass out during an exam. I went home with a prescription of Zoloft for anxiety and Trazodone for insomnia. The Zoloft made me violently ill, the Trazodone did, uh, nothing, and both were prescribed after a single visit with no second thoughts. Medication is key to the process, but it has to be a process, not just a reaction. That’s not a good environment for healing.

It’s time for us to change the conversation on stress culture from a mental health dialogue to a cultural dialogue. Mental illnesses should not have to fight stress culture for oxygen and airtime and social health should not be trapped under the ill-fitting banner of mental health. It’s absolutely terrifying that our collective consciousness as a campus thinks you need a therapist to tell you it’s okay to feel a little overwhelmed sometimes and that does not devalue you as a person.

The fact that this comes at a cost to the safety of other students shows that our reaction to stress culture — to compartmentalize and pathologize it — has become as toxic as the culture itself.

Zeke Rosenberg (@erosenbe) is Senior Staff for The Tartan.



Raheela Ahsan/Junior Staff Artist

for someone who experiences stress in response to stressful situations merely pathologizes a normal reaction. Chironis makes an important point when she says “Maybe it’s that every time we brag to each other about our workload, we’re covering up our fear with that same bravado. On this campus, it’s normal to ignore your stress and pretend like you’re doing fine.” The problems with perceiving the people around

This is a social health epidemic and needs to be addressed as a cultural problem, not a lack of mental health resources.

Solutions would look a lot like the aforementioned MIT Together. Working toward a culture of empathy is an important step, as is trying to broaden the horizons of students beyond immediate life on campus. When people go to therapy as a primary solution, we’re stuck in a catch-22 of

hear candidates for Student Government and other faculty talk about expanding CaPS in response to stress. On the other hand, we rarely hear about depression and anxiety disorders in these discussions at all, despite both being on the rise among college students — particularly those who live far from home. CaPS is occasionally completely overloaded, sometimes needing two weeks to get students in for appointments

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN CMU ELECTIONS

This is my third student government election. This is also my third time being disappointed by candidates. Year after year, the candidates say they will add new services, improve existing ones, and usher in a new age of prosperity. Year after year, nothing changes. This election presents a new phenomenon: ignorance of basic university services and working initiatives.

For example, one candidate has suggested a peer-to-peer mental health crisis hotline. Doesn’t he

know that CaPS has a 24/7 hotline? Another candidate suggested that someone from EMS should sit in UHS on weekends to help people decide if they need to go to the hospital. Doesn’t she realize that EMS operates 24/7? Doesn’t she realize that student’s wouldn’t even have to walk to UHS, as EMS comes to them? Furthermore, rather than complaining about the medical insurance money wasted on water cups, doesn’t she know that the Carnegie Mellon student health insurance fully covers

all STI testing and birth control? Multiple candidates have expressed concern about the ranking of Carnegie Mellon, but don’t they realize that there is an army of faculty and administrators devoted to this?

I believe that all of these candidates have good intentions. In their own ways, they want to address what they believe are pressing issues for students. My problem is not their goals but their approaches. They are attempting to change processes in places where people are already

working to improve services. Adding a few students to initiatives that are already in progress within the university will only impede progress, not accelerate it. This is the premise of Brooks’ Law, a commonly cited phenomenon in software engineering.

Most of our candidates seem to want to start unnecessary initiatives or interrupt existing ones. Students deserve a candidate who is going to lead and motivate students to create solutions, not beg the university to do what it is already doing. I encourage

you all to vote with this in mind. My intention here was simply to question candidates in an open forum; I encourage candidates to respond, and invite voters to question those who would seek to lead them.

Connor Smith is a close friend of Aaron and Vaasavi and has close ties with their campaign staff. The views expressed here are solely Smith’s, and he does not work on the campaign in any meaningful way. The letter is a product of Smith’s own conclusions, beliefs, and opinions.

## NFL throws weight around on political field, combats inequality

**JADE CROCKEM**  
*Operations Manager*

The National Football League (NFL) has been an integral part of American culture for a very long time. It creates divides among states and unites citizens in a way that not many other organizations can. Growing up in Texas, it was always very present in my home. Sunday plans at my dad’s house almost always revolved around what team was playing who and when. For most people, myself included, football creates a connection between families. Moms, dads, and children alike put on jerseys and head to stadiums. It’s pretty safe to say that the NFL has a lot of weight in America, and you could probably sooner disband the United States government before you could disband the NFL. The NFL is not ignorant to the weight that its name carries, which is why I was excited to hear about the league deciding not to support states that choose to pass laws that are homophobic, transphobic, racist,

or marginalizing in any way.

House Bill 757, a “religious liberty” bill, was recently introduced to Georgia legislature and only needs a signature from Governor Nathan Deal before its anti-gay, discriminatory policies can be enforced. This bill will not only allow certain institutions to deny marriages to gay couples, but it would allow faith-based organizations to have the option of not hiring someone based on whether or not their sexual orientation aligns with the organization’s religious views. It wasn’t long before the NFL caught wind of this legislation and strongly hinted that Atlanta’s name will be taken out of consideration for hosting either the 2019 or 2020 Super Bowl if the bill passes. This would come following a new renovation of the Falcons’ stadium that is already set to dig deeply into

taxpayer money.

While no final decisions have been made yet by either Deal or the NFL, this would not be the first time that the NFL has had a major hand in state legislation. In 2014, Arizona governor Jan Brewer vetoed SB1062, a bill that is similar in nature and language to Bill 757, after facing a lot of criticism from several large corporations, but most notably the NFL. Prior to the veto, the NFL released a statement saying “our policies emphasize tolerance and inclusiveness, and prohibit discrimination based on age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other improper standard.” This put Phoenix at risk of losing the 2015 Super Bowl as the NFL closely monitored the progression of the bill. While there were also several other factors that contributed to the bill’s fate, it’s hard for a governor to turn a blind eye to the revenue that hosting a Super Bowl brings.

Similar conversations circled around my own hometown of Houston after the disappointing rejection of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) bill. This bill would have made it illegal to discriminate against someone based on things such as race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Despite having such a large LGBTQ+ population and having a lesbian mayor at the time, smear campaigns that claimed this bill would make it possible for men to enter women’s bathrooms and a lack of young voter turnout led to the ultimate rejection of the bill. As of now, Houston is still set to host the 2017 Super Bowl, but the NFL has made it clear that they do not agree with the law’s rejection and will strive to make sure their fans feel welcomed at the game.

The NFL is taking a stand against cities that choose to discriminate. While it might

not be the sole reason that these kinds of bills have been rejected, it definitely puts pressure on governors to consider how the loss of the Super Bowl would impact their economies. While the NFL is not perfect and definitely has several internal problems, such as perpetuating one single idea of masculinity and not properly addressing how brain damage caused by football can lead to mental illness, they are trying. They’re taking a stand against discrimination, which I think is very admirable. I love the NFL. I love that players wear pink during breast cancer awareness month, I love all the initiatives they have that allow inner city kids to meet with and learn from current players, and I love that it is something we can participate in as a country no matter how different we are. The NFL is using its power and its voice to take a stand and while some southern, conservative dads might not agree with the NFL’s stance, they’ll hopefully at least pay more attention to the problem if the NFL is talking about it.



India Price/Online Editor

# Budget lag leaves schools scarred

SARAH BENDER  
Junior Staffwriter

Public schools and colleges across Pennsylvania breathed a sigh of relief last week with the end of the impasse over the state’s budget finally in sight. However, there is no guarantee the storm has actually passed, and the Pennsylvania government should not have spent nine months playing a game of chicken while schools went unfunded.

Despite lingering threats of yet another veto, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ultimately decided to let the newest Republican-proposed budget become law (albeit without his signature, as a sign of his continued disapproval). But what some are calling a victory in the Pennsylvania budget crisis has arrived nearly nine months late, and we can’t simply expect the underlying problems to go away because of a halfhearted compromise.

This budget does provide some benefits for education, a cause Wolf wants to champion during his time in office. An extra \$200 million will be distributed to various districts throughout the state. In addition, state-related universities like the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, and Temple University will benefit from the bill — they are due to receive 5 percent more funding than they have in the past.

However, the very same schools Wolf claimed to want to help may have suffered the most during the months where the state had no budget at all. Districts resorted to borrowing money and cutting back on after-school programs and supplies in an effort to make ends

meet without much help from the state government. Furthermore, the state’s poorest public school districts, like Aliquippa in Beaver County, were in imminent danger of closing their doors altogether thanks to the lack of funds.

Wolf seems to feel that paying such a cost now is worth it for the greater good of the state in the long run. Concerned about the actions of lawmakers in Harrisburg, his additional goals include preventing elected officials from receiving gifts, as well as supervising how campaign funds are used and how much outside income can be accepted.

“The consequences of that fight are starting to appear on the horizon, and that is a short term shut-down [of schools or human service agencies],” Wolf said in an article on PennLive. “But if that leads to a long-term solution to this problem, that’s a good thing.”

In reality, however, the compromise ultimately gave neither side what they wanted. Republicans, despite their plan passing, were denied the liquor privatization, changes to the state pension system, and property tax reforms they tried to implement.

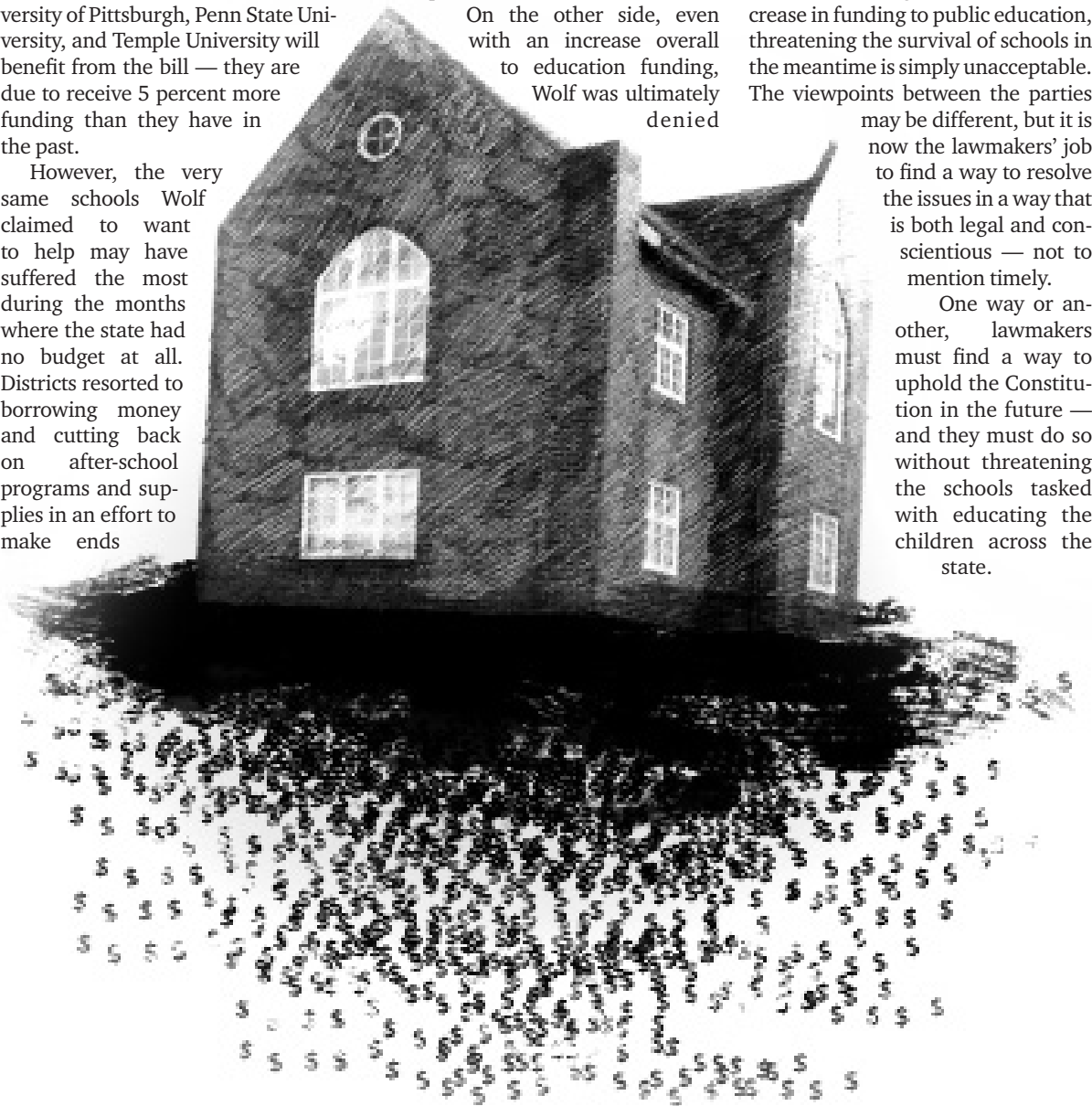
On the other side, even with an increase overall to education funding, Wolf was ultimately denied

an extra \$400 million for schools, as well as tax increases to decrease the state’s deficit. He is still planning on vetoing the fiscal code meant to go with the budget, citing claims that some provisions for state programs are unconstitutional along with the fact that the plan would leave Pennsylvania in even more debt.

As a result of the lingering disagreements, the budget crisis is not necessarily over. With the budget for next fiscal year due in July, there’s no guarantee that the gridlock will not simply begin all over again as Wolf strives to reform state spending, even at the expense of those who desperately need any funds at all. During the nine months without a budget this year, Wolf was forced to release emergency funds to schools just to keep them afloat. If the lack of funding continues, it is almost certain that the impact on struggling districts will be devastating.

While corruption in government offices and a growing deficit are undeniably problems that must be dealt with, preventing students from learning gives rise to an entire new level of issues that permanently impact a generation of Pennsylvanians. And while Wolf’s endgame includes an increase in funding to public education, threatening the survival of schools in the meantime is simply unacceptable. The viewpoints between the parties may be different, but it is now the lawmakers’ job to find a way to resolve the issues in a way that is both legal and conscientious — not to mention timely.

One way or another, lawmakers must find a way to uphold the Constitution in the future — and they must do so without threatening the schools tasked with educating the children across the state.



Sandra Kang/Staff Artist

# Trump inspires fear, illogical votes

KARISHMA MANGLANI  
Junior Staffwriter

Donald Trump is not a joke and I’m scared. Caveat: Regardless of who you support in this election, Democrat, Republican, Independent, it is very important to acknowledge that Trump is a threat.

Quite frankly, I normally wouldn’t even speak on this matter because the discourse on Trump is so prominent, but recently I’ve come in contact with multiple people — all kinds of people — people of color, women, and other marginalized people who support Donald Trump. This happens all the time, but honestly, it’s not funny anymore. Supporting Trump as a joke or not as a joke. Is. Not. Amusing.

Recently, Brandon Stanton (from Humans of New York) posted a letter to Donald Trump calling him out as a racist, and very validly shut him down; however, despite \$67 million dollars being spent on anti-Trump campaigns, his poll numbers are higher than ever.

Trump is a real threat to our society. And when I say this, I get a lot of reactions. I’d like to address some of the reactions I’ve gotten towards my fear:

“I’m gonna move to Canada!”:  
Well, I am not. I can’t. Lots of people can’t. I do not have the money to move myself from one country to another spontaneously, and while this may be said facetiously, it’s literally delineating a situation that’s pretty bad. I am genuinely scared for my safety, as many other marginalized people are. I am scared for what kind of discourse Trump would spread as president, and who would get murdered. It’s happening already: there’s been a spike in hate crimes on



Courtesy of Flickr User Roy Savoy

Muslims (and other brown people — Sikh temples have been vandalized, holy books desecrated) in the U.S. since December 2015.

“At least it’s not Ted Cruz”:

Who is spreading very violent and ridiculous discourse? Ted Cruz isn’t as outspoken and doesn’t receive as much coverage as Trump does, but he at least seems to have a cohesive vision for the nation that does not depend on rabble rousing. He himself, in fact, is a target of Trump, who decided to target his wife publicly on Twitter — where he basically called her ugly.

“But he’s just doing it to make a statement”:

Donald Trump could be making the comments he makes to make a statement. He could actually not believe them. But the reality is he has spread an incredibly ill-informed discourse. As I said earlier, he has been very effective.

“Hillary vs. Bernie”:

Don’t get me wrong — It’s important to have an opinion on who you’re voting for, but the fact is, when you have someone like Donald Trump to address, why are we arguing on this?

I’d rather spend my time convincing people not to vote for someone like Trump, as opposed to arguing whether or not Hillary is better than Bernie or vice-versa.

Other than the social issues, Trump really isn’t a successful man. He really isn’t. He’s had more failed businesses than successful ones, and he is \$500 million dollars in debt.

So why do people vote for him? I don’t know. They say it’s because he’s funny, he’s outspoken, he’s a businessman, and he’s “truly American” — all great things to have in a comedian, but not in a president.

There is a saying that there is no use in trying to understand a racist ideology like Trump’s. It isn’t based upon logic.

# Nominee Garland can’t be left hanging by GOP

CALEB GLICKMAN  
Junior Staffwriter

In the endless cycle that is presidential election news, we hear a lot about businessman Donald Trump and his promises for better deals. Deals with Mexico, China, you name it — Trump will make a deal with it. A great deal. You’ll see.

In the arena of current presidential news however, the congressional leaders of the GOP are faced with another deal that has a lasting effect on our nation, more than a four-year term. Obama has appointed a nominee to succeed Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court: Merrick Brian Garland.

Obama announced his appointment last week in a clear statement to Congress: “I’ve done my job, now you do yours.”

As per his constitutional duty, the president has appointed a justice to fill the vacancy, and the Senate will hold hearings and vote to confirm the nominee, right? Wrong. Cue the stalling!

In their attempt to continually be the most unproductive Congress ever, GOP Senate leaders previously stated that they would not consider any nominees until after the election. “Give the American people a voice!” they cried. “Let the next President choose the Justice!” They invoke such “rules” as the “Thurmond rule” and “Biden rule,” which are both myths conjured by opponents of previous nominees.

Many, like Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), say that precedent mandates not nominating and confirming justices in an election year. If you say it loud enough, it sounds true! Except for the fact that these claims are completely false. Pants on fire.

But let’s really dig into all the hypocrisies of their argument, shall we?

First, let us address all this populist rhetoric. I get that GOP establishment incumbents are trying to sound like they want the people to choose. Let the people decide like our founding fathers intended. It’s a reasonable political ploy, especially when trying to save their seats with a fascist bag of Cheetos as the potential nominee.

Except for that the people did choose; we chose Obama, twice. Now if some of the GOP wants to claim that the 2014 Midterm elections is a sample for the people, then they should tell that to the 66 percent of our country that did not vote in them.

It’s simple: the voters wanted a Democrat (as they have in the last five of six general elections) in the White House, so he will be appointing the judges until he’s out. No more discussion.

Now, don’t get me wrong, Democrats are also at fault for holding up Supreme Court justices. In 2005, during Samuel Alito’s hearings to be on the Court, then Senator Obama (D-IL) and Senator Clinton (D-NY) voted with 22 other prominent Democrats to filibuster the entire nomination process. Only four Democrats even voted for Alito to confirm him. It has become increasingly difficult to keep the Supreme Court above politics, as it was intended.

Still, in Alito’s case, the Democrats saw him as a more extreme conservative ideologically, and would perhaps have been more willing to support a consensus nominee, a moderate that most of the Senate could get behind.

Keep in mind many Republican leaders have called Merrick Garland a “consensus nominee” (Orrin Hatch (R-UT), senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee) in his previous hearings to be confirmed to the D.C. District Court of Appeals, where he has served since 1997. But we’ll come back to Garland later.

Let’s move right along on to the so-called rules. For a party hell-bent on preserving the “original intent” of the constitution, it sure is flexible on the definition of “rule.” The “Thurmond rule” contends that the Senate will not confirm nominees to the judiciary after a certain point in an election year.

Named after former Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), the rule originated in the 1968 fights over Lyndon Johnson’s Supreme Court nominations, which Thurmond on.

Since then, this partisan suggestion has only been used when politically advantageous to the party trying to block the nominee. And yes, both parties have used it since

1968. But other than when the nominees were blocked in 1968, no one treats it as a rule. It is the Thurmond Myth.

The “Biden Rule” is named after then Senator and current Vice President Joe Biden (D-DE). This rule, as it is often called, actually is more of a suggestion taken from a speech that Biden gave as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 1992. He called for no nominees to be considered until after the election, during the lame-duck period before the next President takes office. (Quick side note, Republicans. Stop calling Obama a lame-duck President. That’s not until after the election.)

But still, Biden’s actual comments are usually glossed over with no context. He gave this speech with no nominee to consider and no vacancy to fill. He had been concerned with the growing partisan divide over judicial hearings, as Clarence Thomas’ divisive hearings had been in October of the previous year.

Even so, the Senate never voted on his suggestion, and now the GOP is using it as a lame excuse to block the nominee while giving Biden some respect for maybe the first time ever. Had enough yet? Good, me neither.

This brings me to the last Republican bastion of argument: precedent. Justice Scalia spent his career as a direct interpreter of the Constitution. He contributed a strong conservative voice to the Court for many years. Still, Republican leaders tarnish his legacy by forging fake precedents to reject anything Obama suggests.

As previously mentioned, Cruz and Rubio have proudly stated the “long tradition” of not nominating and confirming justices in an election year.

Those few words are the tricky part, though. See, the thing about precedent is, you need a real set of several instances from the past to back up that “long tradition.” There has really only been two instances in the past 80 years when this situation has even happened at all. In 1940, when Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Justice Frank Murphy and was confirmed, and in 1968.

That last one sound familiar? It should, because it is when Thurmond refused to confirm any Johnson nominee. This is the only instance that holds to that model because of the phrasing of their comments. Cruz specified nominated and confirmed, which disqualifies those nominated before the election year but confirmed during one, of which current Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy is one, who was nominated in 1987, and confirmed in 1988. There is no tradition of preventing nominees, only a hunger for preventing Obama any victory toward preserving his legacy.

Now, back to Garland. GOP leaders, the only people that will buy your arguments are the ones already voting for you, so why do you stall? Garland is for all intents and purposes left leaning, far more to the left of the center than Justice Kennedy is.

Still, Obama has given you the most moderate candidate his party would allow. Many are still upset he did not appoint someone more liberal. Garland leans conservative on criminal cases and has a mixed record on government transparency. On an even more basic level, he is is an older, white male.

He is incredibly qualified to be on the Supreme Court. He clerked for Justice William Brennan in the 1970s, served as a federal prosecutor for the Oklahoma City bombings in 1992, and has served on the D.C. Court of Appeals since 1997, and as its Chief Justice since 2013.

What are your options? Let’s say you manage to delay until the next President takes office. Clinton or Sanders gets elected, and nominates someone more liberal, with a newly gained Democratic Senate? Or, god-forbid, Trump gets elected, and he could nominate anyone. Maybe he’ll go Caligula on you and nominate his pet horse. Is that really what you’d prefer?

My point is, if the GOP really wants to improve its general election chances, it needs to take this bargain deal now while it can; there won’t be one better. They should show the people they talk incessantly about that they can make a compromise.

Stop the obstruction. Confirm Garland.



## Upcoming Events

**Men's Track and Field**  
CMU Quad Meet  
at Carnegie Mellon  
April 2, 10 a.m.

**Men's Golf**  
The Hershey Cup  
at Hershey Country Club  
April 3, 10 a.m.

**Men's Tennis**  
vs. Washington College  
at Carnegie Mellon  
April 1, 4 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
CMU Quad Meet  
at Carnegie Mellon  
April 2, 10 a.m.

**Women's Golf**  
Grove City Invitational  
at GC Country Club  
April 2, 1 p.m.

**Women's Tennis**  
vs. Washington College  
at Carnegie Mellon  
April 1, 4 p.m.

## UAA Tennis Standings

Men's			Women's		
Univ.	W	L	Univ.	W	L
Emory	13	2	NYU	4	0
Chicago	12	2	Emory	16	2
Wash. U.	6	2	CWRU	8	3
CWRU	11	5	<b>CMU</b>	11	5
<b>CMU</b>	9	5	Chicago	5	3
Brandeis	4	3	Wash. U.	8	5
Rochester	4	7	Rochester	13	9
NYU	1	3	Brandeis	2	5



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## Women's tennis continues to dominate the competition

ALEX WOOD  
*Sports Editor*

The Carnegie Mellon women's tennis team faced off against the defending President's Athletic Conference (PAC) champions Westminster College on Monday. The Tartans dominated the Titans in a convincing 9-0 victory.

The duo of senior Brooke Tsu and first-year Marina Selenica started the day with an 8-0 win in second doubles. Junior Margaret Anne Smith and sophomore Katie Lai also won 8-0, scoring the second point for the Tartans in third doubles. Sophomore Cori Sidell and first-year Minami Makino closed out doubles play, taking first doubles 8-2 to give the Tartans a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Tsu won her singles match without giving up a single game to give the Tartans a 4-0 lead, winning 6-0, 6-0. Senior Abbey Hamstra scored the deciding point in

sixth singles, winning 6-0, 6-1. The Tartans finished up the competition without giving a single point up to their opponents.

The Tartans took the court at home on Saturday to face off against 13th-ranked Washington and Lee University. The 11th-ranked Tartans defended their position in the standings against the Generals in a close set of matches that came down to the final round of singles play. The Tartans were victorious with a score of 5-4.

Doubles began with the Generals coming out ahead, but the pair of Tsu and first-year Jamie Vizelman quickly answered with a point of their own in second doubles, winning the match 8-4. The Tartans then took control of the lead as the tandem of Hamstra and junior Nicholle Torres finished third doubles with a close 8-6 win to end doubles play.

Makino started off singles play by scoring a point for the

Tartans in the fifth position, winning 6-3, 6-4. This put the Tartans up 3-1, but first, second, and sixth singles were all heading into a third set, and the Generals were ahead on the other two courts.

Carnegie Mellon still had to put up a fight before they could take home the victory, but the Generals found wins in first and third singles to tie the match at 3-3.

However, Torres came in with a comeback win in second singles to give the Tartans another lead, winning 2-6, 6-2, 7-5.

The Generals quickly answered and re-tied the match at 4-4 in sixth singles. Vizelman was the clutch player of the night though, and she took fourth singles in an intense match by forcing a third set and winning a tiebreaker, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5).

The Tartans are now 11-5 in the season, and will next take on Washington College at home on Friday, April 1 at 4 p.m to continue their run.



Courtesy of CMU Athletics  
First-year Jamie Vizelman concentrates on returning a volley in a match against Washington and Lee University.

# Sports

## Tartan track squads take first place at home invitational

**IAN TANAYA**  
*Assistant Sports Editor*

On Friday and Saturday, the Carnegie Mellon men’s and women’s track and field teams hosted the Carnegie Mellon Mini Invitational. Both teams came in first place out of five competing schools, besting the men’s and women’s teams from Waynesburg University, Denison University, Allegheny College, and Franciscan University.

The Tartan men finished with 311 points after winning 11 events. Sophomore thrower Jacob Schofel won the hammer throw on Friday evening with a career-best mark of 52.33 meters, which is the third best throw in school history. First-year thrower Kenny Sladick and sophomore thrower David Trzcinski also contributed to scoring in the hammer throw with career best efforts. Sladick finished third overall with a 40.47 meter throw while Trzcinski recorded a 39.65 meter mark good for fourth place.

Trzcinski took second in the shot put with a throw of 14.03 meters and Sladick turned in a third-place showing in the discus with a mark of 36.52 meters. First-year sprinter and jumper Rai Walters placed first in the long jump with a 6.57 meter effort, a record for the longest jump in the invitational’s history. Sophomore jumper and sprinter Matthew Seifu came in third with 6.28 meters. First-year jumper Eloy Fernandez placed second in

the triple jump with a mark of 12.98 meters. Junior pole vaulter Kyle Waver took second in the pole vault after clearing the bar at 3.73 meters, while senior pole vaulter Victor Yan tied for third at the same mark due to the judge’s decision. First-year jumper Reed Farber and sophomore sprinter and jumper Cameron Smith both cleared the high jump at 1.81 meters. The judge’s decision gave Farber second place while Smith took third.

The 4x100 relay team of Seifu, junior sprinter Zachary Blonder, senior sprinter Jeff Chen, and first-year sprinter Christopher Bayley finished first with a time of 44.25 seconds. Chen proceeded to win the 200-meter dash with a personal best 23.09 second time and finished second in the 100-meter dash in a career best 11.30 seconds. Bayley placed third in the 200 and fourth in the 100 with times of 23.73 and 11.59 seconds. Junior mid-distance runner Curtis Watro won the 1,500-meter run with a time of 3:59.82, a career-best time and a record time in the invitational’s history.

The Tartans swept the top three spots in the 110-meter hurdles. Junior hurdler and jumper Don Boyer won the event with a time of 15.97. Junior hurdler Matthew Sheh took second in 16.48 and first-year hurdler George Viccaro finished third in 16.55 seconds. First-year mid-distance runner Isaac Mills cleared the 400-meter run in a meet record

time of 50.52 to win the event while junior sprinter Jonathan Perry crossed in 51.62 to place second. Junior mid-distance runner Owen Norley won the 800-meter run, crossing in 1:54.11. Senior mid-distance runner Marc-Daniel Julien finished in second after 1:55.17, followed by sophomore mid-distance runner Evan Larrick whose 1:56.12 time earned him third place.

In the 5,000-meter run, first-year distance runner William Mitchell crossed first in 15:28.85. First-year distance runner Liam Walsh placed second in 15:29.34, and junior mid-distance runner Gordon Pace took third in 15:44.45. In the 4x400-meter relay, Bayley, Chen, Perry, and Norley finished in first place with a 3:25.24 time.

The Tartan women earned 245 points off of their 10 first-place finishes during the invitational. First-year jumper Tessa Allen broke an 18-year old school record after clearing the bar at 1.59 meters in the high jump. Junior hurdler and jumper Rebecca Fortner took third with a 1.54 meter mark.

Allen later won the triple jump with a 10.40 meter jump while first-year jumper and sprinter Autumn Hair placed third at 9.83 meters. First-year sprinter and jumper Debarati Bhanja placed first in the long jump with a school record tying 5.47 meter mark. Hair placed second with 5.07 meters while junior sprinter and jumper Jerilyn James took third with 4.84

meters. Sophomore thrower Kiersten Chuc won the hammer throw with a career-best distance of 39.54 meters. First-year thrower Oly Nwankwo made a career best 32.12 meter throw to finish fourth. Junior pole vaulter Grace Yee cleared 3.28 meters to win the pole vault.

Senior mid-distance runner Taylor Maggiacomo recorded a personal-best time of 12:12.25 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. The 4x100-meter relay team of James, Hair, Bhanja and sophomore sprinter Sarah Cook crossed in 50.21 to place first. Senior mid-distance

runner Liz Snyder and senior distance runner Natalie Smith earned first and second place points, respectively, for their fourth and fifth place performances in the 1,500-meter run. Snyder finished in 4:54.90 while Smith took 5:02.74. Cook turned in a meet record and personal-best time of 2:17.11 in the 800-meter race to win the event.

In the 400-meter run, junior sprinter Ariel Tian crossed in 1:01.63 to place second. Junior hurdler and jumper Sommer Farber and Fotner took second and third in the 100-meter hurdles with times of 16.65

and 17.02, respectively. Bhanja placed second in the 100- and 200-meter dashes with times of 13.32 and 26.14.

James finished third in the respective events with times of 13.40 and 27.32. The 4x400-meter relay team of Bhanja, Tian, first-year sprinter, mid-distance runner, and hurdler Rose Ciriello, and Cook crossed in 4:01.36, a meet record that gave the team their 10th victory of the event.

The Tartan men and women will be back to run again at Gesling Stadium on April 2 when they host their annual Quad Meet beginning at 10 a.m.



Courtesy of CMU Athletics  
Runners take off on the track at the Carnegie Mellon Mini Invitational on Saturday, where both teams took first.

## League of Legends playoffs bringing the hype in esports

**ALEX WOOD**  
*Sports Editor*

The lights dim in a stadium packed full of people. The crowd roars as the stage lights up. Is it a hockey game? A concert? No, it’s the beginning of the 2016 League of Legends playoffs. League of Legends is a video game played by teams of 5 players that each control a character, known as a champion. These champions duke it out on a fantasy battlefield known as Summoner’s Rift, using magical abilities and attacks to defeat their opponents. Teams all over the world practice this game professionally, for multiple hours every day, in order to hone their skills. The best of these teams take to the Rift every weekend, facing off in a season-style format called the League Championship Series (LCS) to determine the best team over three months.

That three-month season has finally concluded for the spring, and the playoffs are about to begin. The best six teams from North America and Europe will compete in a tournament in their respective regions, fighting for the title of 2016 Spring Split champion, as well as a chance to attend the world championships at the end of the year. The tournament is a single elimination tournament, with each match consisting of a best of five series.

In North America, the Spring Split has been dominated by Team Immortals: a so-called “super team” made up of players from various successful teams last season. Immortals took the North American LCS by storm in the 2016 season. Nobody was sure how this mixture of talented players would come together to work as a team, but they have shown themselves to be the best team in North America, and are even being considered as contenders on the international stage. The Immortals navigated the nine-week regular season with just one loss in their 17–1 record; a nearly

impossible feat according to recent seasons. They are the clear favorites to win the tournament, and could perhaps be the team that finally makes North America proud on the international stage. Close behind them is Counter Logic Gaming with a 13–5 record, and they are also the only team to beat the Immortals. Before the split, Counter Logic Gaming lost their star carry player to rival Team SoloMid as well as their mid-laner to the Immortals, so they had some rebuilding to do. However, with the help of LCS veterans Darshan and Aphromoo, Counter Logic Gaming has once again managed to find their way into the playoffs. However, this time they’ve got a much tougher challenge on their hands than Team SoloMid, the usual classic playoff matchup. Counter Logic Gaming will have to get creative in order to beat the nearly invincible Immortals one more time.

The European bracket is more complicated than its North American counterpart. The top European team is G2 Esports with a 15–3 record. G2 came out of the Challenger Series (the B-league for LCS) and took the league by storm this season, exceeding every expectation and proving themselves as the top contenders for the regional championship. However, they show more weaknesses than Immortals in North America. Their wins are less dominant and they’ve

lost more games, but G2 plays with confidence and fast, aggressive decision making that results in very high risk, high reward play. If they can execute their plays with precision, G2’s hopes in the playoffs look very high.

If they cannot, however, second seed H2k Gaming will be keen to take their spot. At 14–4, H2k are just barely behind G2, and they’ve been hungry for the chance to take the number one position. H2k is made up of well known, experienced players that have the ability to play as a team, and this is their advantage over G2. Being a fairly new team, G2 still has troubles with synergy and communication, especially considering problems with language barriers between Korean and European players on the team. H2k should look to exploit these weaknesses with coordinated and precise team play. These two are not the only teams in serious contention, however, and teams like Vitality and Origen also have a very good chance of upsetting the top two seeds. They’ll have to take to the rift to find out.

The playoffs begin with quarterfinals on April 2 at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. for Europe and North America respectively, and can be viewed on YouTube.com, Twitch.tv, and Azubu.tv. Tune in and catch the action to find out who will be named the champion of the 2016 LCS Spring Split.



Courtesy of Arturb via Flickr Creative Commons  
The Galen Center is packed with fans for the Season 2 Championship.

## March madness, and how to choose your favorite teams



Courtesy of Wayne Ellington via Flickr Creative Commons  
A UNC basketball player attempts to move the ball against Florida State.

**JORDAN SAFER**  
*Staffwriter*

March is coming to an end, and late March means later March Madness. But what’s important about late March Madness? Well, it generally depends on your perspective.

Maybe you’ve gone through the drill. Every March, 68 teams battle for the NCAA DI Championship in a single elimination tournament. A huge number of people fill out brackets, where they try to guess all of the tournament results. No one successfully guesses the result, because there is a one in sextillion chance of doing that, and basketball games tend to be influenced by luck.

So where does that leave things as March wraps up? Is it over? Well, not quite. The final four teams, “The Final Four” in sport lingo, are still around. Two more games are left for this week, and one more game after will decide the national champion in early April.

At press time, Villanova and Oklahoma have locked up their spots in the Final Four, but two more spots need to be decided. North Carolina (UNC) has a showdown with Notre Dame, and Virginia (UVA) faces off with Syracuse for the last two slots. So that leaves the biggest question: what’s your stake in all of this? Let’s start at the top:

You’ll need some teams to root for, and there’s no easy

choice, given that these are the best remaining teams in the country. So here are a few metrics to help you rank the teams, and help you with your decisions if you happen to be watching a game this week. If you’re simple and don’t know much about the game, color ranking may be for you.

There are two basic groups to the color rankings, the orange hues and the blue hues. That leaves Notre Dame, with a not quite matching green and yellow uniform that leaves this category wanting.

If you’re more of a red/orange fan, you’re going to want Syracuse first. The slick orange uniform is probably the only one of its kind left in the dance, and UVA’s blocky design sets it a little back here. Oklahoma’s flat red leaves the most to be desired in the group, with a somewhat simple design.

On the other hand, if you’re a blue person, things seem to point in Villanova’s direction. UNC and Villanova might seem pretty similar if you’re looking at their white alternate uniforms, but as soon as you see that UNC baby blue, you’ll know what team is playing.

Just to keep things simple in case you aren’t sure whether you prefer blue or orange, I think a solid ordering would be Syracuse, Villanova, UVA, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, and finally UNC.

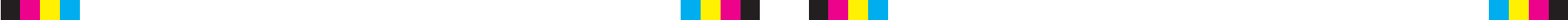
Alternatively, maybe a statistical approach is more up

a Carnegie Mellon student’s alley. Real rankings need to proportionally combine location bias with actual statistical evidence. For this, there are probably two things that will come in handy. A scoring index, ranking the teams based on their average margin of victory (because points win games), and a proximity index, which will rank the teams based on how close their campuses are to Carnegie Mellon.

For scoring, we have Villanova on top with an average win of 13.9. UNC (13.1), UVA (11.4), Oklahoma (10.1), Syracuse (5.5), and Notre Dame (5.1) follow. There seem to be two clear echelons, with four teams averaging a comfy ten point lead per game, for a lot of easy wins, where Syracuse and Notre Dame have lived a bit closer to the struggle. Distance data gives a very different ordering. In distance, we have UVA on top, only 184 miles away. We then have Villanova (244), Syracuse (267), UNC (329), Notre Dame (339), and far away Oklahoma (1018). The straight approach would be to combine the rankings, just by adding the places to get a final ordering.

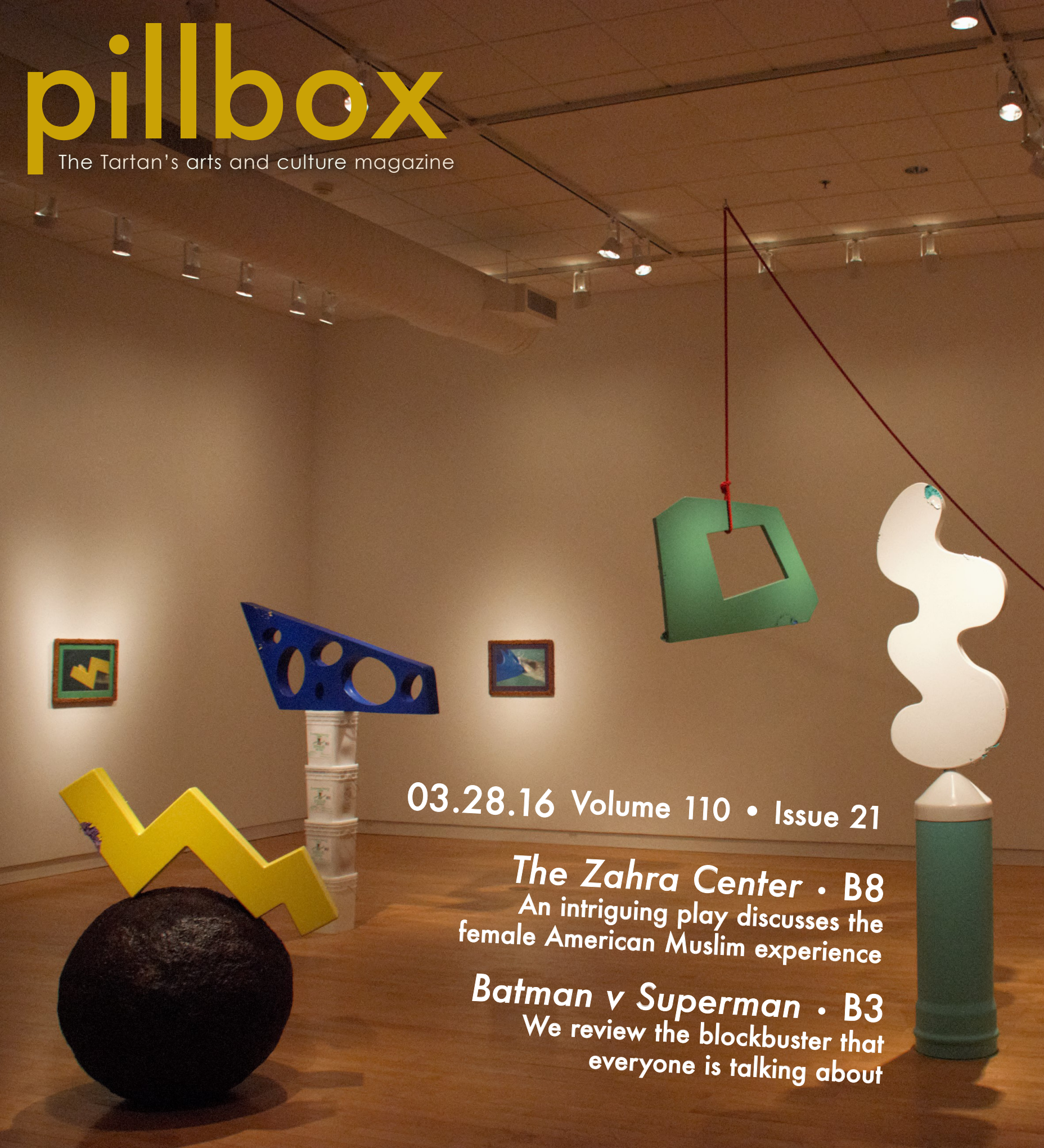
If you like this idea, you’re left with Villanova as your top pick, followed by UVA, UNC, Syracuse, Oklahoma, and Notre Dame. But the underdog approach is so much more exciting! In this approach distance will be multiplied by score differential to proportionally bias towards teams with closer proximity, and tighter score differentials. Lowest scores are the best. Final Ranks: Syracuse 1469, Notre Dame 1729, UVA 2098, Villanova 3392, UNC 4304, and last but not least Oklahoma 10282.

So if you’re looking for a team to root for in the final games of the NCAA tournament, there’s plenty of things to consider in choosing your favorite. Be sure to catch the madness over the next couple weeks, and see if your predictions come true.



# pillbox

The Tartan's arts and culture magazine



03.28.16 Volume 110 • Issue 21

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female American Muslim experience

*Batman v Superman* • B3  
We review the blockbuster that  
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# Academia Nut: weekly info nibbles

## Staying on top of Carnegie Mellon was never this simple

So you're a college kid. That means you balance homework, health, clubs, and a lot more. Here are a few life hacks that might be useful in reducing a bit of the stress that goes along with being a Carnegie Mellon student.

### Does everyone steal your pens?

Take a blue refill, and put it in a red pen. No one steals a red pen!

### Want to enjoy a cold soda, but it's warm and you're very impatient?

Wrap a wet paper towel around the bottle or can and put it in the fridge for 15 minutes. Enjoy your cold soda! (For you geeks out there, this works because of thermodynamics! Along with the effect of the fridge, the evaporating water takes away heat, cooling your drink quickly.)

### Shop online a lot? Almost broke, but can't keep yourself from adding just one more thing to your cart?

Download Honey! It's a Google Chrome extension that looks for any and all coupons available for any website you shop at and tries them out automatically. It's basically free money!

### Date coming over and your room isn't smelling pleasant?

Tape a few dryer sheets over your AC or fan to fill your room with a pleasing smell!

### Want to clean up, but you don't really have cleaning supplies? Love pizza?

A pizza box will work great as a dust pan! It just happens to be the perfect thickness and size to scoop up dust with. Put that box to good use before you throw it away!

### Have a lot of jewelry, and keep losing it? Don't know where to keep it all so you just throw it somewhere?

Ice cube trays make for great jewelry and knick-knack organizers!

### Like decorating your wall with classy framed posters, but also broke?

Use washi tape to make borders around pictures, making fancy impromptu frames!

### Keep losing your remote?

Attach velcro to the back of the remote and the side of your couch and never lose your remote again.

### Have a lot of beverages in your fridge but they don't stay stacked?

Use binder clips to keep your bottles and cans where you want them to be!

### Have a laptop that heats up a lot? Love working in bed with your laptop in your lap?

Use an egg carton as a cooling pad! The holes provide the air circulation your laptop needs!

### Love making grilled cheeses, but don't have a grill?

Turn your toaster horizontal to make sandwiches! Just remember to turn it back to its upright position once you're done.

### Love snacking while studying, but it's making you gain weight?

Use your snacks as incentive for a task while studying! Not only will it limit your eating, but it will also help you reach your goals!

**Rohit Harlalka** | Assistant Pillbox Editor

# Advice for awkward people

About perfect people and imperfect situations

Hi Josh!

I've got one of those problems that isn't really a problem, but it's like really hard and odd for me, so I just wanted to know what you think. So long story short, I met my soulmate. Like he's an amazing artist-type, plays the cello and knows his way around a camera, and he's got some dainty chest hair going on, and he's into literally everything I love. Like if God reached out to me and was like "Hey yo, list everything you want in a man, and I'll make you one, specially for you," and then I wrote down everything I want in a man, and God made him, it'd be this kid.

So the problem isn't that he's perfect, the problem is that he doesn't like me the same way. Like he isn't straight. But I want him to be straight. And it's a terrible situation because I want him to love me, but he doesn't see me like that, and it's kinda like being in the friend zone but worse because he's not only not interested in me, but my entire sex. And it's not even like I can just ignore him because I see him basically every day in one way or another. So like. What do?

Sincerely,  
**EVERYTHING'S HARD**

Dear EH,

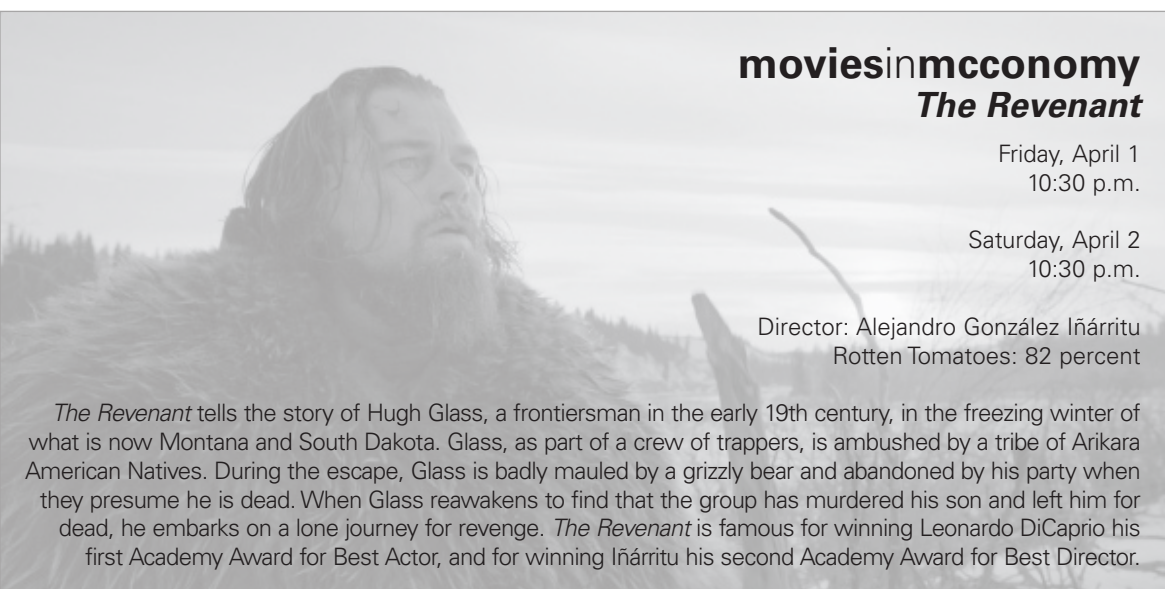
I've been there, and you're right; it is a weird and slightly terrible situation to be in. Not only because you have these unrequited feelings, but because there's a little bit of you that's like "you're not right the way you are, I'd rather you were this way, so I could be happier."

One of my biggest life philosophies is to not spend time worrying about things I can't control, and other people fall very squarely into that category. I can't tell you exactly what to do, because this sounds like a "you" problem, but I can say that changing your thought patterns is probably the best way to go.

Or maybe you could blatantly ask him "yo man, you bi?" or point to a random girl as you're both walking to class and subtly say "dayum, shawty," and see if he joins in the muted cat-calling, as many straight men are wont to do. Or you could just ask him. Or you could just flee the country and live as a hermit in Nicaragua. The possibilities are endless.

Peace, love and puppy dog tails,  
Joshua Brown.

Need advice? Send queries to [advice@thetartan.org](mailto:advice@thetartan.org).



**moviesinmconomy**  
***The Revenant***

Friday, April 1  
10:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 2  
10:30 p.m.

Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu  
Rotten Tomatoes: 82 percent

*The Revenant* tells the story of Hugh Glass, a frontiersman in the early 19th century, in the freezing winter of what is now Montana and South Dakota. Glass, as part of a crew of trappers, is ambushed by a tribe of Arikara American Natives. During the escape, Glass is badly mauled by a grizzly bear and abandoned by his party when they presume he is dead. When Glass reawakens to find that the group has murdered his son and left him for dead, he embarks on a lone journey for revenge. *The Revenant* is famous for winning Leonardo DiCaprio his first Academy Award for Best Actor, and for winning Iñárritu his second Academy Award for Best Director.

Photo courtesy of Day Donaldson via Flickr Creative Commons

# Production at Purnell explores artistic conflict

## *Bob and Dave and Ren* juxtaposes mainstream and avant-garde notions of art

If there's one important lesson I learned from the School of Drama's premiere production of *Bob and Dave and Ren*, it's that every debate can be resolved with a gay threesome.

All jokes aside, this show — despite its murky alphabet-soup title — was a surprise treat. *Bob and Dave and Ren* is highbrow art talk disguised as all-male *Dirty Dancing*. Written and directed by Ben Ganksy, the show brings to life the polar philosophies of two artists who were both active from the 1960s to the 1980s. While installation artist Robert Irwin and influential pop art painter David Hockney never actually interacted, their ideas came into contact through biographies written by Lawrence Weschler.

These are the Bob, Dave, and Ren of the title, though their characterizations are based not on the details of their biographies, but on their ideas. Bob is a cerebral, pretentious artist who disdains traditional narratives and instead wants to create a unique “experience” for his audience. Dave, who is more mainstream, though no less pretentious, prioritizes accessible storytelling that connects with his audience. Ren's solution of course seems obvious: Art can be both an experience and a source of connection.

Sweet and naïve Ren (played by junior drama major Petr Favazza) is a burgeoning playwright who decides to collaborate on a show with his old friend-but-maybe-more Dave (played with vitality and conviction by junior drama major John Way) as producer and his summer lover Bob (junior drama major Dylan Bright) as director. This turns into a collaboration wrought with personal and professional tensions. Ren must mediate between Dave and Bob as they butt heads over their conflicting creative visions and their mutual romantic feelings toward Ren.

What takes the play's concept from “kind of neat” to

“super cool” is its three-act structure, which reflects the philosophies of its three title characters. The first act is all Dave, a traditional narrative with fleshed-out characters to connect with and a plot to follow.

The second act, the work of Bob, is a bit more avant-garde. With characters vanished and plot nonexistent, I put on color-coded headphones and obeyed a voice which told me to examine the theater walls and trace the octagon shape of the catwalk into my palm. One audience member — dubbed “the least lucky person in the room” — was instructed to read excerpts from the script for us all to hear. The other half of the audience was brought to an adjacent room, where I later learned they had been watching us from secret cameras. At times silly, relaxing, and unnerving, the second act forces the audience to confront the false reality that theater manufactures.

The third act follows Ren's philosophy by attempting to blend narrative and experiential art. The actors take the stage once again to perform the culmination of all their rehearsals from the first act: an excruciatingly long, repetitive, and not very skilled dance routine. While not the most enjoyable to watch, this act was extremely interesting. It wasn't a story, per se, but in my boredom I found myself applying a story to the men's stray glances and increasing exhaustion. When even that got boring, I disengaged from what was happening on stage, looking instead at the theater and at the expressions of my fellow audience members. As the act intended, I became aware of this theatrical experience we were all sharing together.

I'll admit that *Bob and Dave and Ren* is a niche show. Those who aren't artists, or who don't at least have a moderate interest in art, would likely find it impenetrable or just plain boring. Anybody uncomfortable with homosexuality would likely run to the door within the first ten minutes. The questions run the gambit: What is the purpose of art? How should a creator relate to

their audience? Is my work original and real and good? Or maybe my critics — both external and internal — are right. Maybe I actually am full of shit. What I love about this show is that it taps into that nagging spark of uncertainty most artists never fully extinguish.

Even Bob can't escape a little self-doubt. The explosive final confrontation between him and Dave showcased the acting chops of both men and featured sound-bites all-too-familiar to me from conversations with and about other artists, but I've never before seen it articulated on stage. Dave wrecks Bob. He calls him all talk and no substance, a failure of an artist who's “not smarter” than everyone else — “just more arrogant.” Like any artist, Bob is sometimes inclined to agree with his critics, but what I took away from the exchange is that your self-doubt is often beside the point and sometimes you can only say “screw it all” and keep on creating anyway.

I haven't seen *Dirty Dancing*, but I assume it also includes multiple steamy dance rehearsal scenes to songs like “I Had the Time of My Life.” This is not a laugh-out-loud “romantic comedy,” despite what the description tries to sell it as. Its most campy moment comes in the “resolution” of Bob and Dave's argument. I'll reassert that I take no issue with gay threesomes, especially as this trio had fabulous chemistry and had been selling the UST (unresolved sexual tension) for the better part of an hour.

*Bob and Dave and Ren* wholly commits to its unusual concept; it succeeds in creating an engaging story and a memorable experience all in one. While confining all philosophical dialogue to the first act gives the play a top-heavy feel, the following two acts provide, through demonstration, enough food-for-thought that the sacrifice is worthwhile. At least among certain audiences, I foresee *Bob and Dave and Ren* living a long, happy life together.

**Ariel Hoffmaier** | Training Manager

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESEARCH

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Radiology is seeking **18-25 year old women** who have experienced **sexual assault** or **sexual misconduct** for brain imaging research studies.

- Compensation up to \$700 upon completion
- Contact info: call **412-586-9888** or visit **[www.addictionstudies.pitt.edu](http://www.addictionstudies.pitt.edu)**

The University of Pittsburgh's support resources for sexual assault and/or harassment including instructions and contact information for reporting can be located at **[www.SHARE.pitt.edu](http://www.SHARE.pitt.edu)** and **[www.safety.pitt.edu](http://www.safety.pitt.edu)**.



University of  
Pittsburgh



# Production talks about Muslim female experience

## *The Zahra Center* raises the issue of sexual assault in American Muslim communities

Over the weekend, senior Iman Mazloun, a humanities and arts major in international and political science and directing, joined the chorus of voices that have been raising awareness about sexual assault and relationship violence in recent years. The production Mazloun adapted and directed, *The Zahra Center*, is designed to spark discussion about the reaction to sexual assault and abuse in Muslim communities.

What came through loud and clear in *The Zahra Center* is the tension surrounding discussions of sexual assault and relationship violence (SARV). As pointed out in the play and reiterated in the talkback after, the community can fall into the trap of victim blaming and treating sexual assault as juicy gossip. It can be difficult to discuss issues of SARV, but as Mazloun said during the talk back, “through art we can find our way, instead of it being an upfront conversation or a lecture at a mosque.” Mazloun’s art managed to navigate this complicated territory by cloaking the issue in humor.

When you decide to go to a play that “discusses the culture of silence surrounding domestic abuse and sexual assault in North American Muslim communities,” you don’t expect to spend most of the show laughing. But that’s exactly what happened. The show, which was an adaptation of Fatima A. Jaffer’s novel *Surviving Zahra*, follows the week leading up to bride-to-be Tahera’s wedding. Tahera, played by Alia Schindler, an administrator at Chatham University, attempts to set her best friend Masuma, played by senior computer science major Alaa Mohamed, up with her uncle Akber, played by Russell Hawkins, a sophomore electrical and computer engineering major. This, of course, leads to plenty of comical moments as the well-meaning bride and her matchmaking aunts gossip and plot. The highlight of the script was the banter between Schindler, Mohamed, and Hawkins when they sassed each other, their elders, and their society.

The conversation of SARV is introduced from two angles. Akber is the head of a support center for Muslim men and women who have experienced abuse or assault. The center works to help survivors find inspiration and support through their faith and the Quran. Masuma was a victim of rape when she was nineteen, and has a six-year-old child as a result. Their two stories run as an undercurrent in the play, bubbling up in charged monologues delivered straight to the audience. The monologues recounted the fear, self-loathing, and sense of isolation many women and specifically Muslim women experience in the aftermath of SARV.

While these monologues and the other comments on SARV worked into the play were true and important, they were not necessarily new to the viewing audience or the Carnegie Mellon community. We have been having campus discussions for several years now, and as Mazloun herself mentioned, the climate surrounding discussions of SARV has improved. It is an important message to get out to people who aren’t aware of SARV and the impact it has on thousands of lives a year, but the people who experienced *The Zahra Center* this weekend were, for the most part, not those people. They were people who were interested in the content the play was discussing, most likely because they were already engaged in the subject matter of abuse, assault, or Muslim communities.

However, Mazloun has some impressive plans for the play that would circumvent this problem. Already, she has started building the play into something that transcends its two-hour running time. The show included a table of resources, both on campus and around Pittsburgh, for victims of SARV. Mazloun also partnered with local Pittsburgh organizations such as the Pittsburgh Muslim Women’s Association, the Carnegie Mellon Office of Title IX Initiatives, and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape to form a panel discussion at the show’s talkback.

For me, the talk back was perhaps the most interesting part of the whole experience. Instead of focusing on the specifics of *The Zahra Center* as a work of drama, the panelists used it as a jumping off point for a larger discussion. Akber’s role as a man starting a survivor support network gave rise to a discussion about the role of men in working towards change how SARV is handled. In all of the discussions about supporting SARV survivors and creating larger change, the idea of listening and being an ally, not a savior, was reiterated time and time again. The discussion that expanded from the play was nuanced, and created a dialogue that was applicable to our community.

Mazloun has some exciting hopes for the play in the future. She is in discussion with the Office of Title IX Initiatives to get the play screened at Carnegie Mellon’s Qatar campus as, in Mazloun’s words, “a gateway to starting these conversations.” Beyond that, she hopes to offer it as an educational tool for mosques, Islamic schools, and Muslim communities that are grappling with these issues so they can use this piece of art to facilitate a tough discussion.

As a campus we have been engaging with the issue of sexual assault for several years, and while we still have a long way to go, the play’s focus on beginning a dialogue and building basic support is a well recognized message for the most of us. But there are many communities that have not been forced to address these issues yet, and *The Zahra Center* offers a great place to start. It is wonderful to have a powerful, intelligent, and talented voice discussing issues of SARV, but it is exponentially better to have that voice heard by those who need it. Mazloun, with her charismatic speech and strong sense of direction, seems to know how to be heard.

**Sinead Foley** | Forum Editor



Photos by **Theodore Teichman** | Assistant Photo Editor

**Left:** Akber (played by Hawkins) banters with Masuma (played by Mohamed) and her son Khali (played by Chickering). **Right:** Masuma speaks to Tahera (played by Schindler).

# Le Melon: chicken parmesan is simple and fun

For our first try-it-yourself, we tell you about a great starter for aspiring sous-chefs

For weeks and weeks, I’ve been heavily catering (pun intended) toward those who love to go out to eat and indulge, and I’ve been unforgivingly neglecting to acknowledge a very important part of the food loving world: the cooks. I’m not just talking about those who make homemade pasta from scratch and those who own more than five different types of knives and know how to use all of them, but I’m also talking to the average college student who has more instant ramen in their cabinets than forks and who sometimes wakes up with the glorious ambition of whipping up some solid toast with a nice spread of peanut butter to top it off. There’s a clear contrast between the different sorts of homebodies who take preparing their food into their own hands, but I think the one thing that unites them — and the restaurant goers — all together, is a word that most college students know all too well: budget.

I’ve found, both from my own experience and from speaking to my peers, that one of the biggest problems that the average college student faces is feeding themselves well, and getting both enough to eat, and wholesome things to eat, on a college student’s budget.

As an avid *Buzzfeed* user, I often come across list such as “25 foods that every college should master” and “30 foods you should learn to cook in your 30s,” which personally intrigue me, but also really make me consider what I as a college student find most appealing and what would actually be feasible for me to make on an average weekday or maybe for a nice weekend dinner. So, what I’ve decided to do this week is recommend a recipe that I’ve found online (and tried myself) for my wonderful readers to take a crack at for themselves. I’ve gone ahead and picked a low budget, low effort, and sophisticated-looking recipe just for you, and I highly recommend you give this one a shot when you’ve got the time.

**Chicken Parmesan:** Unfortunately, it’s not as easy as just throwing some parmesan on some chicken, but if you’ve got an oven, the work you have to do is pretty minimal.

**Serves:** 2

## Ingredients:

- 2 frozen chicken breasts (thawed in advance)
- ¾ cup flour, 2 large eggs, 2 cups breadcrumbs
- about a 26 oz. jar’s worth of spaghetti sauce
- shredded mozzarella (8 oz. should be good)
- ¾ cup grated parmesan
- salt and pepper to taste
- spaghetti (optional)

## Materials:

- 2 shallow dishes (make sure you’ve got enough space to dip your chicken breast)
- a bowl
- wax paper and a 13” baking pan or a well-greased non-stick 13” baking pan
- a pot (if you’re planning to make the spaghetti)



Photo courtesy of stu\_spivack via Flickr Creative Commons

Chicken parmesan may look gourmet, but is deceptively easy and cost-effective to prepare for college students.

## Prep:

Preheat your oven to 375°F. Make sure your chicken breasts are thawed and pound them so that they’re around an inch thick at most. If you’re using wax-paper while baking, lay it out on your baking pan ready to go. If you’re using a non-stick pan, grease it down with some butter, oil, or non-stick spray.

- 1) In the shallow dish, combine the flour, ½ tsp salt and ¼ tsp pepper.
- 2) Break both of your eggs into a bowl along with 2 tbsp water and beat together.
- 3) Spread your breadcrumbs out evenly into the other shallow dish (tip: if you can’t find breadcrumbs, you can make your own by drying out some bread slices in the oven at around 300°F and then popping them into the food processor). This is a good place to mix in any other dry spices you might want to add to your dish such as oregano.
- 4) Lightly coat the chicken breast in the flour by laying it down in the dish, flipping it over, and then shaking off the excess. From here, dip it into the egg mixture, and allow excess to drain, and then coat in breadcrumbs as you did with the flour. Press on the breast gently in the

breadcrumbs to make sure they stick.

- 5) Place breast onto baking pan (on wax paper or non-stick surface) and repeat with other breast. If you want to double coat the chicken with breadcrumbs, do so at this point.
- 6) Bake the chicken breasts in the oven for around 30 minutes. (This is a good time to cook the spaghetti, while you’re waiting.)
- 7) Pour spaghetti sauce over each breast and sprinkle mozzarella and parmesan over the tops. Pop the tray back in the oven for another 10-15 minutes or until the chicken isn’t pink anymore.
- 8) Take everything out and serve over the spaghetti.

**Difficulty level:** 2/5

Till next time, I hope you enjoy giving this astonishingly simple rendition of a modern classic a go. Additionally, if you have any suggestions for restaurants you’d like reviewed or recipes you’d like featured, please send me an email at: [aatal@thetartan.org](mailto:aatal@thetartan.org)

**Apeksha Atal** | Staffwriter



# Exhibit at The Frame intrigues and confuses

Student run gallery catalogues a student's journey to Manhattan to find and choose a mother

Walking into *WELCOME TO MY FAITH IN YOU* at The Frame gallery, I was first struck by a large and impressive bouquet stationed in the center. Though not technically part of the show, the flowers lend a simultaneously homey and austere first impression of the space. The exhibition, which opened Friday, is the culmination of artistic exploration by masters student in studio art Gray Swartzel.

Sixteen months ago, Swartzel traveled to Manhattan to seek out a woman who would claim him as her child. To accomplish this, Swartzel put an ad in Craigslist, and, after finding a number of potential candidates, chose a woman on a recommendation from a friend who had responded to his Craigslist ad. This led him to Veronica Vega, a Chilean woman. Their relationship is subsequently the focus of *WELCOME TO MY FAITH IN YOU*, and includes pieces detailing their relationship in media ranging from video, to color photographs, to mystical multimedia pieces.

The most dominant piece in the main gallery space is *Freudian Drama II*, a large video projection that runs on an 11-minute loop. The name is descriptive: the artist and his Chilean mother Veronica Vega sit in the back of a vehicle while discussing a variety of topics with over-the-top and soap opera-type dramatization. This gives the piece a very old-fashioned and intriguing air. Even if gallery goers

do not commit to all 11 minutes of video, the soundtrack from the video, primarily emotional recounting about relationships, plays throughout the room as viewers can look at other pieces.

Two stunning and thought-provoking photographs capture visitors' attention as they are located directly opposite the door. This piece is called *Baptism Diptych (The Day We Met)*. In the photo on the left, a hand is shown, palm up — presumably Vega's hand — with a drop of blood in the center, reminiscent of a Saint. Behind the hand is a crowded surface, filled with tchotchkes, photos, and miscellaneous items, including the bottom half of an ornate cross. The photo on the right shows a man's chest and torso with a red cross painted in the center. The religious imagery speaks volumes, and definitely lends a tone to the sort of spiritual contemplation at play in the exhibit.

In one corner of the gallery sat the piece *Chest*, a small chest of drawers that viewers are invited to look into. In the drawers are leather gloves, a fur mitten, and cyanotypes of Jesus. This piece is fun and gives an aura of authentic items that one may find in a home. Perhaps my favorite piece was *Cradle (His Through Her)*, which was a shiny crib that glowed in the darkness of The Frame's

back room. Inside the crib was velvet embroidered with two different designs, slightly intertwined. The soundtrack playing was of the artist and Vega, speaking and singing together. The audio piece, *Something Stupid*, made the whole exhibit seem more playful, as it seemed like a mother and son engaged in playful and humorous banter and singing. It reminded me of sing-alongs in the car with my family when I was growing up, only a lot weirder.

To me, the exhibit raised more questions than it answered. Who is this woman in Manhattan? Why did she want a child? What were Swartzel's motives in going on this journey? I left the gallery feeling intrigued, yet impatient and confused. Swartzel's work fascinates, and makes viewers question the nature of mother and child relationships. Rather than providing answers to questions of motherhood or family, each of Swartzel's pieces demonstrate closeness between two people, and get viewers to think seriously about parenthood and what it means to be intrinsically linked to another human being.

Unfortunately, *WELCOME TO MY FAITH IN YOU* was just installed for the weekend, but Gray Swartzel's work and information can be found at [www.jgrayswartzel.com](http://www.jgrayswartzel.com).

**Lula Banker** | Personnel Manager

## Strike Up the Bands!

Presented by the  
**East Winds**  
SYMPHONIC BAND



**Hear the River City Brass and 8 more great concert bands**

**Free to the public! at Three Rivers Rhapsody**

*The Association of Concert Bands 2016 Convention Concert Series*

**Wednesday, March 30 through Saturday, April 2**

*Detailed schedule available on the web at [www.acb2016.org/concerts](http://www.acb2016.org/concerts)*

*Concert series made possible in part by a grant from the Jack Buncher Foundation*

# MFA Thesis Exhibit at Miller Gallery dazzles

*Self-Driving Car* confidently covers ideas ranging from immigrant displacement to french fries

[ **Kabir Mantha** | Junior Staffwriter ]

According to John Carson, the Head of the School of Art, “the unpredictability of the MFA program at CMU is one of its strengths and joys.” This was certainly true of “Self-Driving Car,” the Carnegie Mellon 2016 MFA (Master of Fine Arts) Thesis Exhibition. As the culmination of three years of study and experimentation, “Self-Driving Car” simultaneously shows us a snapshot of the artists’ long, arduous process while giving us a glimpse of their future trajectory. The diversity of themes tackled by these seven MFA seniors was superseded only by the diversity in the materials used to convey their ideas. From immigrant displacement to the history of technology, from french fries to bondage props, “Self-Driving Car” explores the entire gamut of the human experience.

The most visually engaging piece in the show was an installation by Tucker Marder, a graduate art major. Occupying the largest space in the gallery, *Shark Shapes*, a mixed media installation using foam shark toys, Bloodstream Top Predator Chum, nylon dock line, and fish food was a treat for the eyes (but not so much for the nose) with its striking colors and quirky shapes. The piece consisted of many brightly colored and exuberantly shaped shark toys balanced on various platforms, pedestals, or, in one case, hung from the ceiling using a vivid red rope. There was one important detail: Each of

the foam toys had been chewed by a shark, as evidenced by the teeth marks. On the wall were hung photos of the sharks mauling the toys, the frames covered in fish food.

*Shark Shapes* continues Marder’s exploration of what he considers “a more symbiotic relationship between humans and the planet,” through an “environmental ethic that promotes optimism and engagement rather than depression and paralysis.” The juxtaposition of these whimsical colors and shapes with an animal commonly used in pop culture as a symbol of mass terror brings out the inherent humor in our natural environment. Also, balancing the chewed up foam toys on buckets of shark bait, or, in one case, a giant globe of chum (hence the smell), brought home the delicate balance between human control over our environment and nature’s inherent responses. But ultimately, the appeal of this piece was the visual magnetism it exuded. The balance and precision with which the colors and shapes were positioned and lighted gave it a sweeping grace, a presence large enough to fill the entire space despite the relatively small size of its individual components.

Almost as striking was graduate art major Zhiwan Cheung’s sculptural and video installation *The Impossibility of Home*. As the name suggests, this piece, in the words of the artist, probes the idea of an “odyssey towards a home that does not exist, a rite of passage with

no destination.” To represent this search with no end he chose banana trees and Chinatown orange. The former is a species whose history of dispersion and domestication is so complex that its origins are shrouded in a veil of mystery, while the latter is the name of a specific hue of orange that has no root in modern history. Chinatown orange also doesn’t have any root in the cultural landscape of chinatowns. Both of these combine to convey the artist’s search for a lost origin, an absent explanation.

*The Impossibility of Home* was a mini plantation of bright orange colored banana trees, Chinatown orange to be exact. No, there was nothing subtle in the execution of the concept. However, the orange trees and the dramatic lighting combined to form an immersive environment that was very enjoyable to experience. Also, the ridiculous, over the top aesthetic of the piece highlighted the ridiculousness of our mental associations of unrelated constructs as well as our inherent drive for answers and explanations that don’t exist. The piece sounds great, right? It was, until the videos started playing. The videos showed us clips of banana plantations and forests. Some had the fake orange banana trees in them juxtaposed with the natural surroundings. Some clips even had the artist wandering around a plantation in an orange onesie. The entire time, there was a narrator’s voice giving us the history of the banana as well as Chinatown orange in a tone obviously meant to evoke nostalgia, despite only



**Right:** *Shark Shapes* by Tucker Marder (MFA 2016). **Top:** *The Impossibility of Home* by Zhiwan Cheung (MFA 2016).



Photos by **Kabir Mantha** | Staff Photographer

succeeding in evoking memories of Discovery Channel documentaries. This overt explanation of the “message” of the art removed all the nuance from the piece, making it seem like a parody of itself.

Right beside Cheung’s piece, the viewer is confronted by a barrage of color. In his *Love Letters to Wendy*, graduate art major Dan Allende explores the absolute depths of our food chain: junk food. Using the male belly, the essential characteristic of the “dad bod,” as his muse, he made plaster casts of his own belly, transforming them into vibrant masks. He then made six giant collages of all sorts of colorful household debris, Play-Doh, pipe cleaners, flower petals, and orange peel. In the center, fenced off by ropes of Cheetos strung together, were placed at various heights, a french fry suspended by string, and spinning at a different rate. The massive collages, the multitudinous masks, and the spinning french fries all combined to form a time travel device, shooting us back into those distant reaches of our childhood when indulgence wasn’t a sin punishable by contempt and our body wasn’t an item in a silent auction.

Probably the most traditional exhibit in the show are graduate art major Ada-Scarlett Hopper’s pieces *Movement | Flow :: Bound | Free* and *Pas de Deux, dependency*. Primarily a sculptor, Hopper uses the medium of photography to convey the idea of the body as sculpture. In *Pas de Deux, dependency*, using her experiences as both a ballet dancer and a dominatrix, Hopper explores the idea of systems of control that can exist between two people, and the flow of control from one to the other. Designed in a symmetrical manner, this piece is a stunning series of sixteen self portraits, eight with her ballet partner, eight with her BDSM partner. The photos all convey the sense of action and motion that is normally associated with these activities. By freezing them, we free ourselves from the notion of gesture, a concept inherent to the time dimension, and are able to consider the bodies as merely three dimensional sculptural objects.

The self portraits are arranged in a line and halfway down the line we switch, almost imperceptibly, from one set of self portraits to the other. On all the photos, she has overlaid white tape to capture lines in the physical forms of their bodies, in particular lines that directly influence her freedom of movement. By doing so, Hopper has materialized the invisible matrix of control that surrounds and influences her, a matrix that she is, however, also able to influence.

“I like rules,” Hopper said on Thursday night at the open critique of her work, held in the gallery. That is something clearly visible in her work: sixteen self portraits on a black background, mounted on white, framed in black with white tape, all the same size, hung in a row, lit by a row of purple spotlights. We see an obsession with structure, boundaries, formal systems, control. “If we view bondage, domination, sadism, and masochism from a wide angle lens, it’s just bodies in space,” Hopper said. And this was very much the focus of the exhibit, the similarities between the seemingly disparate disciplines of ballet and BDSM, the same exchange in control, the same trust and the same juxtaposition between pleasure and pain, maybe even pleasure through pain. After all, “pointed shoes are foot bondage.”

Her self portrait triptych *Movement | Flow :: Bound | Free*, explores similar ideas of motion and control, this time using



Photos by **Kabir Mantha** | Staff Photographer

**Top:** Love Letters to Wendy by Dan Allende (MFA 2016). **Bottom:** Pas de Deux by Ada-Scarlett Hopper (MFA 2016) .



the “spotting technique” that helps a ballet dancer pirouette without getting dizzy. This technique requires the dancer to keep their head and neck stabilized in space, gazing at a particular spot in the audience before spinning, and turning their head at the last second. For the piece, Hopper tied a bondage collar around her neck, attaching the collar to opposing walls of the ballet studio. She then proceeded to pirouette as far as she could with her neck physically held in place, taking photos of herself in the process. In her own words, this was the “invisible bondage of dancers made visible.” Her work may be traditional in form, but it is inventive in content. Daring, yet not attention seeking. It

is an unlikely but insightful fusion of a sculptor’s aesthetic with a photographer’s process.

These were four of seven installations at the Miller Gallery. The exhibit will continue to be on display until April 10. A good night to visit the gallery will be Thursday, March 31 when the works of Dan Allende, Tucker Marder, and Jesse Kauppila will undergo a critique open to the public. Eric Shiner, Executive Director of the Andy Warhol Museum, will be the guest critic. Other dates to mark in your calendars are March 31 and April 7 at noon when Dan Allende will be conducting a workshop on mask making and belly dancing.

# Batman fights Superman and the audience loses

*Batman V Superman* soars on its spectacular visuals, but is let down by a disjointed script



Photo courtesy of Breaking News Via YouTube

Ben Affleck as Batman and Henry Cavill as Superman quite literally face off before battling each other.

Two and a half years. That is how long we've all waited for *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. This weekend, we finally got to see the manifestation of all that anticipation. I was well aware of the critical dark clouds being cast over the second installment in the DC Cinematic Universe before seeing the film, but I needed to leave all those preconceived notions at the ticket counter, get my large popcorn and soda, and take my seat with an open mind. Can Zack Snyder deliver? How is Ben Affleck as the new Bruce Wayne/Batman, or Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman? Have the stakes been raised since *Man of Steel*? I had too many questions and not enough answers. The lights turned dim and the music started. 150 minutes later, when the lights came on, I was not disappointed.

Following the battle that nearly destroyed Metropolis, the world must decide what is to come of a seemingly all-powerful alien from Krypton. While the Senate Congressional Superman Committee holds hearings in Washington, seasoned billionaire Bruce Wayne re-cowls as the vigilante Batman to destroy Superman and protect the planet — but there is a larger threat brewing in the city that will put these comic book gods to the test.

There is a lot to digest in this movie so let's take it piece by piece. I'll begin by moving past Superman quite quickly by saying this: no more, no less. Henry Cavill delivers a similar performance as Superman to the one we get in *Man of Steel*. In fact, this movie presents a more mature Superman, not in age but in attitude. Kal-el has experienced the conflicting feelings the human race has toward him, and Cavill does a fine job presenting Superman's mental anguish over the issue. Nothing new or special from the Last Son of Krypton, but the Dark Knight presents some interesting surprises.

Let us not forget we have a new cinematic Batman played by the controversially casted Ben Affleck. This iteration of Bruce Wayne is not a lengthy departure from what we are used to. He is a billionaire, tycoon, and philanthropist who cares about his city and is tortured by his past. Batman, on the other hand, is not the same Batman we are accustomed to. This Batman is old, retired, and angry. Superman's battle with General Zod destroyed Metropolis and a Wayne Financial tower along with it, killing Bruce's colleagues. "That's how it starts. The fever. The rage. That turns good men... cruel," said Alfred. Played impeccably by Jeremy Irons, Alfred delivers the line that defines why Bruce dons the cowl again and declares war on Superman. In his pursuit, Batman is a more brutal fighter than we have ever seen, most notably abandoning one of his core principles (No spoilers here, so I will let you fill in the blanks). This is my favorite iteration of any cinematic Batman. His more violent fighting style, his increased detective skills, and his snarky, as opposed to reclusive, attitude make this Bruce Wayne/Batman the most interesting we have ever seen. Granted the character does not experience much emotional range in this movie, Affleck plays Bruce's grit and resentment without flaw.

Another hotly contested casting choice was Jesse Eisenberg's Alexander "Lex" Luthor. The trailers shed some light on what looked to be a rather two-faced character, but after seeing the movie, Lex seems a bit more like the Joker. Lex's role in the DC Cinematic Universe is much deeper than anticipated and this movie makes that clear. Instead of the dark, conniving, industrious billionaire we are used to seeing, this Lex Luthor is a paranoid, nervous, almost-afraid, dark, conniving, industrious billionaire. I did not mind Eisenberg's performance and am not unhappy with the decisions made for the character.

Now let's talk about Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman. I was optimistic. I trusted Warner Bros. must have seen something special in her audition for the character and she had been working hard to become a better actor. I do not know if all that is true, but Snyder used the character perfectly. Gadot is not required to do any highbrow acting, is not required to speak any long monologues, and is not given much dialogue with other actors. On the other hand, she is presented as a badass warrior who possesses extraordinary power, a deep history, and well-founded morals. Additionally, Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL provide the music for the film and Wonder Woman's theme gave me chills up and down my arms. That is quality you cannot teach.

Last, but certainly not least, are the visuals. Zack Snyder's films have always set the bar for having dynamic visuals, especially in battle. *BvS* does not disappoint. The fight(s) are beautiful to watch. The sound rumbles your chair. Batman has new gadgets. Wonder Woman is stronger than everyone except Superman. It is a pure thrill every time one character attacks another.

If all these things are so great, why is the movie getting such bad reviews? A very good question with a very simple answer: the writing and editing are sub-par. That is the foundation of a movie and what critics use to base their scores on Rotten Tomatoes. I can count on one hand the number of effective lines of dialogue in *Batman v Superman*. Throughout the movie, I found myself saying "Really? Come on. Really?" The script attempted to cover far too many bases making each important base less and less relevant. Unfortunately, the script is what a movie hinges on and is the difference between a good movie and a sloppy one. It is truly unfortunate and devastatingly disappointing to be taken out of a movie every time I feel like I have just started to connect. Never more so than for a movie that had such potential and years of anticipation.

*Is Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* a great movie? By no means. Good movie? Maybe. Worth seeing at all? Absolutely. It will not please every viewer, but you will not leave the theater asking for your money back. Much like a few of the movie's characters, audiences anticipated one film and got another. The resulting whiplash, combined with sloppy writing and technical strategies, make *Batman v Superman* an action packed slideshow of clues hinting at what is to come in the DC Cinematic Universe. Audiences' high hopes for *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* are not dashed, only postponed.

This movie is not a failure. It is an intermediary, a set-up, a sacrifice fly to right field moving the runner to third so we can score on the next batter. Though I find that a waste of a grand opportunity, I anticipate *Justice League Part One* will swing a big bat when it opens on Nov. 17, 2017.

**Ryan LaBarbera** | Staffwriter

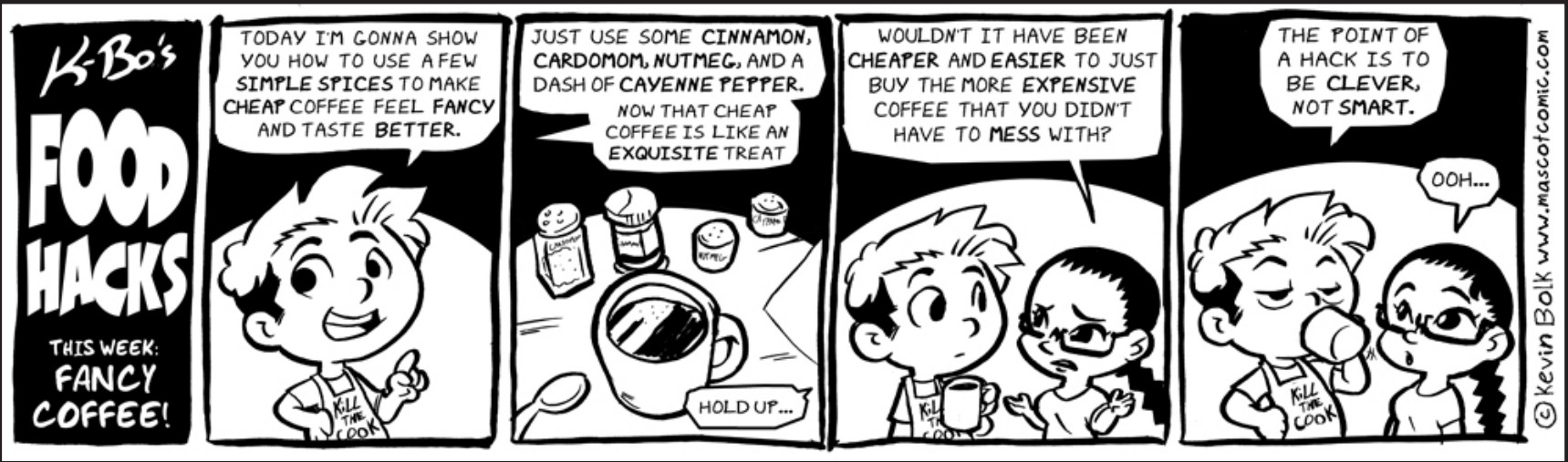




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Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal by Zach Weinersmith



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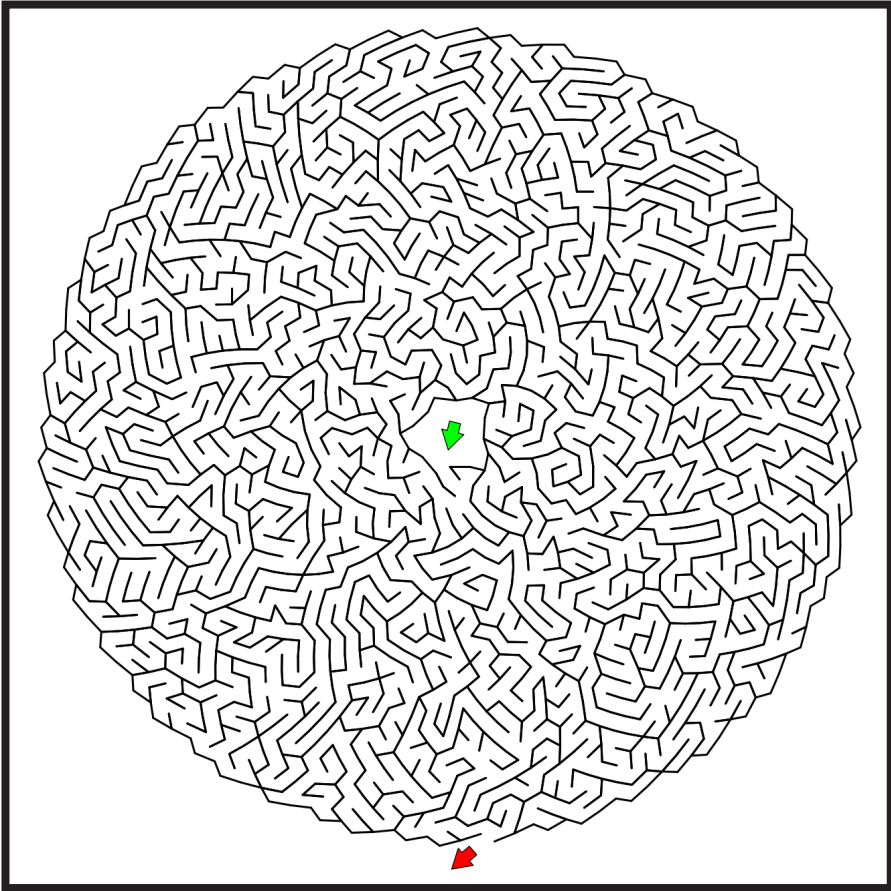
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Sudoku Puzzle: Super Tough Difficulty

					4			
6							7	3
		9	6			2		8
	7			1		8		6
4				6				5
8		5		2			3	
2		4			9	6		
5	1							2
			1					

Sudoku courtesy of [www.krazydad.com](http://www.krazydad.com)

Maze: Super Tough Difficulty



Maze courtesy of [www.krazydad.com](http://www.krazydad.com)

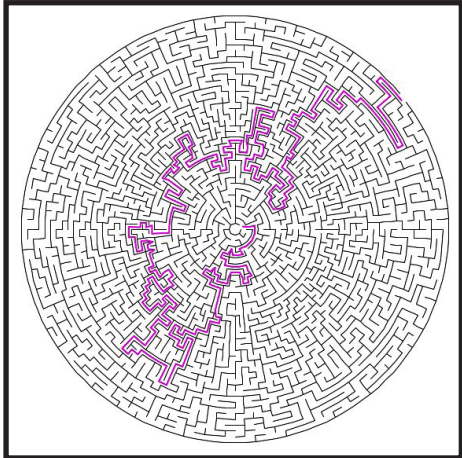
Solutions from March 21

A	L	E	C		C	L	A	R	E		S	I	N	S	
F	O	R	A		O	A	S	I	S		I	D	E	A	
R	U	N	N	I	N	G	I	N	T	O	D	E	B	T	
O	D	E	O	N		A	G	E	L	E	S	S			
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M	A	P		L	A	T	E		M	O	I	L	E	D	
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Y	O	U	S		S	T	R	A	Y		H	O	S	T	

Crossword

8	6	3	2	1	9	4	7	5
5	4	2	7	6	8	3	1	9
7	1	9	5	4	3	2	6	8
2	3	6	9	5	4	7	8	1
4	5	8	1	7	2	9	3	6
1	9	7	3	8	6	5	2	4
9	7	1	8	2	5	6	4	3
6	2	5	4	3	1	8	9	7
3	8	4	6	9	7	1	5	2

Sudoku



Maze

# Horoscopes

These horoscopes will satisfy your sweet tooth.

aries

march 21–april 19

Red Velvet cake — a cake easily distinguished by its bright red color and contrasting white frosting.

taurus

april 20–may 20

Pound cake — traditional and dependable, it’s known as the grandmother of all butter cakes.

gemini

may 21–june 21

Black Forest cake — a cake with a distinct flavor, it has multiple layers beneath its elaborate exterior.

cancer

june 22–july 22

Sponge cake — a light cake often coupled with a sweet and fruity counterpart for added sweetness.

leo

july 23–aug. 22

Chiffon cake — its a cake with rich flavor and a light texture, well-suited for decorating.

virgo

aug. 23–sept. 22

Cheesecake — thick, creamy, and smooth, it has a wide range of flavors for everyone to choose from.

libra

sept. 23–oct. 22

Carrot cake — simple and sweet, it’s a well-known cake that many love to enjoy.

scorpio

oct. 23–nov. 21

Tiramisu — has a hint of bitterness, but still manages to lift your spirits!

sagittarius

nov. 22–dec. 21

Upside-down cake — fruity and unique, it’s a cake that requires confidence to successfully make.

capricorn

dec. 22–jan. 19

Ice Cream cake — cold but refreshing, it’s a solid choice for any party or gathering.

aquarius

jan. 20–feb. 18

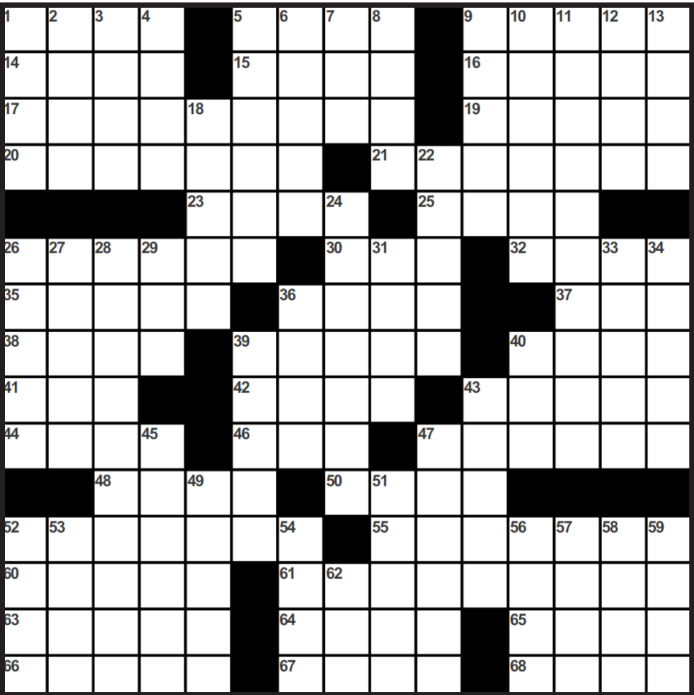
Chocolate mousse — creamy and soft, a slice of this cake is always a treat!

pisces

feb. 19–march 20

Angel cake — an airy cake with a light texture and taste, its color gives it an almost angelic look.

Sarah Wang | Comics Editor



Crossword courtesy of [FreeDailyCrosswords.com](#)

ACROSS

- 1. Fey of “30 Rock”
- 5. Drains of strength
- 9. Reduce drastically
- 14. Meteorite element
- 15. Recording studio effect
- 16. Magna \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Choice of a molding or painting?
- 19. Ticket word
- 20. Pew attachment
- 21. Really disapprove of
- 23. Rustic stopovers
- 25. One “in the headlights”
- 26. Do away with
- 30. Shuffle need
- 32. Emit, as lava
- 35. Sidestep
- 36. Mule’s mother
- 37. Stretch, of sorts
- 38. Larry of the Three Stooges
- 39. Unwilling to bend
- 40. Fill with cargo
- 41. “Who am \_\_\_\_ judge?”
- 42. Homecoming attendee, for short
- 43. Whipped in chess
- 44. Alaska, until 1959 (Abbr.)
- 46. Shaving cream type
- 47. Potatoes and yams
- 48. Optimistic vew
- 50. Russia’s Trotsky
- 52. Corny saying
- 55. Marrakech’s land
- 60. Watchmaker’s glass
- 61. Choice of a boat part or a boater?
- 63. Good thing
- 64. Roofer’s piece
- 65. Colombian metropolis
- 66. Moth-eaten
- 67. Scott in an 1857 case
- 68. Hole-punching tools

DOWN

- 1. Clock sound
- 2. “Argo” setting
- 3. Groucho glasses feature
- 4. Pay-to-play fee
- 5. Hard to fluster
- 6. Squirrel’s nibble
- 7. Honor society letter
- 8. Auctioneer’s word
- 9. Suffix with “moon” or “sea”
- 10. Soup servers
- 11. Choice of an octopus part or an armadillo part?
- 12. Tend to the batter
- 13. Can’t stomach
- 18. Cocktail garnish
- 24. Beach bird
- 26. Equip to new specs
- 27. Online party notice
- 28. Choice of a chess piece or a monopoly piece?
- 29. Homage in verse
- 31. Lacking mirth
- 33. Source of down
- 34. Vacant lot growth
- 36. About 1,609 meters
- 39. Blew a gasket
- 40. Technician’s place
- 43. H.H. \_\_\_\_ (Saki)
- 45. Won in a walk
- 47. Decorated, as leather
- 49. Reverence
- 51. Hirsch of “Milk”
- 52. Lesage’s “Gil \_\_\_\_”
- 53. Kennedy matriarch
- 54. Abbr. on a business sign
- 56. Predator of seals
- 57. Tobacco plug
- 58. Match a bet
- 59. Redding of R&B
- 62. Go public with



### FoodSound Music's Favorite Sounds

James Street Gastropub & Speakeasy. 8 p.m.  
Admission: \$5. Adults (18+) Only.

FoodSound works to curate artists with the objective of creating unique live music experiences. Organized by FoodSound, Favorite Sounds will bring together a variety of offbeat local Pittsburgh musical acts for one night. Confirmed artists include The ChopShop, The Stationary Pebbles, and Flavor.

### Wednesday 3/30

#### Soundbytes Cabaret

The Underground at Carnegie Mellon. 8 p.m.

As the first coed a cappella group on campus, the Soundbytes are one of Carnegie Mellon's most interesting musical acts. This Wednesday, catch them perform a mix of covers, originals, solos, duets, and instrumentals at The Underground in the basement of Morewood Gardens. The event will be a great opportunity to hear some of the most talented musicians at Carnegie Mellon in an intimate, up-close setting.

### Thursday 3/31

#### Market Street Block Party

Market Street Grocery. 435 Market Street. 6 p.m.

Be sure to attend the annual Market Street Block Party to celebrate the arrival of spring! The street will be shut down, stalls will be set up, and live music will set the mood for the first night of outdoor revelry of the year. They are expected to have a variety of street food and cocktails. DJ Bamboo is headlining the event.

### Yes, and

Boom Concepts Gallery. 6 p.m.

Yes, and is a new exhibit opening at the Boom Concepts Gallery as part of the Penn Avenue First Friday Art Crawl. The exhibit's theme of sexual assault is headlined by four main pieces and also featured through a variety of smaller works. The main pieces — *Uncontained*, *conCENSUS*, *Fruits of the Womb*, and *the Weaving Wall* — use a variety of media, from written word to painting to sculpture, to talk about sexual assault and being a survivor.

#### Puscifer

Stage AE. 7 p.m.

Puscifer is one of the creative musical projects of vocalist, producer, and actor Maynard James Keenan. Better known as the lead vocalist of Tool, Keenan uses Puscifer as an outlet for his more experimental musical ideas. Puscifer is one of the most interesting acts on the progressive/improvisational/hard rock scene. Don't miss a chance to catch them at Stage AE this Friday.

### Ongoing

#### Spring Flower Show

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Garden

March 19–April 10, 2016.

Admission: \$15 per adult. Free with Carnegie Mellon ID.

The Spring Flower Show at Phipps is a treat for the senses, and a wonderful way to de-stress at the end of a busy week. This year's theme, "Masterpieces In Bloom," showcases botanical interpretations of the works of great artists such as Van Gogh and Monet. Van Gogh's "Starry Night" is reconstructed with swirls of

## Classifieds

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delphiniums, forget-me-nots and primula. Beds filled with hundreds of red, orange, yellow and white tulips are used to render Monet's "Tulip Field in Holland." Edmund Leighton's "Lady in a Garden" is shown through the lens of hundreds of pink and red snapdragons and white orchids. These, and other botanical artworks come together to make for an otherworldly experience.

#### Self-Driving Car

The Miller Gallery. 6 p.m.–8 p.m.


March 19–April 10, 2016.

The Miller Gallery's second major exhibit of the year, "Self-Driving Car" is the final MFA Thesis Exhibition for artists Daniel Allende, Zhiwan Cheung, Nima Dehghani, Ada-Scarlett Hopper, Jesse Kauppila, Tucker Marder, and Daniel Pillis. The exhibit, composed of installations and performances considered as experimental as they are opaque, is united by the notion that all these artists, having just completed their MFAs, are completely in control of their own lives — in self-driving mode going forward.

Want your event here?

Email [calendar@thetartan.org](mailto:calendar@thetartan.org).


Compiled by **Abhishek Tayal** | Pillbox Editor



# Unleash your inner child

## Write for Pillbox

[pillbox@thetartan.org](mailto:pillbox@thetartan.org)



# welcome to my faith in you.



Photos by **Theodore Teichman** | Assistant Photo Editor

*WELCOME TO MY FAITH IN YOU* was an exhibit at Carnegie Mellon's Frame Gallery on March 25, 2016 that catalogued masters of fine art student Gray Swartzel's journey to Manhattan as he sought a woman to claim him as her son. He chose a woman based on a recommendation from a friend responding to a Craigslist advertisement he put up. The exhibit catalogues his budding relationship with a woman who may be new to him, but is now his mother.

