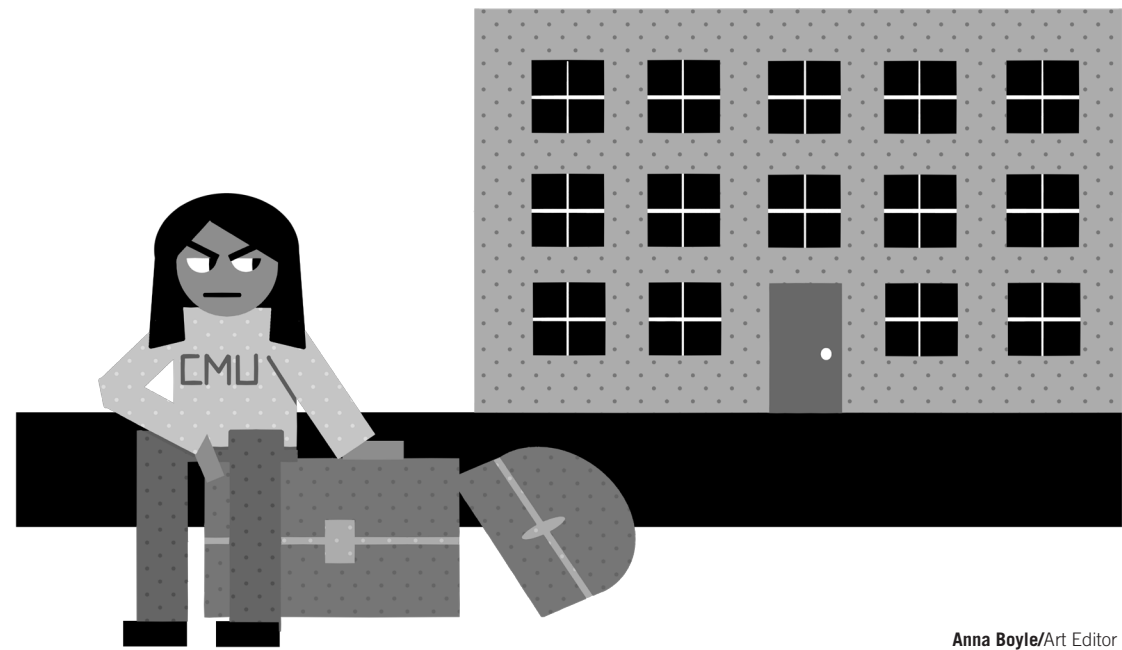


Student leases end at Fifth Neville



JACOB PAUL
Staffwriter

On Oct. 29, Carnegie Mellon Housing department closed a deal purchasing the Fifth Neville apartments for \$17 million. Tenants returned home that afternoon to find a folder slipped under their door labeled, “Acquisition Notice.” Inside was a four page document welcoming tenants to the CMU Housing community and explaining the terms of the purchase. Most significant to tenants, CMU Housing will not be renewing any tenant’s contracts and they will have to move out at the end of their lease. Though this acquisition will undoubtedly benefit the CMU Housing community, the transition has become

a source of outrage and stress for many of the apartments’ current residents.

Fifth Neville is a popular spot due to its close proximity to the Carnegie Mellon and Pitt campuses. Jihoo Park, a 4th year Architecture major who resides in Fifth Neville, estimates that 98 percent of the building’s residents are students. “There is never a free room,” Park said, and to rent an apartment students have to put their name on a long waitlist. Park says that Fifth Neville has a significant community of South Korean and Chinese students, due to its proximity to Seoul Mart, a Korean marketplace.

Fifth Neville’s location was also important to CMU Housing. Its proximity to other

housing options already owned by Carnegie Mellon makes it a natural addition. The building sits across from Residence on Fifth and is just blocks away from Fairfax, Webster, and Shady Oak, all of which provide apartment style living options through campus management.

International students took to Wechat, a Chinese social media platform, to air their grievances. Fan Yan, a junior in Mechanical Engineering, compared her experience to the Chinese government’s history of suddenly informing tenants that their building is being demolished. Just days before demolition a large “拆” character, directly translating to

Anna Boyle/Art Editor

See **NEVILLE**, A3

Students speakers lead TEDxCMU mini event

KIERAN WALSH
Junior Staffwriter

“Wrap up the fall season with TEDxCMU’s coziest event of the year!” This was the tagline for TEDxCMU’s Fall Mini Event, and between the complimentary doughnuts, coffee, and Red Bulls, the Christmas lights strung around the railings of Giant Eagle Auditorium, and Baker Hall’s sheltering warmth, the event certainly lived up to this standard.

Four students spoke at the Mini Event: first was Sarah Boyle, a junior in Drama, who spoke about comedy as an agent for change. Next, Zirui Zheng, a masters student in Information Systems discussed his journey of self-identification. Third, senior in Biological Sciences Raashmi Krishnasamy detailed three steps that Carnegie Mellon students can take to succeed happily. Lastly, Ethan Yang, a freshman in the Carnegie Institute of Technology, spoke about how an accidental haircut got him out of his comfort zone.

Boyle began by explaining that “playing to the truth” and being believable to the audience is crucial in a successful performance. She said that stereotypes are important in improv comedy because they make the situations believable, but they may be demeaning to the characters.

Improv can also be used to change people’s ideas of what is normal and believable, Boyle explained, and spoke on the power

of diversity in comedy. When an improv troupe has more diversity, it contains more personal perspectives, which it can use to help normalize more diverse ideas.

The second speaker, Zheng, spoke about the experiences he has had since coming to the United States from China seven years ago, and the lessons that he has learned. When he first moved to the U.S., he adopted the name Michael. Afterward, he began to contemplate the balance of Chinese and American culture in his life.

After living in America for a few years, he learned many valuable lessons. First, he learned that stereotypes can be true sometimes, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Zheng also emphasized the importance of uniqueness and being comfortable with that uniqueness. He explained that everyone is unique, but that uniqueness only shows when people are comfortable being themselves. And when you are yourself, people respect that. Lastly, he spoke about how the United States is full of unique, diverse cultures, and how it is our job to bring out this uniqueness and diversity in everyone.

During her presentation, Krishnasamy explained that happily succeeding at Carnegie Mellon can be achieved in three steps: by asking yourself why you are making your current choices,

See **TEDxCMU**, A3

CMU gets \$5 mil for cybersecurity degrees

WILSON EKERN
Copy Manager

You’ve probably heard of the Marine Corps, the infantry wing of the United States Navy, travelling across land, sea, and sky to kill people, but the CyberCorps might be a little less well-known. That might change soon, with the recent \$5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) renewal to the CyberCorps Scholarship for Service Program at Carnegie Mellon University (SFS@CMU).

The program, according to the Carnegie Mellon CyLab website, covers all or part of tuition, room and board, and books for up to two years of graduate studies, while also providing an annual stipend of \$34,000. In return, the students are required to do an internship with a government agency and work for the government for at least two years following their graduation. If a student does not finish their degree in two years or leaves the post-graduation position before their time is up, they must pay back the scholarship money for the time they didn’t serve. This means that if a student leaves, say, a year into their government job, they are required to pay back \$34,000, plus a year’s tuition, room and board, and books, to the SFS Program Office.

The ethics of locking students into government contracts in order to afford the rapidly inflating costs of higher education are concerning, but these scholarships are a common way to draw highly-skilled students into public service.

According to a university press release, Carnegie Mellon “has received approximately \$25.8 million through the SFS program and graduated 210 SFS students who have gone on to work for the CIA, FBI, NSA and...other government organizations.”

This program is another

example of the close relationship Carnegie Mellon has with the federal government, with \$172 million in direct funding to the university coming from the Department of Defense in 2017, as well as the university’s close relationships to military contractors like the RAND Corporation.

The cybersecurity focused program, according to an SFS factsheet, is a partnership between the NSF and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “attract students to the cybersecurtiy [sic]/information assurance fields.” While “cybersecurity” might sound like a defensive occupation, the Trump administration’s national cybersecurity strategy included “authorizing offensive cyber operations against foreign adversaries,” according to an article published this year in *The Washington Post*.

The sponsorship of DHS means that students may work on projects like the installation of facial recognition systems at the border, which capture the “facial biometrics of travelers entering and departing the United States,” raising ethical questions about governmental surveillance.

The National Security Administration (NSA), one of the employers cited in the university press release as a potential employer for students in the SFS program, is also involved in massive data collection programs. These programs, such as the mass collection of United State citizens’ phone records and mining personal data from private servers, received substantial criticism when the news broke in 2013.

The NSA’s data collection programs have only accelerated since then, with the NSA collecting “more than 534 million records of phone calls and text

See **CYBER**, A3

Tracking funding for the CFA lawn



Lisa Qian/Photo Editor

The CFA lawn has yet to be repaired following the inauguration of President Jahanian. The lawn is currently inaccessible.

ADAM TUNNARD
Operations Manager

In the weeks following President Jahanian’s inauguration, one perhaps unintended consequence has arisen: the lawn in front of the College of Fine Arts building is more akin to a plowed field than a grass lawn after the removal of the large tent set up for inauguration events.

It is a situation that has left students on campus frustrated. The lawn is a common walking path and one of the first things people see when they walk on campus, but it has been almost grassless since even before the inauguration, after being previously damaged by the first-year orientation events.

The Tartan spoke with Julianne Mattera, National Media Relations Representative for Carnegie Mellon’s Marketing & Communications department, who explained that “the grass in front of CFA is typically replaced each fall following orientation because of the damage caused by the tent that is constructed in that location.” Instead of replacing the grass after orientation events this year, “the university decided to instead wait until after Inauguration to replace the grass because of the tent for that event.”

Some also worried about the cost of the landscaping work, and whether it too would be covered by the Board of Trustees funding for the inauguration tent, as The Tartan reported the week after the inauguration.

Instead, Mattera states that the replacement of the lawn is “built into the university’s operating budget,” as “the [College of Fine Arts] lawn was purposefully used for both Orientation and Inauguration, instead of using a different location for each, to minimize the cost and impact to campus grounds.”

The decision to use the lawn for two separate events and not replace the grass in the time between them was indeed an effective cost saving measure, yet, weeks after the inauguration, the grass has not been replaced. Mattera told The Tartan that “the intent was to replace the turf immediately following Inauguration, but the unusually wet November prevented that work.”

With December’s lowering temperatures and increased snowfall, however, Carnegie Mellon Facilities Management grounds-keeping, who are in charge of the relawn, are surely going to face continued difficulty in replacing the grass. The Tartan reached out for a comment from them, but unfortunately, no response was given.

Since the inauguration, people continue to air their frustrations with the aesthetic of the lawn. Someone unknown to The Tartan even vandalized a sign that read “Turf Renovations in Progress - Please Use Sidewalk” with the sentence “[lawn] will be physically assaulted again in 2019.”

In terms of outward

See **TURF**, A3

FEATURE PHOTO

Notes to be buried under memorial tree for Tree of Life



In the Cohon Center Lee Lobby, messages were written on brown tags to eventually be planted with a symbolic tree following the shooting at Tree of Life synagogue, in an effort for collective community healing.

Campus Crime & Incident

Nov. 19, 2018 - Dec. 1, 2018

Property Damage

A staff member reported damage to a railing outside the Tepper Quad to the University Police.

Theft of Headphones

A Carnegie Mellon student told University Police that her headphones were stolen from the Tepper Quad. An investigation is ongoing.

Harassment

A staff member told University Police that he was harassed by an unidentified man in the Cohon Center.

Vehicle Damage

A staff member told University Police about a windshield of a university-owned vehicle broken at the Pittsburgh Technology Center.

Theft of Laptop

A student's laptop was stolen from the Shady Oak apartments.

Alcohol Amnesty

University Police responded to Delta Tau Delta after being called to aid an intoxicated male. A student was provided with medical attention and no citations were issued due to alcohol amnesty.

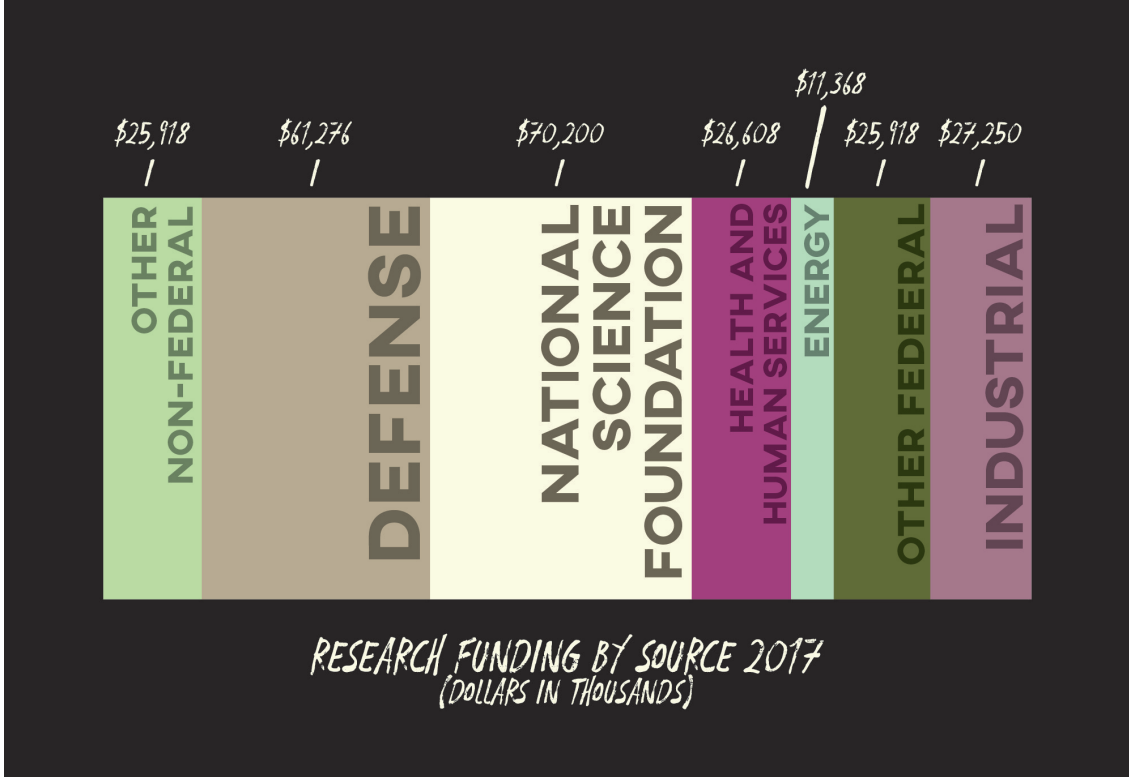
Vandalism

University Police looked into vandalism in a bathroom in the Cohon Center. An investigation is ongoing.

Compiled by
NORA MATTSO

DATA VISUALIZATION OF THE WEEK

Source: Carnegie Mellon Factbook 2017-2018



Compiled by TRACY LE, NORA MATTSO

WEATHER

Source: www.weather.com

TUESDAY



36° / 28°

WEDNESDAY



33° / 26°

THURSDAY



37° / 28°

FRIDAY



32° / 23°

SATURDAY



32° / 27°

SUNDAY



34° / 26°

FEATURE PHOTO EXPLAINED

JACOB PAUL
Staffwriter

In the weeks after the Tree of Life shooting a memorial was installed in the University Center's Lee Lobby, commonly referred to as "the brown chairs." The memorial was designed to be a safe space to reflect and grieve as a community.

Cushions are placed around two large coffee tables, and a small metal fence surrounded the memorial on all sides but one. The famous Jewish proverb "it is a tree of life to those who hold fast to it" is printed in golden vinyl onto one of the two tables, along with the proverb's Hebrew characters. A plaque is posted on every side of the fence, asking readers to take some time to reflect and come together in this time of healing. Students were invited to write or draw on a card, cut a piece of thread, and tie it on the fence.

The memorial was planned and constructed in the days after the tragedy by CMU Uplift, a small group of people who seek to positively impact campus, in conjunction with Kristen Hughes, a graphic design professor. They felt inclined to help the community in some way, and sought to integrate themselves with the commemorative actions already being taken by CMU Hillel, Chabad and AEPI.

Adjacent to the memorial, three piles of stones were placed up against the glassine windows. These memorial stones were placed on the Fence in the two weeks after the shooting. Hillel

had brought them over after the Fence was repainted.

The memorial is still up in the Lee Lobby, and by now has gathered nearly 100 responses. On Wednesday, Nov. 28, Sarah College of the Provost's Office and Daragh Byrne, an architecture professor, met with Hughes at the memorial in the Lee Lobby to discuss what to do next.

They remarked on how large the memorial has grown. In the first days the memorial was up, they recalled, the Lee Lobby was quiet and students seemed almost afraid to sit in the chairs casually.

Meditating on how everyone deals with grief individually, College said "Some would just read a prompt, and then read a couple responses and walk away, some wrote the first thing that came to mind, and others really sat down and thought "do I want to participate, and in which way...I watched some students that were here for 45 minutes."

Emphasizing the multitude of languages that people had responded in, Hughes reflected on how beautiful it was to see community, in all forms, coming together. "There is something very universal as we grieve, but also as we think about where we are going in the future and what our place in all this is," Hughes elaborated.

The proverb "It is a tree of life to those who hold fast to it" references the name of the desecrated synagogue, but it also looks forward. Hughes emphasized that "it goes against all forms of hate. It is about resilience."

Corrections & Clarifications

If you would like to submit a correction or clarification, please email The Tartan at news@thetartan.org or 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.



Fifth Neville tenants displaced after CMU acquisition

NEVILLE, from A1

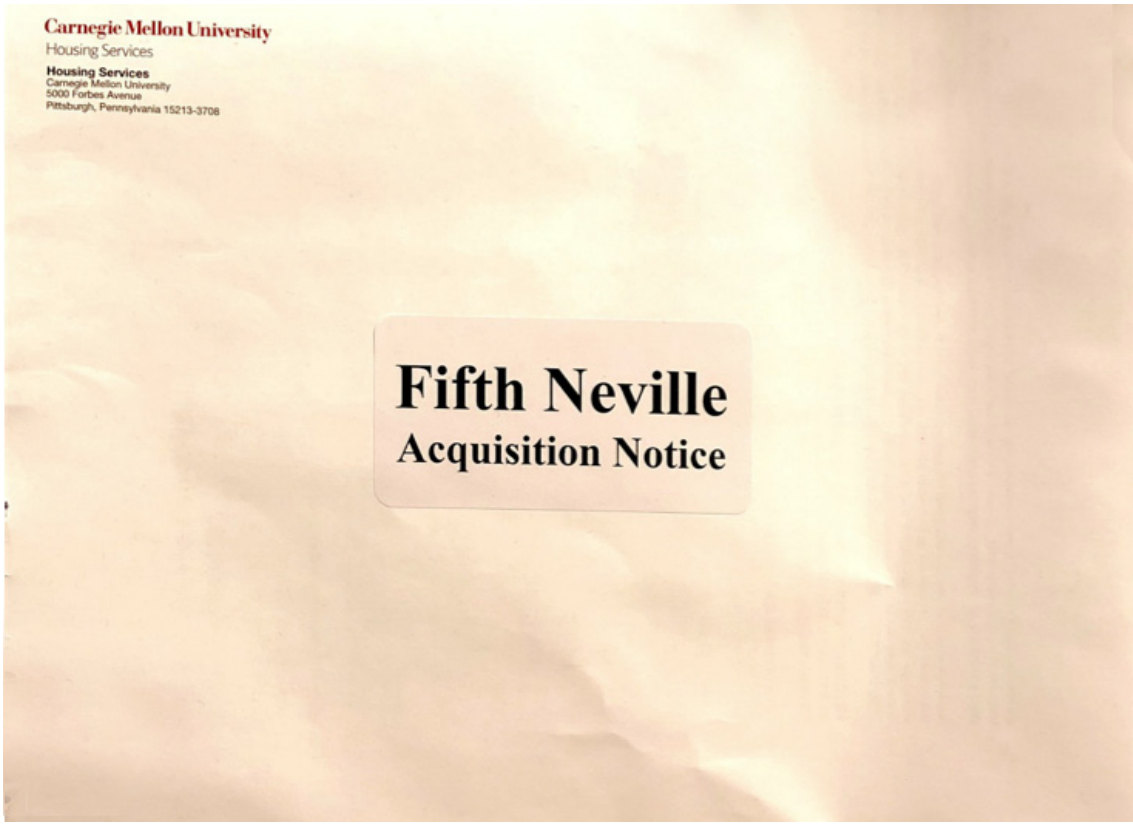
“tear down,” will appear on the outside of a building.

Many currents residents of Fifth Neville moved there with the intent to stay until they graduated. This is the case for Christina Chou, a junior in Information Systems, who is outraged and disappointed with both CMU Housing and Neville’s past management. “The reason I moved out from Fairfax to Neville in my second year is that I do not want to move again!”

CMU Housing plans to renovate Fifth Neville Apartments to bring it up to CMU Housing standards, and do not see renovations with people living in there as a viable option. They have already installed a fire extinguisher under the sink of every room and plan to “sprinkelerize” the building.

A Letter to the Editor titled “Carnegie Mellon needs to support the tenants they displace” was published on Nov. 18, scrutinizing the purchase of Fifth Neville. The writer, PhD student Daniel Xi, is concerned that the manner in which CMU Housing handles this transition will set a precedent for future property acquisitions, which Xi presumes will continue in the future to accommodate an increasing student population.

Tom Cooley, the Executive Director of Housing Services at Carnegie Mellon, told The Tartan that he understands the students’



The above envelope was slipped under the doors of Fifth Neville tenants, informing that their leases would not be renewed.

perspective, but assured The Tartan that CMU Housing does have the students’ best interest at hand. He noted that the building was for sale and that anything could have happened to it, and that CMU Housing is managing it more to the students’ needs. Additionally, CMU Housing is allowing current student residents to be considered for Fifth Neville in room selection process for next semester, and many students have expressed gratitude.

When asked about CMU Housing’s plans going forward, Cooley said that CMU Housing wants to provide spaces for students to thrive outside of the classroom. He said they are going to continue to invest in current and future infrastructure, but did not outline any specific moves they seek to make.

Not all residents are so troubled by the acquisition. Brandon Fu Hao Pek, a sophomore in Computer Science, is content with

the opportunity to move back into campus housing. “I was planning to just live [in Fifth Neville] for a year and head back on-campus next year cause I like the on-campus community, compared to how I don’t really know my neighbors right now.” Additionally, Brandon didn’t see the acquisition as much of an “ordeal,” noting that no one is obligated to renew a lease.

Chou has previously lived in both dormitory and apartment style on-campus housing, but has

found her off-campus experience most comfortable. She explained that her current bed is much larger than the twin beds offered by Carnegie Mellon and has significantly improved her sleeping habits, and that being able to sleep in her own bedroom has made her relationship with her roommate much more tolerable.

Park was already considering moving out of Fifth Neville because his roommates are graduating at the end of the Spring semester, but now that he doesn’t have a choice. It feels different, and there is a level of stress. “I wasn’t planning on it, but now I don’t have a choice.” He continued, “I always see CMU spending money, and those are probably really good improvements towards the University, but sometimes it makes me salty because none of those actually affect me in a positive way. And now it is affecting me in a negative way.”

Looking forward, Chou is concerned about a decrease in availability of off campus housing. “I understand that incoming freshman need more space, but upperclassmen deserve the rights to live near campus as well. With Neville being acquired, almost all surrounding apartments belong to campus housing.”

It has only been a month since the deal closed. CMU Housing plans to work with students in the Spring semester to try to make their transition as smooth as possible and encourages students to reach out for help.

Turf renovations have no clear end



Nora Mattson/News Editor
The sign pictured above bars students from crossing the perilously muddy lawn, and also has been vandalized with criticism.

TURF, from A1

appearance, Sophia Angel, a junior in Dietrich College and a Carnegie Mellon Andrew Ambassador, told The Tartan that when giving tours to prospective students, parents, and visitors, Andrew Ambassadors “do not mention the lawn unless specifically asked because talking about the lawn is not in

our tour script.”

Angel continues, “when someone does make a comment we talk about the event that happened which caused the mess,” as in the inauguration of President Jahanian. Despite some campus displeasure over the state of the lawn, Angel says “I personally don’t think the state of the lawn detracts from the appeal of CMU especially

because we direct everyone’s attention to the academic mall, which is stunning.”

As of now, The Tartan is unsure of exactly when the lawn will be replaced. But as outdoor spaces typically aren’t heavily used in the winter, we can look forward to sitting on the College of Fine Arts lawn when the weather warms, at the very least.

Fall TEDxCMU mini event spans colleges



Samara McCallum/Staff Photographer
Ethan Yang talked at TEDxCMU’s mini event about leaving his comfort zone.

TEDxCMU, from A1

being truthful with your answer to the first question and striving for excellence rather than perfection.

One day, Krishnasamy ended up in the hospital, and she discovered that her illness was partly caused by stress. She realized that if she had asked herself why she made certain choices, like why she was taking 15-112 as a pre-med student, and more importantly, been truthful with her answer, then she would have realized earlier that she was studying something she was not truly passionate about.

Lastly, Krishnasamy explained that Carnegie Mellon students should not strive for perfection because perfection is unreachable, citing Carnegie Mellon’s stress culture as a driver behind students’ quest for perfection. She suggested that our students should be striving for excellence instead because excellence is limitless. When a student has passion, purpose, and takes these three steps, then that student is on their way to happily succeeding at Carnegie Mellon.

Yang, the fourth and final speaker at the Fall Mini Event, spoke about how a haircut helped him to become more comfortable with all aspects of himself. When Yang was in fourth grade, he

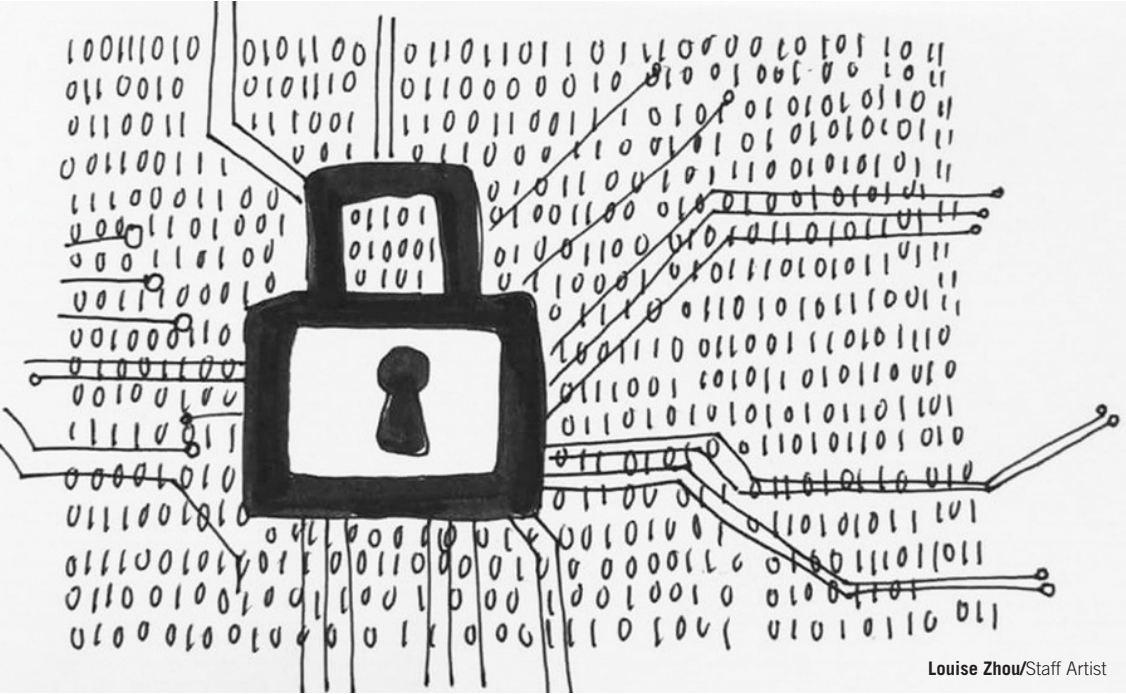
was diagnosed with moyamoya, a disorder caused by blocked arteries in the brain. After a stress-crying fit, he passed out and then needed brain surgery, which left incisions on both sides of his head.

He was so worried about being different that he always kept long hair to hide his scars. However, in his junior year of high school, his barber slipped up and gave him a haircut in which his scars were completely visible. When he went to school, he was bombarded with questions about them. At first, he was very uncomfortable talking about it, but after a while, he grew to be comfortable with it.

Yang said that getting out of his comfort zone led to a lot of personal growth. He left the audience with this message: “It changed my life — try it and see how it changes yours.”

Samuel Yip, the co-president of TEDxCMU, said that these speakers were chosen because the messages of their speeches were very pertinent to Carnegie Mellon students. Anyone interested in hearing their speeches can find them on YouTube. Yip said the TEDxCMU team is working hard to prepare for two upcoming events: the spring Mini Event, which will take place in February, and the main event, which is scheduled for March 30, 2019.

\$5 mil for cybersecurity scholars



CYBER, from A1

messages,” in 2017, a threefold increase over 2016, according to *The Washington Post*. The SFS@CMU program does require that students take a single ethics course, but it is questionable how effective this single

course will be in combatting the continued expansion of such programs.

While the students do have their choice of government agencies to work for, many may be drawn into projects like these, making choices that negatively affect the privacy and lives of

millions. Scholarships like SFS demonstrate the necessity of expanding ethics education for students who have to make lasting choices about what they want to do, and inevitably end up in positions where the systems they build greatly affect the world.

Forum

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

2018 Thistles and Thorns: a semester in review

At the close of every year, The Tartan reassesses the year’s events. We present here a list of the people and happenings that are worthy of recognition. Thistles go to people and events that had a positive effect on the campus community and society at large; thorns go to those that have negatively impacted the campus and our society.

A **thistle** for the eternal legacy left by Stan Lee, whose death was met with great sadness and deep reverence. Despite the shock of his passing, his iconic work will always be regarded as hugely influential on modern American pop culture.

A **thorn** to the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue. On Oct. 27, 2018, a gunman entered the building, shouted anti-Semitic statements and opened fire, killing eleven and injuring seven.

A **thistle** to the Carnegie Mellon community for rallying together in the wake of the tragic Tree of Life shooting. Students engaged in discussions, attended vigils, painted the fence, and held fundraisers in support of the Pittsburgh Jewish community.

A **thorn** to the tragic death of Pittsburgh-born rapper Mac Miller, who was the unfortunate victim of a drug overdose in September. His passing prompted thousands of fans to mourn his passing with a vigil in Pittsburgh’s Blue Slide Park, which he named his debut album after.

A **thistle** to the Philadelphia Flyers’ mascot Gritty, who with a terrifying orange beard and crazy googly eyes, has become an internet darling. Gritty has done just what a mascot should: be an instantly recognizable symbol that raises the Flyers’ national profile. The mascot should get extra thistles for his anti-fascist clout.

A **thorn** to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, prominent journalist and critic of some aspects of the Saudi regime, at the hands of the regime he had critiqued. His murder is a dark sign to journalists and defenders of free speech across the world.

Thistles to the new campus renovations: most notably La Prima in Wean Hall and the dining areas in the new Tepper Quad. Now there are more places for us to get bougie coffee in-between classes!

A **thorn** to the colossal tent that took the idyllic CFA lawn and turned it from a place for students to hang out with friends and study in the outdoors into a gigantic mud pit.

A **thistle** to the shift from Culnart to Chartwells. Overall, food quality has gone up due to this switch.

A **thorn** to the Underground renovation. Now, because of its hipster restaurant in a gentrified neighborhood-aesthetic, the safe haven for

students staring at their screens and on the verge of mental breakdowns is destroyed. First-years will now never know the comfort of being able to finish a paper and cry while being hidden by the dim lighting. Extra thorn for them misspelling “Pittsburgh,” omitting the “h.”

Special **thistles** to all that worked together following the Campus Cupboard study that revealed widespread food insecurity here at Carnegie Mellon. This year, the CMU Pantry opened up in the Residence on Fifth. Students can get fresh and canned food twice a week by visiting the pantry. We are excited to watch a community develop around the pantry!

Thorns to the bizarre crime incidents near campus. In an ongoing stream of weird and disturbing campus crime alerts, the university was notified of a man wearing a scream mask attempting to rob people at gunpoint near the university. While watching the horror movie classic might be a fun Halloween activity, having it inspire the near-campus robberies extending over the past few months was less than thrilling. However, the serial masturbator(s) would not be outshined and made it in a few crime alerts, most notably at a nearby Starbucks. Both prompted students to be extra aware of to their surroundings.

A **thistle** to Carnegie Mellon’s 10th president, Farnam Jahanian. Prior to his Presidency, Jahanian served as the University’s Provost and Chief Academic Officer for two years. He has already left his mark on the University as Chairperson of the Task Force by leading the Strategic Plan 2025, and introducing other new programs. The Tartan looks forward to the impact he will make during his time as President of the University!

A **thorn** to the recent acquisition of the Fifth Neville Apartments by Carnegie Mellon, an action that perpetuates the unethical and ill-considered displacement of Pittsburgh residents in quickly developing areas. This decision is not only controversial for its explicitly immediate consequences but also for the longstanding Carnegie Mellon history of displacing local communities for the sake of university plans.

A **thistle** for the \$50 million in scholarships announced during President Jahanian’s inauguration. Cindy and Ted Johnson, both Carnegie Mellon alumni, made the largest scholarship donation the University has ever received. They made this donation to try to open up the Carnegie Mellon experience to students from lower income families, and lessen the burden of student debt for some students.

This is an effort that the University must prioritize in order to truly have a diverse student body. A **thorn** to the archivist and the Caliban owner that conspired to sell stolen rare books from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Both Caliban and the Carnegie Library are important institutions for Carnegie Mellon students who like to read and study. It is a bummer that people charged with protecting books were responsible for defacing and stealing them.

A **thistle** to the changes to Carnegie Mellon’s course add, drop, and withdrawal that all took place this year. The earlier course drop deadline, now Oct. 8, gives students 31 class days to decide to drop a class instead of the 51 students had previously, to encourage people to drop classes earlier and limit their stress. In addition, students can now drop a class at any time of the semester with no repercussions, up to three times in their undergraduate career.

A **thorn** to Judge Brett Kavanaugh being sworn in as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and the aftermath for survivors like Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, who are subjected to immense disrespect.

Thistles to the 2018 midterm election results! There’s much work to be done to enfranchise all people, but large voter turnout and the representativeness of the elected officials were all major wins!

A **thorn** to the Trump administration’s policy of separating hundreds of migrant children from their families and housing them in tent cities and subpar facilities.

A **thistle** for the increased diversity in Hollywood. We saw the release of Marvel’s *Black Panther*, which not only made over one billion dollars, but inspired a cultural movement and became a milestone in black representation. We also saw the release of *Crazy Rich Asians*, the first dominantly Asian cast in a Hollywood movie in 20 years, committed to telling the stories of Asians, by Asians.

A **thorn** for the tragic fire that destroyed the National Museum of Brazil. The museum lost up to 20 million priceless historical and scientific artifacts in the fire, many of which were important parts of scientific and cultural research.

A **thistle** to Diane Turnshek and her group of researchers who have worked on taking pictures of the night sky to further our understanding of light pollution. Here’s to a future with reduced light pollution, where we can bask in the subtle glow of more visible stars.

A **thorn** to the surge of wildfires that have swept through California this summer, displacing thousands from their homes, devastating communities, and taking over a hundred lives.

Lastly, a **thistle** to all the readers of The Tartan! Thanks for another great year!

We need, but don’t deserve, democracy

SUJAY UTKARSH
Assistant Pillbox Editor

As the year approached an end, I went down a rabbit hole. I tried to psychoanalyze the trend of the far-right, authoritarian leaders being elected or allowed to stay in power in the last few years. Sure, there are some leaders like Russia’s Vladimir Putin, Turkey’s Tayyip Erdogan, and Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro who manipulated the political system in their favor to keep themselves in power. But Brazil voted for Jair Bolsonaro, a man who looked favorably upon military dictatorships. Hungary and Italy both voted for far-right parties, and Hungary has a supermajority with its far-right parties. Denmark’s far-right party saw a surge in its support. Of course, I can’t forget to mention that Brexit happened in 2016, as did the election of Donald Trump. I know why this all happened. I know how history repeats itself. But I wanted to look towards my own understanding of human behavior and apply that to my understanding of what freedom and democracy means. Doing that, I concluded something.

Human beings don’t deserve democracy and freedom.

This conclusion is the first part of a two-part conclusion, but I have to explain what this first part really means. Admittedly, I am looking at this as someone more familiar with U.S. politics, but the concept applies to really any democracy. A basic tenet of democracy is that you’re free to vote and you have rights. The trouble is that the authoritarian leaders are elected because voters are willing to sacrifice some of their freedom in exchange for security due to fear stoked by these far-right leaders. In Europe, the fear stoked stems from migrants; in Brazil, corruption and crime. I’m of the opinion that anyone willing to sacrifice freedom and democracy for security and stability out of fear doesn’t deserve freedom and democracy in the first place.

The reason for this is that this gives the leaders carte blanche to enact increasingly undemocratic policies. Many will argue that nothing truly “bad” has happened, which is simply not true at all. Keep in mind Brexit happened without UK Independence Party (UKIP), Britain’s far-right party with a platform based on nativism and anti-migrant fear, being in power. In Hungary, the far-right party in power is moving to amend the constitution to limit checks and

balances. Viktor Orbán, the prime minister of Hungary, champions illiberal democracy. Italy’s own far-right party has also been threatening the system of checks and balances in its democracy.

The election of these leaders just seems so hypocritical to me. I understand that there is desperation, hope, and fear. I understand that the situation of many nations like Brazil and Italy is full of turmoil. But why vote in someone who clearly would facilitate more turmoil? What is Bolsonaro’s willingness to torture and engage in extrajudicial killings going to do for the rate of violence in Brazil? How is turning away migrants going to help the Italian economy, or any European economy? If anything, European nations need more migrants to help improve their economy. A vote for a far-right leader is a vote against democracy and freedom. Anyone who fails to see that or sees it and votes for a far-right leader anyway doesn’t deserve either. Frankly, no human does. We are greedy, selfish, fearful, irrational, and unkind as a species. It’s in our nature to want to be led in some way and to have some direction, even if the direction is an authoritarian regime that doesn’t care about anyone. True character is revealed under pressure, and when the pressure is too much, we resort to fearmongering and a desire for stability over our valuing our basic rights.

However — and this is the key part of my conclusion — even if we humans don’t deserve freedom and democracy, we need it. As much potential as there is for negative change, we have the equal potential for positive change, and democracy provides that. For all my cynicism, there is a part of me that knows that things will improve. It’s in our nature to fear, sure, but that fear is shattered when we realize we have made mistakes, and we work to amend our mistakes. There will be a lot of damage done for sure, but nothing is irreparable. When we realize that we made a mistake, we will vote to fix things again. This happened in the U.S. midterm elections, and it will happen in Hungary, Italy, and Brazil later on. So for all those like me who feel disillusioned and dismayed about people and about the rise of far-right, authoritarian leaders, hold out some hope. It’s difficult in an increasingly cynical world and we will have to witness a lot of terrible things, but it will get better as long as everyone pays attention and cares about what’s happening.



Courtesy of freeimage4life via Flickr Wikimedia

Britain’s leaving the EU demonstrates a wider erosion to democracy.

Editorial Board

VALENE MEZMIN*
Editor-in-Chief

CALEB MILLER*
Publisher

MADELINE KIM
Forum Editor

ADAM TUNNARD*
Operations Manager

NORA MATTSO
News Editor

MARIKA YANG
Sports Editor

PAOLA MATHUS*
Visual Editor

ANNA BOYLE
Art Editor

Staff

COPY
Matthew Benusa, Frank Hu

ADVERTISING
Andy Gao

BUSINESS
Lindsey Shi, Gwen Wright

Editorial Staff

PAULINE TING
Assistant Online Editor

MICHELLE
MADLANSACAY
Pillbox Editor

ALEXANDRA YU
Pillbox Editor

FRANK HU
Assistant Forum Editor

EMMA FLICKINGER
SciTech Editor

MATTHEW BENUSA
Assistant Sports Editor

SUJAY UTKARSH
Assistant Pillbox Editor

EMILINE FROMONT
Comics Editor

WILSON EKERN
Copy Manager

TRACY LE
Visual Editor

LISA QIAN
Photo Editor

STEPHANIE KUANG
Online Editor

* Denotes executive committee member



The Tartan is a student newspaper at Carnegie Mellon University, funded in part by the student activities fee. It is a weekly publication by students during the fall and spring semesters, printed by The Butler Eagle. The Tartan is not an official publication of Carnegie Mellon University.

The Editorials appearing at the beginning of the opinion section are the official opinion of The Tartan Editorial Board. Columns, Editorial Cartoons, and Reviews are the opinions of their individual creators. The Tartan Editorial Staff reserves the right to withhold from publication any copy it deems unfit.

Letters to the Editor Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication by mail or to forum@thetartan.org. Letters from within the university community take precedence. Letters intended for publication must be signed and include the author’s address. Letters will be edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and Tartan and AP style. The Tartan reserves the right to edit for length and ethical reasons, including such matters as defamation, plagiarism, inaccuracies, profanity, and slurs. Author’s names may be withheld at the Editor-in-Chief’s discretion upon request. The Tartan reserves the right to reject any letter.

Office: Cohon Center 314
Web: www.thetartan.org
E-mail: contact@thetartan.org

Mail:
The Tartan
Box 119, UC Suite 103
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Anti-science: a global threat

Frank Hu
FRANK HU
Assissant Forum Editor

This year’s California wildfire season has been one of the most destructive ever, with nearly 1.7 million acres of land burned. To make matters worse, torrential rains are now causing flash floods that are trapping people in their homes and cars. With no natural barriers in the way, the only salvation for those stranded are the deployed water rescue teams.

We like to think that as humans, we are at the mercy of the elements, that whatever mother nature throws at us we must take in stride, because we have no say in the matter. This idea stems from the earliest days of human civilization, when we really did have to defend ourselves against storms and floods that were no fault of our own.

Today’s reality is very different, so we need to discard the notion that the weather is some intangible event. Storms, wildfires, and other phenomena are all products of our environment, one that we have continuously destroyed through wasteful consumerism and destructive business practices. From dumping industrial waste into the rivers to leveling the Amazon Rainforest, there really is no limit to the damage we can do. As a consequence, we are hit with harsher natural disasters, ones that take human lives.

Scientists have warned us ceaselessly that we are fast approaching the climate collapse, and it seems that we have already passed the point of no return. The question now is not how we can fix the planet; it’s how we can lessen the impact. We’ve all heard about how we can make a difference through our personal habits, and while it’s hard to stay consistent — I know I struggle

with it — we should still try. Small sacrifices, aggregated across large populations, can lead to some legitimate good.

But it’s hard to mobilize masses, because there’s a systemic failure in our nation, and it is the prevalence of anti-science.

Greed and corruption are motivating forces for turning a blind eye to abhorrent acts, and the current government is very open about its blatant disregard for global warming and other threats to our planet. We see this at the highest level of government, with Trump having not only withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accords, but also saying on multiple occasions that he doesn’t believe in global warming.

We see this with other politicians, and it’s always straight denial, or at least some serious doubt. Many of them even try to actively disprove climate change, such as when Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) brought a snowball into the Senate chamber, using the fact that it was cold outside to “disprove” global warming. Now obviously, these politicians are not simply stupid or irrational — at least, I hope not. They’re bankrolled by big corporations to protect companies from environmental regulations; the cheaper and dirtier the methods, the greater the profits. We see the same reasoning with gun control, where the solution is never to bolster restrictions.

Willfully ignorant politicians are only part of the problem. What’s even more troubling is that there are people who wholeheartedly believe that climate change is false and that there’s nothing wrong with the planet after all. Unlike other ridiculous theorists (such as the flat-earthers), these everyday climate change deniers pose a serious threat because they will do everything within their power to uphold established and empirically proven scientific thought.

There’s the old saying about

never debating stupid people because they will just drag you down to their level and beat you there. Therefore, avoiding these people at all costs seems like a sensible thing to do. They do their thing and we stick to our enlightened realm of scientific fact rather than their domain of illogical, ideologically driven fiction.

Yet much like those who spread hate speech online, the only way to combat these people is to continue engaging with them. We cannot push all the climate change deniers off our platforms because thanks to the wonders of modern technology, they will just find each other and create an echo chamber. Rather, we have to continue to combat their anti-science perspectives with sound arguments, no matter how painful it may be.

People are entitled to their own opinions, even when it comes to objective facts. It’s fine to disagree on something, as long as you do so for a legitimate reason. Depending on your ethics, getting rich, seizing power, or satisfying your own ideology may be sound motives. If that’s the case, then please do so in more environmentally friendly ways, ones that recognize the legitimacy of global warming. If, on the other hand, you find such motivations despicable, then speak out against it. Climate change deniers, like other dangerous minorities, are only prevalent because we do not do enough to rebuke them, as they thrive off of our apathy.

Just because the people in charge are myopic and gridlocked does not mean we have to be as well. It’s not good enough to simply fight against climate change in a physical sense; we also have to fight along an ideological front, discrediting all those ideologies that undermine the gravity of the situation. So next time you see someone openly denying climate change, say something — the future might depend on it.

Gun dialogue beyond good guys with guns

Madeline Kim
MADELINE KIM
Forum Editor

In 2012, National Rifle Association (NRA) Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre said, in light of the Sandy Hook school shooting, “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.” In the numerous shootings since — and the overall dialogue on gun regulation — this quote has been used as an argument time and time again for opponents of gun control.

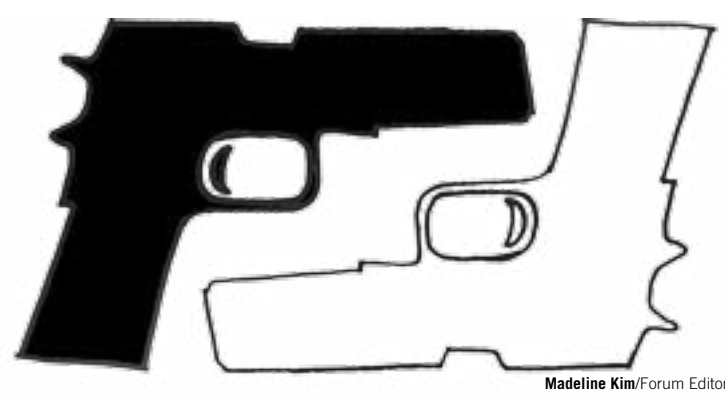
Taking out the word "only," LaPierre's quote isn't illogical. There have most certainly been times in which a "good guy with a gun" stopped "a bad guy with a gun," or at least mitigated potential damage. Stories about people successfully using their legally-owned arms to defend themselves may not be on the front pages, but a quick search can show you a good array of examples. For instance, in Oklahoma, an armed bystander of a bar shooting intervened and reduced the number of deaths to just one: the shooter. Of course, in such stories, the involvement of the bystanders should be applauded. However, such stories remain just that: individual stories. They alone cannot be extrapolated to show causal relationships or definitive statements.

Unfortunately, most of these stories don't have happy endings. This November, in the suburbs of Chicago, black security guard Jemel Roberson was reportedly detaining a man shooting in a bar. Authorities were told to look out for an armed suspect. With this in mind, Roberson — despite wearing his security guard uniform — having a gun was the cause for him to be killed by an unnamed officer. More recently, in Hoover, Alabama, 21-year-old Emantic "EJ" Bradford was the latest "good guy with a gun" who was mistakenly identified as a gunman who injured two teenagers when, in reality, he was a man with a legally-owned gun who was allegedly "trying to wave people away from the shooting" just moments before he was shot by police. Although a "good guy with a gun" did stop a "bad guy with a gun" in these cases, the intervener's reward was death at

the hands of trigger-happy police.

Again, these unfortunate incidents alone cannot confirm nor deny LaPierre's core argument. Case studies lack the substantiality to draw causal relationships. However, the search for data to find overall trends that could help us find the answer is discouraging. In the mid-90s, economist John Lott co-authored a study that argued that concealed carry deters crime. However, the statistics provided are shallow, only displaying the number of observations, mean, and standard deviation. Since then, opponents have deemed a 2004 National Academies National Research Council report a rebuttal, although the latter research does not provide such a conclusive argument as Lott's. A report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 2014 showed that in terms of sheer number of instances, unarmed citizens restraining shooters were far more common than armed citizens. Obviously, this statistic alone is inconclusive; the number of unarmed citizens walking around on a daily basis is more than likely greater than the number of armed citizens. However, this comes to show a crack in LaPierre's logic; perhaps it is not the gun that empowers the good guy but rather the good guy himself taking initiative to intervene.

So how much weight does LaPierre's argument carry? It's extremely difficult to say. However, I have a hard time believing it is the only way, and the majority of this nation agrees. Statements with such definite terms are hardly ever completely true, and this is no exception. Looking into policies like maintaining background checks, or improving our mental health system to ensure guns don't fall into the wrong hands, doesn't stop the "good guy" from getting his gun. Does it eliminate the chance of the "bad guy" getting his gun? Of course not. But neither does the status quo, and solely relying on a strawman "good guy" hasn't gotten us anywhere in terms of the dialogue on gun violence. Just because a good guy with a gun is one deterrent of gun-related violence, being competent with placing the burden on the "good guy" is not enough, especially when the fate for their deed may be a bullet in their head.



Courtesy of slworking2 via Flickr Wikimedia
The rising prevalence of fires in California is an overwhelming indicator of current environmental decline.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: THE HUMANITIES HERE AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY ARE HEALTHY AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN FUTURE YEARS

In a thoughtful and well-written column, Dietrich College student Emma Flickinger argues that we only seem to celebrate the humanities when they are connected to other disciplines, and rarely for their own sake. Although we should certainly celebrate the humanities all by themselves, I don't view our efforts as a sign that we are letting the humanities “fall by the wayside,” rather I view it as a core part of an intentional strategy designed to help the humanities thrive at Carnegie Mellon. Flickinger's piece did make me realize that we have to do a MUCH better job of showcasing our commitment to the humanities at Carnegie Mellon and explaining how we intend to grow them. In what follows, I will begin this project, but by no means finish it.

Student interest in the humanities has been up and down over the last 50 years. After the financial crisis of 2008, student anxiety over

employability resulted in sharp drops nationwide in the number of humanities majors and the number of students enrolling in humanities courses. At Dietrich, student interest in primary majors that lead to a first job (e.g., statistics, or information systems) has exploded, but student interest in additional majors and minors in the humanities has bucked the national trend and held steady. Of the four departments in Dietrich with the highest number of student enrollments in the 2017-2018 academic year, three were humanities departments. Although only a tiny handful of the more than 90 distinct majors at Carnegie Mellon require a language, almost 45 percent of Carnegie Mellon students take a course in Modern Languages, a rate nearly triple the national average.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines at Carnegie Mellon are increasingly recognizing the

value of adding or integrating the humanities into their research and education, and this is what we want. The demand for incorporating ethics, rhetoric, history or epistemology into topics like artificial intelligence, climate change, technological disruption or machine learning has increased dramatically. We also welcome what STEM has to offer us in advancing our own scholarship in the humanities. What's exciting, original, and truly valuable about Six Degrees of Francis Bacon is first and foremost the humanities part: what we have discovered, with the help of computers, about the world of Francis Bacon, and about the social and power dynamics in early modern England. Flickinger wonders how many people who know about this award-winning project even know who Francis Bacon was. Well, more will now, thanks to a collaboration between a Carnegie Mellon literary scholar (Christopher Warren) and a statistician (Cosma Shalizi).

What we are doing with the humanities is what Carnegie Mellon does with all of its disciplines: encourage them to combine freely with each other and all other disciplines, especially when doing so leads to better ways to investigate questions that matter. This is our secret sauce.

When disciplines live inside of silos, they go stale. We have to make the humanities invaluable to scholars, students, and employers. In my view, the best route to this end is to join forces with other disciplines whenever and wherever we can. Our Philosophy Department has made itself so desirable to researchers in biomedicine, computer science, psychology and other disciplines that this academic year they will receive over \$2 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health and U.S. Air Force. This is singular among American universities, but because of it, the department can also employ

philosophers who do philosophy for its own sake.

We are extremely excited about the energy in the humanities at Carnegie Mellon. In the spring, we will present the initiatives we are undertaking, both in research and in education. We will organize a town hall open to all students, staff, and faculty interested in the humanities and their future at Carnegie Mellon, and discuss our strategy openly. If we are to make Dietrich a destination for Carnegie Mellon-style humanities, then we need and want your help.

The leadership in Dietrich and Carnegie Mellon passionately believe that reflecting on the human condition is crucial to any education of value and that to do so effectively requires humanistic inquiry. We are first and foremost a university, and we will never let the humanities go by the wayside.

Richard Scheines (@scheines) is the Dean of Dietrich College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Science & Technology

An interview with the director of CMU’s new neuroscience institute



Courtesy of CLSP Seminars via Vimeo
Shinn-Cunningham lecturing at Johns Hopkins University in 2008, when she was a faculty member at Boston University.

GABRIEL RASSKIN
Junior Staffwriter

Dr. Barbara Shinn-Cunningham, director of Carnegie Mellon’s new neuroscience institute, spoke with *The Tartan* about the potential of neuroscience research on campus and beyond. This transcript has been edited for length and clarity.

What is the current state of Carnegie Mellon’s neuroscience institute?

We’re doing organizational planning behind the scenes. We’ll be launching in the spring semester. We are going around and talking to various people at the university and in the Pittsburgh community about what we are about, and putting together websites and things like that, so that when we launch, we have a public space ready to go.

What sort of partnerships can we expect from the institute?

There are partnerships both within the university and then within the Pittsburgh area, and

even more broadly. Within the university, I report to the dean of the Mellon College of Science as well as the dean of Dietrich. Within the institute, we have members in not only Mellon and Dietrich but also the School of Computer Science, the College of Engineering and even the College of Fine Arts. If you step back even further within the Pittsburgh area, the Institute will make sure the CNBC (Center for Neural Basis of Cognition) continues. It’s been around for a very long time, and supports cognitive neuroscience efforts that are collaborative between Pitt and CMU. The institute is already reaching out to other partner institutions. We had two different visitors just this week, for instance, who are heading neuroscience institutes in China to talk about the potential for collaborations, and exchange of students and faculty.

Could you elaborate on the research that will take place?

Right now there’s about 40 faculty, and their areas of research fall in three or four bins. There’s a

bunch of people like me, who do human work, who study perception and the brain and neuroimaging.

Then there’s a large effort within engineering and computer science; there are people who are doing development of devices to measure or even manipulate brain activity so if you have someone, for instance, with Parkinson’s, you can stimulate portions of the brain and alleviate the symptoms.

Another set of people, within engineering, are doing brain-computer interfaces, which has usually been applied to help people who have spinal cord injuries, and can’t move their bodies or portions of their bodies.

There are a bunch of people in biology, they’re really looking at the brain at a cellular level.

And then finally we have collaborators in machine learning and statistics who are helping unravel all the data that new techniques to measure brain activity are generating.

See **NEUROSCIENCE**, A8

How can AI analyze online extremism?

FRANK HU
Assistant Forum Editor

“Extremism” is a word we sometimes throw around casually, using it to label any actions or beliefs that seem, well, *extreme*. Other popular phrases include “extremist ideology,” and “violent extremism.”

When you hear the word “extremism,” what do you imagine? Probably something along the lines of ISIS or white nationalists, groups that are explicitly extremist. But these examples are insufficient, because it becomes incredibly difficult to categorize extremism when we move away from the far ends of the spectrum.

How do we objectively define this nebulous term beyond “I know it when I see it?”

That’s the problem that J.M. Berger, a postgraduate research student at Swansea University’s School of Law and a research fellow at VOX-Pol, investigates, researching homegrown terrorism and social media extremism

the term “ideology” as a set of documents detailing how members of the in-group should interact with or treat members of the out-group. Thus, an extremist ideology is simply a set of rules on how extremists in an extremist in-group should treat those in the out-group. As Berger notes, because extremist groups are very concerned with their legitimacy, they take great caution in clearly defining the boundaries for their members.

With the foundation of social identity theory, extremism can be broken down into three key parts: identity, crisis, and solution. Each of these three components must exist in some form for extremist groups to form, and they progress sequentially.

The identity defines who is in the in-group and who is in the out-group, and this division follows from the very strict guidelines set forth by those in the in-group.

There is also a level of nuance where the out-group is divided into the eligible and ineligible

When you hear the word *extremism*, what do you imagine? How do we objectively define this nebulous term beyond “I know it when I see it?”

in order to clarify this social phenomenon into a more objective framework. In a talk given on campus this past Tuesday, Berger delved into his ideas of what distinguishes extremism in the 21st century.

Drawing upon historical analogues — such as Pope Innocent the Third, Hernan Cortez, and Edmund Ruffin — he created a definition for extremism based on social identity theory, which draws on in-group and out-group dynamics, where the in-group is the extremist group and the out-group is comprised of everyone else. He also defines

out-group, where the in-group appeals to the eligible out-group for recruits and supports. In the case of ISIS, the eligible out-group would include Muslim males, as there is a potential for recruitment among that population.

Once the in-group and out-group are established, the in-group defines a kind of crisis that forces confrontation of the out-group. For example, a popular conspiracy theory for anti-Semites is the idea that Jewish people secretly control the world.

See **EXTREMISM**, A8



Data models are promising, not perfect

SUJAY UTKARSH
Assistant Pillbox Editor

Big data has become vital in the modern age. The analysis of trends drives company decisions, while consumer choices are analyzed to tailor advertisements and purchases to an individual user. Social media companies track the pages their users are interested in to personalize the content they see. Medical data can be analyzed to track diseases. Weather data can be used to predict storms. The list goes on and on. Data analysis has become the bread and butter of the information-driven era.

With the ever-increasing

amount of available data, it has only become more important to simplify the process of analyzing it.

This is what researchers from the University of Cordoba’s Department of Computer Science and Numerical Analysis have been working on. Their work focuses on producing models capable of predicting several variables, based on the inputs from the same set of variables. In other words, they reduce the amount of data that a model needs to analyze by having the computer learn the different qualities of the input data.

Sebastian Ventura, one of the researchers, points out that the method of

reducing data is a much cheaper and more effective strategy than just increasing computing power, and that there are a few key benefits of the data reduction. First, by simplifying the data set, the model could be more accurate, since extraneous data not affecting the model are removed. Second, with less data to input, less computing power is required. In turn, this ends up increasing the efficiency and rate at which models can be made.

With the sheer amount of data the world produces, having more efficient predictive algorithms is key to processing it, which has driven a global trend

towards modernizing predictive models. Besides individual researchers working on their own projects, many government organizations are also funding big data projects. For example, the E.U. funded the BigStorage project in 2015 with the goal of developing new approaches to data analytics concepts, providing 3.8 million euros to finance the project.

It is also important to remember that there are many variables computers still won’t be able to account for. Big data is not infallible, and researchers should be careful when making bold claims about its versatility.

Courtesy of Johnson Goh via Pixabay

In Twitter’s love for ‘Big Cow,’ echoes of the 19th century

OWEN FOX
Junior Staffwriter

Last week, a controversy embroiled the internet that resulted in thousands of tweets, multiple articles, and a bitter feud between *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*. The source of all this tension?

A really big cow.
Knickers, an Australian Holstein measuring six feet and four inches from hoof to shoulder and weighing over 3,000 pounds, captured the hearts and minds of internet users everywhere when a photo of him surrounded by a herd of smaller cattle went viral. Commenters on Twitter dubbed him “big cow,” praising Knickers for the heroic nature of his enormous stature. Before the day was out, his newfound fame had already garnered the attention of many mainstream media outlets, including *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

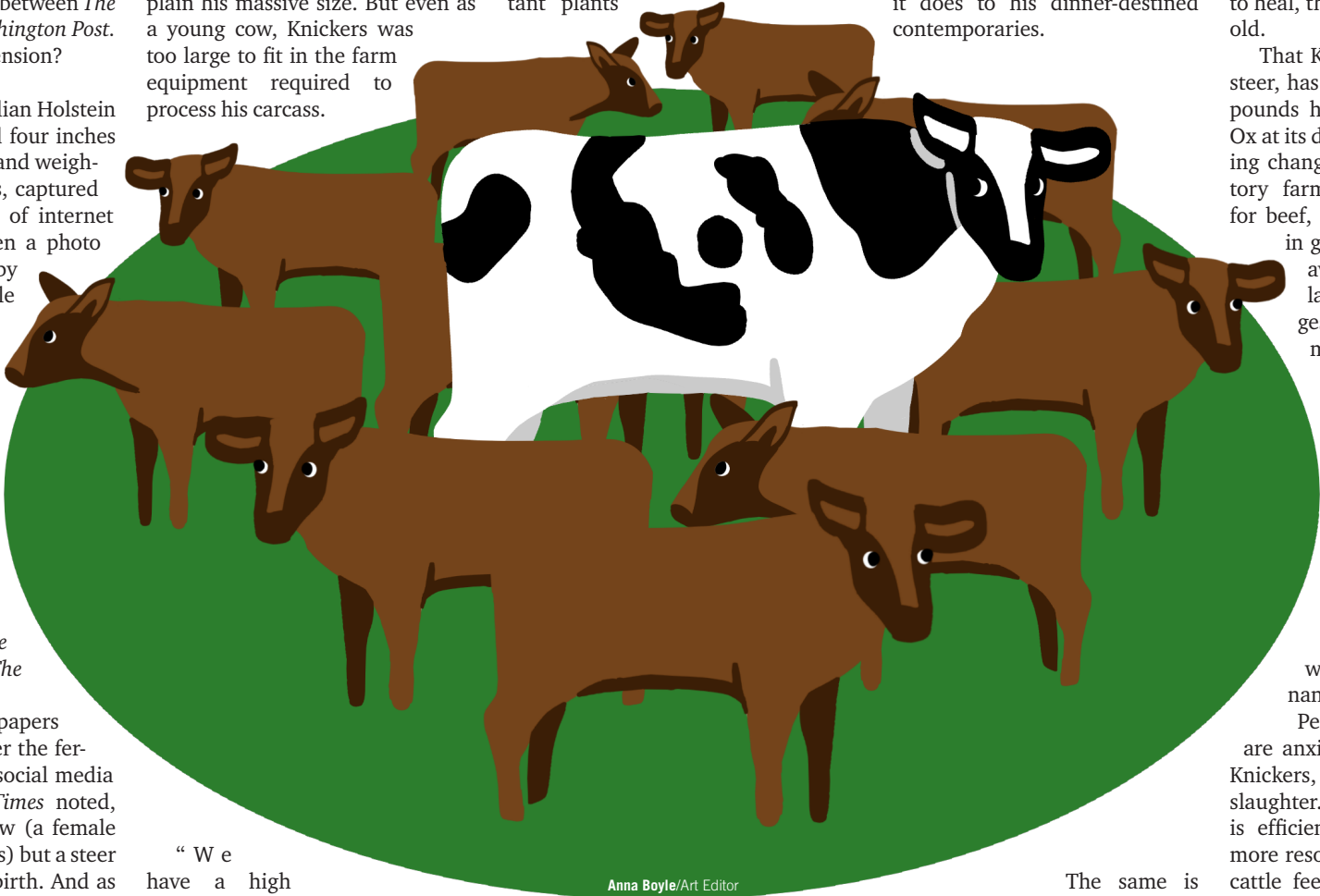
Writers at both papers were at pains to temper the fervent passion of many social media users. Knickers, the *Times* noted, is not technically a cow (a female with one or more calves) but a steer — a bull castrated at birth. And as Jason Bittel pointed out in the *Post*, Holstein cattle tend to grow a lot larger than the Wagyu cows Knickers is standing beside in the viral photo.
But as other commentators were quick to argue, neither point really detracts from the fact of his sheer size. Knickers nearly matches the height of the tallest Holstein steer ever recorded, and stands over eight inches taller than the average height for his breed. At 3,000 pounds, he weighs more than double the amount of even his heaviest peers.

What’s even more unusual about Knickers is his age. Steers raised for meat production are usually slaughtered between the ages of two and three. Knickers is seven years old, which may help to explain his massive size. But even as a young cow, Knickers was too large to fit in the farm equipment required to process his carcass.

exceedingly rare on modern farms. Not only can tractor-mounted cultivators turn over soil at an exponentially higher rate than oxen ever could, tilling itself has fallen out of favor as new herbicide resistant plants

over the herd of smaller brown cattle congregated around him. While it’s a far cry from tilling the soil, Knickers’s position as a cattle wrangler does bear more similarity to his plow-pulling ancestors than it does to his dinner-destined contemporaries.

steer weighing about 2,600 pounds. Like Knickers, the Durham Ox lived longer than one destined for the grisly fate of the average steer. When he was finally put down after suffering a hip injury that refused to heal, the ox was exactly 11 years old.
That Knickers, a seven year old steer, has already grown to be 400 pounds heavier than the Durham Ox at its death speaks to the sweeping changes brought about by factory farming. The high demand for beef, combined with advances in genetics, have allowed the average steer to become as large as some of the biggest cattle in recorded human history. In fact, cows today are so big, some ranchers are becoming concerned.
“More and more of our commercial customers say they’re concerned about their cows getting too big,” Kevin Schulz, a cattle breeder, told *Hereford World* in 2010. “They want to lower cow maintenance costs.”
Perhaps some ranchers are anxious that their cows, like Knickers, may grow too big to slaughter. A more practical concern is efficiency: larger cows require more resources to keep healthy. As cattle feed becomes more expensive, many farmers seem worried that the emphasis on bigger and bigger cattle is hurting their bottom line. But even if proponents of smaller cattle fail to convince the majority of breeders, really big cows like Knickers will remain an anomaly. Most steers will simply never grow old enough for us to appreciate their enormity.
So, large animal enthusiasts: enjoy Knickers while he lasts. And hope that someday, somewhere, another big cow will find its way into the spotlight, and into our hearts.



“We have a high turnover of cattle,” Knickers’ owner, Geoff Pearson, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in October. “He was lucky enough to stay behind.”
Steers of Knickers’ age and size might have been more common in the past. The first cattle imported to Australia in the 1800s were not raised for meat but for work: oxen used to till and cultivate soil. Without a visit to slaughterhouse ensuring their premature demise, these animals could end up living for anywhere from 10 to 20 years.
Cattle grown for this purpose are

make chemical weed-killers an easier and more desirable alternative. Even without a career in plowing to fall back on, Knickers has managed to find work on the farm, leading and coaching other cattle around their enclosure.
“Whenever he wants to get up and start walking there’s a trail of hundreds of cattle following him,” Pearson told the ABC.
This is what Knickers is doing in the picture that brought him well-deserved internet fame: towering

The same is true of his social media stardom. While fascination with pictures of large cows may seem like a uniquely internet-based phenomenon, enormous cattle actually have a rich history as portrait subjects. In the 19th century, the rise of selective breeding brought with it a rise of larger and larger cows. Farmers aspired to raise bigger cattle as status symbols and would commission artists to create paintings of them and their cows standing together.
One especially notable portrait depicts the Durham Ox, an English

First human babies with (possibly) edited genes born

AMY LU
Junior Staffwriter

For better or for worse, Chinese geneticist He Jiankui may have just opened the Pandora’s box of gene-editing.
He, a researcher based in Shenzhen, China, claims to have created the world’s first genetically edited babies. “Two

beautiful little Chinese girls, named Lulu and Nana, came crying into this world as healthy as any other babies,” said He in a YouTube video posted on his company’s channel on Monday. Before being implanted in the womb as embryos, Lulu and Nana’s genes were altered to prevent contraction of HIV. He used CRISPR-Cas9 technology

to perform gene surgery in order to reproduce a natural genetic variation that confers strong resistance to HIV-1 infection.
He’s actions have caused a global outcry, with scientists worldwide expressing shock and outrage. More than 120 Chinese scientists issued a joint statement on Monday, condemning He’s use of the CRISPR-Cas9 on

a baby as a “huge blow” to the ethical standing of Chinese biomedical research. Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California, described the experiment as being “far too premature.”
“We’re dealing with the operating instructions of a human being,” Topol explains. “It’s a big deal.”
A few scientists have spoken out against the criticisms, however. George Church, a famed geneticist at Harvard University, argued that He’s research is “justifiable” as a valiant attempt to battle HIV, “a major and growing public health threat.”
The Chinese government has halted the work of He’s lab, having ordered immediate investigations into the experiments. Furthermore, Professor He’s university, the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, said it was unaware of the research project and that Professor He has been on unpaid

insufficient to confirm whether the editing worked or caused harm.
It was also noted that the evidence may suggest that the editing was incomplete and left various changes to a patchwork of cells. Moreover, even if editing worked perfectly, the imposed HIV-resistant gene variation is known to increase risk of other viruses and diseases. Such evidence begs the question of how much there was to be gained in terms of protection against HIV.
Professor He’s lab has altered embryos for over seven couples, but only one of the experiments has led to pregnancy. Many are unsettled that the participants may not have given fully informed consent to the treatment, as He’s consent forms called the project an “AIDS vaccine development” program.
However, He maintains that the patients were well aware of the nature of the research, saying that he personally explained



Summer Employment at Carnegie Mellon: Teaching Assistant and Residential Counselor Jobs in the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for the Sciences

Undergraduate summer employment at Carnegie Mellon University is available with the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for the Sciences (PGSS). The PGSS is a five-week summer school for extremely talented high school students from Pennsylvania. Teaching Assistant/Counselor appointments are available in the areas of biology, chemistry, computer science, physics and mathematics. In addition, one or two positions may be available as Co-Directors of Residential Life. Academic duties of the TA/Counselor include assisting with lecture and lab courses and mentoring team research projects. Counselor duties of the TA/Counselor include living in the same dormitory as the PGSS students, ensuring that students adhere to the PGSS disciplinary rules, providing tutorial help in the academic program, and arranging and conducting social activities. Co-Directors of Residential Life (a.k.a. Head Counselors) are responsible for overseeing the TA/Counselors and fostering a safe, collaborative living and learning environment for the PGSS students.
TA/Counselor applicants should have finished their sophomore year by the start of the summer program. Consideration will also be given to extraordinarily qualified first-year applicants. Preference will be given to applicants with strong academic records and strong social skills. Prior experience with PGSS or a similar summer program is preferred, but not required. Applicants for Co-Director of Residential Life should have graduated from college or university by the start of the summer program. Further information is available at the PGSS web site: <http://sciences.pa-gov-schools.org/>.

Stipend for five-and-one-half week period:
\$2,500 for new TA/Counselors, \$2,750 for returning TA/Counselors
\$3,000 for Co-Director of Residential Life
Housing is included (in the PGSS dorm) as well as a food allowance.
Duties begin Wednesday, June 26, 2019, end Sunday, August 4, 2019
Applications are available from the PGSS Office in DH A301 or may be downloaded (pdf format) from the PGSS web site: <http://sciences.pa-gov-schools.org/>
Contact the PGSS Program Office at (412) 268-6669 or e-mail pgss@cmu.edu
Application Deadline: March 31, 2019
(Applications may be accepted after the deadline until all positions are filled.)

“We’re dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It’s a big deal.”

Eric Topol

Scripps Research Translational Institute

leave for the past few months. Gene editing outside of lab research is outlawed or restricted in many countries, including China.
The CRISPR gene editing technique used by He was developed in 2013, and while its potential has been widely praised, it is still considered experimental. Many unintended mutations, capable of causing genetic problems later in life, including cancer, are associated with the procedure. As explained by Feng Zhang, one of the key inventors of CRISPR, “when you change one thing, something else gets changed, too.”
Several scientists have reviewed the experimental materials that He provided to the public and said the tests are

the forms to each family “line by line.” He also promised to provide insurance coverage for any children conceived through the project and medical follow-up until the children reach adulthood.
According to He, the parents involved refuse to be identified or interviewed. He also would not disclose where the parents are from or where the work was done.
Professor He recognized early on that his work would cause much controversy. However, he believes “families need this technology,” He explained.
If the treatment causes unwanted side effects or harm, “I would feel the same pain as they do and it’s going to be my own responsibility.”

Neuroscience needs data science

From **NEUROSCIENCE**, A6

How are you going to incorporate cross-disciplinarity in the institute?

It’s really fun — one of the things that already happens naturally within CMU is collaboration across these different fields, so it’s very easy to come in as a director into CMU and just nurture what is already happening. For instance, the people who do brain-computer interface include people on the biology side who collaborate incredibly tightly with people from biomedical engineering and electrical and computer engineering. A lot of what my job is, in coming into this, is to make sure that those people who want to collaborate don’t have things standing in their way.

Another thing that we’re doing is holding small meetings of faculty who have more interest in talking about other ways we can build collaboration. We’ll be holding some meetings open to the public that are scientifically intense workshops, and we’ll be focusing them on areas where there’s already a lot of strength at CMU. We will also be bringing in some external speakers to interact with the great scientists we already have here.

You also mentioned technological approaches, such as machine learning and data-

driven science. Do you believe these types of techniques are the future of the field?

I believe it’s a really important tool to help us understand the neural code in data that are being generated today. It used to be that people who are measuring from the brain would look at a single cell, and figure out how a single cell reacts to different inputs. From that they’d try and figure out what that single cell was encoding. Now, people are up to measuring thousands of units at a time, and that’s a tiny percentage of what’s going on in the brain. Trying to figure out from observing their firing pattern, for instance — what mental plan is being encoded at a particular instance — is a challenge. We need to have people in machine learning working hand in hand with neuroscientists to understand the kind of information likely to be meaningful in this data.

You mentioned different levels of complexity: from single cells to the whole brain. Do you find that integrating these different levels of complexity is a challenge?

Most scientists in academia tend to study one small problem — one sub-sub-subfield of some bigger field — and in neuroscience that’s especially true. There are people who work at the single unit level; there are people who work at the

network level; there are people who work at the whole brain level. There are people who come at it from a behavioral standpoint and try and relate that to the brain. And all of these different levels are intricate and complicated and difficult to work on. What’s fun about CMU is people work across those scales pretty naturally, which is unusual.

What role do you believe the new neuroscience institute can play in the field of neuroscience as a whole?

CMU isn’t a huge university — if you look just across the street at Pitt, there are so many more people doing neuroscience than CMU will ever have. We can’t compete in sheer numbers, yet we are going to play a big role. All the things that CMU is known for in the external world are exactly the tools that neuroscience needs right now at this junction: technology and analysis and machine learning and data science and statistics. And that is why I’m excited to come to CMU.

I’m an electrical engineer by training, so I came at neuroscience from an information theory kind of viewpoint: what information is in the brain, at what moment, in what place. That kind of automatic analytic approach to understanding the data that comes from the brain is what I think the field needs, and what CMU can do uniquely.

Defining extremism

From **EXTREMISM**, A6

These crisis narratives can range in severity from conspiracy — the idea that the out-group secretly controls outcomes for the in-group — all the way to apocalypse, where the out-group is seen as a threat to all of humanity.

The final piece is the solution, where extremist groups present away to resolve the crisis. Solutions can range from non-violent harassment all the way to genocide, with the severity and extremeness increasing along the spectrum.

So why is it so important to reduce extremism to objective components? It opens up the possibility of combating extremism online with artificial intelligences rather than human monitoring.

A team of humans could never sort through all the hundreds of thousands of text posts and messages sent online every day. By training AIs to recognize the elements of extremism, we can monitor extremist dialogue before it becomes an issue.

As Berger demonstrated later in his presentation, all of these abstract ideas can be reduced to concept maps and frameworks, which in turn can be fed to natural language

processing systems and threat detection AIs who can do the heavy lifting.

After the talk, the audience raised some intriguing questions, such as if reactions to extremism can themselves be considered extreme.

Another great question from the audience was whether or not the current administration has played a role in escalating extremism. Without naming any names, Berger explained that the current political rhetoric fulfills the identity and crisis portion of the extremism cycle — such as Trump categorizing immigrants as the out-group threat — without providing any solutions. When people are left to their own solutions, the results can be catastrophic.

This though-provoking lecture explained how vague concepts can be reduced to functional definitions, so long as the definitions are carefully thought out and supported by legitimate evidence. As we move into an age where subjectivity is used frequently as a defense for hate, this approach is vital to the viability of our society.

Only by identifying the harmful agents can we curtail their impact, and machines can help us achieve what people alone cannot.

Enjoying the bitter taste of coffee is in your genes

ROSE EILENBERG
Staffwriter

A recent study published in the journal Scientific Reports found that sensitivity to the bitter taste of caffeine increased people’s coffee consumption. Individuals with a specific version of a gene that increases sensitivity to bitter flavors tend to enjoy coffee, researchers found. In fact, people with the highest genetic ability to detect bitterness are about 20 percent likely to drink four or more cups of coffee a day.

Scientists have differing opinions on the evolutionary purpose of bitterness perception. “The conventional answer is that taste is a sentinel that protects us from harm. It allows us to sense toxins, poisons” explains Dr. Danielle Reed, a researcher at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, in the report.

The study examined data from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, a repository of genetic data used for medical research.

Participants also provided information about their health and lifestyle.

“You’d expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee,” said Marilyn Cornelis, who is an assistant professor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and one of the study’s authors. Why then do they like it so much?

Reed explains that some people think “taste is a little more nuanced than that ... we often have the idea that bitters are poisonous, but in a sense, bitters are also medicines. The bitter perception system is very sensitive because a little bit of bitter might be a good thing.”

The latter view might better explain the results of this study. The authors believe that people with genetic variations that provide extra sensitivity to the taste of caffeine learn to associate it with its benefits — namely staying awake. Indeed, Cornelis posits that tea drinkers do not like bitter flavors

despite their sensitivity to it, so they reject coffee and achieve similar behavioral effects by drinking tea.

While it remains unclear exactly why people choose coffee, tea, or other caffeinated beverages, this study shows how much of an impact genetics can have on even people’s beverage flavor preferences.



Courtesy of Rafael Saldaña via Flickr

Tartan Fantasy Football: Tracy Le’s futbol stays on top



Courtesy of Danny Wild via Flickr Wikimedia Commons

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers was a good scorer for Mattson’s newz, but couldn’t lead her to the win.



Courtesy of Melvin A via Flickr Wikimedia Commons

Le’s futbol continued its winning streak, with Panthers quarterback Cam Newton scoring 22.54 points.

MARIKA YANG
Sports Editor

Welcome back to our Tartan Fantasy Football League recap! As it has been the norm this season, I will be recapping the action of our league in the past two weeks.

As the Sports Editor, it’s been extremely embarrassing to see Visual Editor Tracy Le, who at the start of the season didn’t know a quarterback from a cornerback and had never watched a football game before, perch at the top of our league standings. Oh well. But since this is our last recap of the year in The Tartan’s final issue of 2018, I want to express how amazing it has been being the Sports Editor this year. I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished, and I’m excited for what comes next!

In Week 11, Le’s team futbol maintained its top spot in a high scoring affair over Photo Editor Lisa Qian’s team, who stayed in seventh place. In the most hotly contested matchup, Operations Manager Adam Tunnard’s team Slugs crept by News Editor Nora Mattson’s team newz, winning by less than four points and moving up in the standings to fourth place. The closest matchup of the week was between Publisher Caleb Miller’s team Last Manning Standing and Pillbox Editor Michelle Madlansacay’s team mmichelle123, which was decided by just 0.06 points. Miller’s team came out on top to continue his winning head-to-head streak

against mmichelle123. And finally, Assistant Pillbox Editor Izzy Sio’s team GOAT but Ironically defeated my team, Gin and Bear It. The loss doesn’t feel so bad because Sio is one of the few in the league who actually understands football and knows how to log onto her *NFL.com* account. Figures.

Week 12 saw most matchups ending up as expected, with one surprising upset. This caused some shakeups in the middle of the standings, but in the end, Le’s futbol remains in the lead going into the final weeks of the season, while Mattson’s newz remains in the cellar.

Last Manning Standing over TARTAN FANTASY, 134.98 to 112.00

This matchup between Miller’s second-ranked Last Manning Standing and Qian’s seventh-ranked TARTAN FANTASY ended as expected. Leading the way to victory for Miller’s team was Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster, who had 189 receiving yards and a touchdown for 24.90 points. Not far behind were Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Jameis Winston with 22.88 points and Jacksonville Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette with 22.80 points.

Qian’s team TARTAN FANTASY boasted some high performances, including the highest of either team, 35.70 from Carolina Panthers running back Christian McCafferty, who finished the

week with 125 yards rushing, 112 receiving, one rushing touchdown, and one receiving touchdown. Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson put up 29.40 points and Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliot added 20.30 points, but they made up a large majority of the team’s total points. None of the other four offensive players cracked four points, leading to TARTAN FANTASY’s downfall.

mmichelle123 over Slugs, 87.48 to 73.42

Madlansacay’s mmichelle123 bounced back from the previous week’s close loss to defeat Tunnard’s team Slugs. With the win, mmichelle123 moves up two spots to fourth place, while Slugs drops to fifth place.

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins led Madlansacay’s mmichelle123 with 27.36 points from 342 yards through the air, 17 yards rushing, and three touchdowns. Other than Cousins, none of her other starters broke 20 points; Philadelphia Eagles tight end Zach Ertz was her second highest scorer, with only 15.10 points, and one of her players didn’t score any points.

However, mmichelle123 racked up enough to beat Tunnard’s Slugs, which struggled with scoring as well. The team’s highest scoring player was Los Angeles Chargers running back Melvin Gordon, who put up 18.60 points after rushing for 61 yards

and two touchdowns. Two players were scoreless, including the Jaguars defense, while four others failed to score double-digit points.

GOAT but Ironically over newz, 123.92 to 86.86

Sio’s team GOAT but Ironically continues to improve, this week rising to third place after a strong win over Mattson’s newz.

After starting the season with three straight losses, Sio has definitely steered her team in the right direction. In Week 12, while the team didn’t have any standout performances, GOAT but Ironically’s starters all contributed. All but one offensive starter scored at over 13 points, and the Baltimore Ravens defense collected a whopping 18 points.

Mattson’s newz had some bright spots, including 26.20 points from New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, who had 142 total yards from scrimmage and two touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving. Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers also had a good week, with 20.66 points from 259 passing yards and three touchdowns. But little production from anyone else hindered the team, including zero points from both the kicker and the defense.

futbol over Gin and Bear It, 112.04 to 68.50

Le’s futbol decided to run up the score on my team (not

that that’s literally possible in fantasy football), beating my team by over 40 points. In the team’s fourth win in a row, Cleveland Browns running back Nick Chubb scored 24.80 points from 84 rushing yards, 44 receiving yards, a rushing touchdown, and a receiving touchdown. Panthers quarterback Cam Newton put up 22.54 points from 256 passing yards, 63 rushing yards, and two touchdowns.

Not that futbol needed much to beat my team, Gin and Bear It. I missed the time to bench my quarterback, Jared Goff of the Los Angeles Rams who was on a bye, so I got zero points from the only position that has been reliable for my team. Usually consistent Steelers running back James Conner had a mediocre week, finishing with only 7.50 points, and Washington Redskins running back Adrian Peterson proved to be a bad pickup, as he scored only 4.40 points. At least I’m not in last place like I was earlier in the season — I’m perfectly content with sixth place.

So that’s it for our Tartan Fantasy Football League in 2018! Don’t worry, we’ll be back in Jan. 2019 with the final recap of what went down during the last weeks of the regular season, and then how the playoffs played out. I hope that by the end of the season, Mattson will be able to name a tight end not named Rob Gronkowski, and Qian will know that “running back” is a two-word phrase.



**Optical Outlet
is Now Part of
LAPPEN EYE CARE
Pittsburgh**

**Second Location • Now Accepting New Patients
Dr. Jonathan Lappen, Optometrist**

Now Provides:

- Comprehensive Medical Eye Care (Glaucoma/Cataracts/Macular Degeneration/Diabetic Retinopathy Management)
- Same Day Eye Emergency Services
- Total Family Vision Care Including Exams for Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses
- Outside Prescriptions Welcome
- Most Vision and Medical Insurance Accepted:

NVA DAVIS	VBA EYEMED	VSP UPMC-VISION
----------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------

Call for your appointment today

(412) 421-9274 • www.lappeneyecare.com

4048 Beechwood Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15217



Write For Sports!
Interviews,
Sporting Events,
Writing Experience!
sports@thetartan.org

Sports

After a turbulent week, the only thing the NFL can do is change

MARIKA YANG
Sports Editor

In less than a week, two scandals hit the NFL, with both revealing the foundational corruption in the most popular sports league in America. On Tuesday, linebacker Reuben Foster was picked up by the Washington Redskins after being cut by the San Francisco 49ers following his arrest for first-degree misdemeanor domestic violence battery. On Friday, TMZ published a video of star running back Kareem Hunt hitting and kicking a woman in a hotel room. He was soon cut by the Kansas City Chiefs. Both these incidents have illuminated just how much the NFL hasn't changed, and just how much it doesn't care.

Foster has a history of domestic violence. In February, he was arrested for a charge of domestic violence against his ex-girlfriend. She later said she fabricated the claims, but she was the same victim of last week's incident in Tampa Bay, when Foster was in town for the 49ers upcoming game. Washington's quick pickup of Foster has been met with severe criticism, and I echo the same sentiments. What are they doing? According to the victim's lawyer, the team didn't even bother to contact her to ask about what happened, indicating what has become quite clear: they just don't care. And the fact that an NFL team so openly shows just how little they care about domestic violence is chilling, and to be frank, sickening.

But the biggest domestic violence scandal to rock the NFL since the Ray Rice case in 2014 is what happened on Friday. Just like with Rice, TMZ obtained and published the video of Kareem Hunt from a February incident. The Chiefs cut him, but that is just doing the bare minimum. This is not a time to praise them, and there never should be. They had the police report since February and didn't do anything. Who would want to part ways with a 23-year-old star running back in the middle of a Super Bowl run? The language in the team's announcement is also quite disturbing, implying that they cut him for lying about the incident, and not his actual actions.

The teams in both cases are trying to wash off the stains on their hands, but the real issue here is with the NFL itself. Unfortunately, violent behavior against women is nothing new



Anna Boyle/Art Editor

in football — it's nothing new in society. But since 2014, when TMZ published a video of Rice beating his then-fiancé, the league has tried to put up airs of changing, of being different. They introduced a stricter domestic violence and assault policy, but it has proven to be insufficient and broken. The league, a multi-billion dollar institution, can't seem to get access to an important video before TMZ does, or maybe the NFL just doesn't care.

The NFL is a business, and when there are great, talented players doing amazing things, the league is producing a better product. When the product is better and money is rolling in, they are often forgiven; forgiven for past mistakes, for current ones, and for future ones. They get a fine or a slap on the wrist. They are suspended for a couple games, or fade from public knowledge. But that doesn't mean the NFL has changed.

Yes, there are differences between the Rice and Hunt cases. Rice was initially charged and arrested for the initial crime while Hunt never was. There was evidence that the NFL saw the video of Rice, but did nothing about it until it was released to outcry and backlash. Even if the NFL hadn't seen the Hunt video before Friday, as sources say, it is damning that TMZ is better at investigating the issues of NFL employees than the NFL.

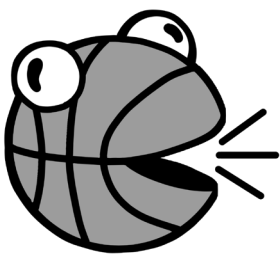
The NFL carries international influence and clout. It's connected to the richest people in the world. Its players and coaches are household names. For six months, they rule the news, the TV, and the pop culture world. The NFL is such a behemoth that it believes it can withstand scandal, which it has. From the Rice case to the

anthem-kneeling policy, the NFL stands tall, because America just wants to watch football. Americans want to wear their colors and jerseys, get drunk with their friends, and enjoy three hours of fun and escape.

Sometimes I wonder why I still watch football. It's an extremely violent sport. Most of my family and friends either don't understand it or don't care. It leads to brain damage and horrible physical injuries for players. But I grew up in Baltimore, a football town. Everyone watched the game on Sunday, purple was everywhere, and sometimes we'd get purple icing on our Dunkin' Donuts. I watched the Ray Rice case unfold, but I also watched the Ravens win a Super Bowl. There's nothing like the euphoric moment of watching and experiencing your team win. It's pure joy, however fleeting. It's silly, it's trivial. But no matter how much our team breaks our hearts, no matter how many concussions we witness or how many domestic violence scandals pepper the headlines, football continues to roll along.

I love football. I think I always will. But weeks like these remind me that in the end, it's just football. There are many more important things, like the victims of violence and abuse. If the NFL continues to employ these offenders, the league is sending a message that victims don't matter, that money is more important than their lives, that domestic violence isn't serious. If the NFL does nothing, if it stands by and only acts for its public reputation and monetary interests, it sends the same message. If the NFL doesn't change, then it will have one less viewer. And I don't think I'm alone.

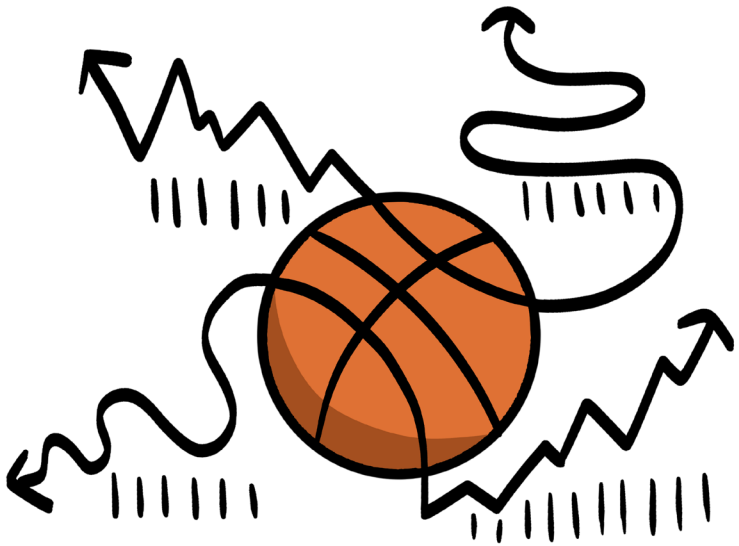
Penalty Shouts: Nate Silver stops by to chat



MATTHEW BENUSA
Assistant Sports Editor

This is Penalty Shouts, The Tartan's sports column inspired by the The New Yorker's column Daily Shouts. This satire-fueled column will focus on anything and everything funny in the sports world that is deserving of our comedic attention.

Earlier this week, the NCAA released comically bad men's college basketball power rankings (NET) using a new algorithm. Undeclared Ohio State University earned the number one spot after tough wins against the Samford Bulldogs, Cleveland State Vikings, and Fort Wayne Mastodons, and the 8–0 Loyola Marymount Lions are in the top 10 after their grueling schedule against Florida A&M, Central Connecticut State, and Bethesda University of the National Christian College Athletic Association, or NCCA. It all feels like a poorly written sketch for *Key and Peele*. However, renowned political analyst and sports statistician god Nate Silver, founder and editor-in-chief of statistics-driven website FiveThirtyEight, has come to every fan's rescue again to tell us just how stupid the rankings truly are. Penalty Shouts sat down with Silver for a short interview about the rankings and what they mean.



Anna Boyle/Art Editor

An atrocity exhibition: Penguins struggle in November

BRAD PUSKAR
Staffwriter

The Pittsburgh Penguins were unable to come up with any points for a second straight game on Saturday, as they lost to the Philadelphia Flyers by four goals to two. After a strong start that featured another Sidney Crosby goal, as well as Riley Sheahan's second goal in three games, the Pens could not score in the third period, and the Flyers took home a decisive victory.

It was the third time since the start of November that the Pens have lost multiple games in a row. Since their last win, only two Penguins, Crosby and Sheahan, were able to put the puck into the back of the net. Last night seemed to be the same old problems, where the Pens continued to give up odd man breakaways, and the Flyers took advantage. It seems fair to say that if the Penguins, currently in sixth place in the metropolitan division, can't flip the switch soon, then a few big names on the roster are going to find themselves on the trading block.

This month of November was atrocious for the Penguins. They've lost 10 games out of 14, and look generally disinterested in playing

successfully. Three of those losses have been in overtime or a shootout, so they have managed to grab a few points along the way, even though it hasn't been enough to change their bleak outlook. A lot of these games were lost in the third period, and they ended up as multiple goal losses on an empty netter by the other team. Some of this might be attributed to the Pens losing goaltender Matt Murray to injury and replacing him with two backups, Casey DeSmith and Tristan Jarry. Put a strong goaltender in net, and the Pens might take more of those to overtime and then to victory. November was a bad month, but with some roster shuffling, it could be an anomaly.

Jim Rutherford should be looking to trade away some of the Pens' considerable forward depth to give the team any semblance of a defense, or perhaps a proven, veteran goaltender who can mentor Matt Murray, Casey DeSmith, and Tristan Jarry. Beyond Kris Letang, who also looked horrible last Saturday against the Flyers. Nobody on the Penguins' defensive line has been able to do much of anything. I don't think that we're seeing the end of the Crosby and Malkin era, but the Pens need to build up

their defense, or they will surely end up out of playoff contention. Since the beginning of the season there's been a complete disregard for team defense, with the forwards lazily skating back for defensive help, as well as a lackluster forward attack after dumping the puck.

There are glimmers of hope,

however. In the game against the Winnipeg Jets just last week, the Pens looked like a different team. They played hard on the boards and won loose puck battles. I'm not a fan of calling it a matter of effort, but it does really seem like the team is uninterested in playing more often than not. I still trust Mike Sullivan as head coach,

but don't be surprised if there's a coaching change soon in the future. The Penguins are a team with a limited window for success, and while firing a head coach who has won two Stanley Cups in the last three years may not inspire success in future coaches, it might soon be the only move left to make to spark something in the team.



Courtesy of Heather M Barry via Flickr Wikimedia Commons

The Penguins struggled last Saturday against the Flyers, as their defense and goaltending lagged in the month of November.

pillbox

The Tartan's Art & Culture Magazine



12.3.18 • B6 Holiday Magic • B8 *Fantastic Beasts* • B12 KPDC

table of contents

4

Editors' Favorites of the Year

6

Holiday Magic: Let it Glow!

12

KPDC: Nightlife

3

Advice for Awkward People: End of the Semester

3

Brunch Buddies: Eatunique

7

Marvel's *Daredevil*

8

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Filmmaking

10

Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

11

Movies in November

14

Imagine Dragons' *Origins* Review

16

Horoscopes: the signs as Thanksgiving dishes

18

Comics: On brain uploads, fear of ghosts, and the holidays

19

Weekly Calendar

Publisher Caleb Miller **Editor-In-Chief** Valene Mezmin
Pillbox Editors Michelle Madlansacay and Alexandra Yu **Comics Editor** Emeline Fromont
Visual Editors Tracy Le and Paola Mathus **Copy Manager** Wilson Ekern
Cover Photo Lexin Yuan

Advice for Awkward People

Michelle Madlansacay | Pillbox Editor

Dear Michelle,

It's the last week of the semester and I have never been so stressed! It's ridiculous how much work I have right now, I don't think the workload has ever been this bad for me. Or let me clarify, I've always had a lot of work. But at least all the deadlines for my assignments were spread out in the week, and not due on the same day! This happened to me a couple of times this week, and it's all just left me feeling extremely overwhelmed. I don't know how I can go on to finish the semester. Do you think you could help me out? Tell me what to do!!

Thanks,

Definitely Overwhelmed, Never Ending

Dear DONE,

The first thing I have to say is hang in there. You're so so close and the final stretch of the semester is usually going to be the most difficult for everyone. I completely understand what you're going through, and so does almost every other student on campus. Please keep that in mind. We're all going through this together, and struggling with friends can actually be a pretty helpful way to deal with this stressful time. The first thing I would advise you to do is to talk to your closest friends or family members if you start feeling really overwhelmed. They can provide you with comfort and more advice on how to best deal with your stress. Reaching out to your friends is especially helpful because they'll likely be able to relate to you, and you all can work together to find ways for making this situation a little better.

On those days or nights when you have so many things due the next day, something that can help your mental organization is to allot an hour or so to work on each assignment that you have.

That can help distribute your time and efforts, and also help you make progress on all your assignments. Also, please prioritize taking breaks. You don't want to completely burn yourself out while you're working.

I know it's hard right now, but you're going to get through this. This probably also isn't the first time you've dealt with a stressful situation. But just remember to stay relaxed, stay focused, and ask for help when you need it, either from your friends, family, or even your teachers — it's definitely not a bad thing to ask for an extension. And trust that you'll make it through to the end of the semester in one piece. Have confidence in yourself and your abilities, and know that everything will all be fine in the end.

Best,

Michelle

Brunch Buddies: Eatunique

Consistent, reliable, and fresh!

Marika Yang | Sports Editor

Nestled in the middle of South Craig Street, Eatunique is a cute cafe that offers a variety of sandwiches, soups, and salads. It's my go-to place when I'm near Craig Street, and it's quite convenient for students who live in the Oakland area off Fifth Avenue. It's extremely consistent and reliable for a fresh and filling lunch in the middle of a busy day.

The location: Craig Street is home to several food places, including Union Grill, Ali Baba, Little Asia, Lulu's Noodles, and Sushi Fuku. Eatunique satisfies a Panera-sized hole for a fast and fresh American-style lunch made from real ingredients. It's close to campus, close to several off-campus housing options, and is a short walk from several bus stops along the 61 and 71 bus routes.

The food: The real star here is the sandwiches. Eatunique offers several options off the grill, like the Great Rinaldi, an interesting combination of meat loaf, fried egg, and barbeque sauce, or the Spicy Grilled Cheese and Bacon, which is made with multiple cheeses that is complemented by the sourness of banana peppers. They have several vegetarian options, like the Malibu Avocado Burger or Southwest Sizzler, and deli options as well.

The vibe: Casual. Eatunique is a simple cafe. It's nothing fancy — don't expect a hipster setting or a cute rustic layout. But what it doesn't have in aesthetic, it makes up in ample seating. There are several different areas with tables, and it's a great place to meet up with friends or find your own table.

Lit or Nah: I wouldn't necessarily characterize Eatunique as "lit," but it's a great option if you're looking for something near campus when you're sick of the on-campus options. But the real kicker here, beyond the convenience and food, is that they take DineX. Yes, they take DineX! That makes this lit times a thousand.

Editors' Favorites of 2018

This is a compilation of everything of The Tartan staff did, watched, listened to, and read in 2018. Note: not everything listed is a 2018 release

List of Staff in Article

Caleb Miller - Publisher
Valene Mezmin - Editor-in-Chief
Adam Tunnard - Operations Manager
Nora Mattson - News Editor
Madeline Kim - Forum Editor
Frank Hu - Assistant Forum Editor
Marika Yang - Sports Editor
Matt Benusa - Assistant Sports Editor
Emma Flickinger - SciTech Editor
Alexandra Yu - Pillbox Editor
Michelle Madlansacay - Pillbox Editor
Isabella Sio - Assistant Pillbox Editor
Sujay Utkarsh - Assistant Pillbox Editor
Anna Boyle - Art Editor
Tracy Le - Visual Editor
Paola Mathus - Visual Editor
Wilson Ekern - Copy Manager

Favorite Book of 2018

Children of Blood and Bone - Sujay
Wade in the Water - Matt
Her Body and Other Parties - Wilson
A People's History of Computing - Adam
An American Marriage - Anna
They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us - Paola
The Hate U Give - Madeline
Jane Eyre - Valene
Girls of Paper and Fire - Isabella

Favorite Restaurant of 2018

Smoke Barbeque Taqueria - Sujay
Gaucho Parrilo Argentina - Marika
BRGR - Matt
Szechuan Express - Wilson
Legume - Adam & Nora
Burgatory - Anna
My friend's fridges - Paola
Mercurios - Madeline
Dijla Cafe & Restaurant - Michelle
Stack'd - Frank

Favorite TV Show of 2018

Atlanta - Caleb
Mr. Robot - Sujay
Daredevil - Marika
Maniac - Matt
The X Files - Wilson
Documentary Now! - Adam
One Day At a Time - Anna
Pose - Paola
Bob's Burgers - Madeline
The Crown - Valene
Superstore - Nora
She-Ra and the Princesses of Power - Emma
The Bold Type - Michelle
Rick and Morty - Frank
Brooklyn 99 - Tracy
The Good Place - Alexandra

Favorite Movie of 2018

A Star is Born/Mission Impossible: Fallout - Caleb
First Reformed - Sujay
Black Panther - Marika, Madeline, Isabella, and Valene
Mandy - Matt
Raw - Wilson
Isle of Dogs - Adam, Nora, Tracy, and Michelle
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse/Incredibles 2 - Anna
BlacKKKlansman - Paola
Ant-Man and the Wasp - Frank
Crazy Rich Asians - Alexandra

Favorite Event of 2018

Cornell Model UN Conference - Sujay
Row House's Midnight Horror Films - Matt
Spring Carnival - Wilson
Ho9909 at Rex Theater - Adam
Eagles Win Superbowl LII - Anna
Frank Ocean Comes Out of Hiding - Paola
The Wrecks Panic Vertigo Tour - Izzy
Detroit '67 - Frank
Evolve World Tour - Alexandra
Tartan Productions - Valene

Favorite Album of 2018

KOD by J. Cole - Caleb
Automata I/II by Between the Buried and Me - Sujay
Historian by Lucy Dacus - Matt
Some Rap Songs by Earl Sweatshirt - Wilson
Crumbling by Mid-Air Thief - Adam
Pray for the Wicked by Panic! At the Disco - Anna and Alexandra
Negro Swan by Blood Orange - Paola
Bloom by Troye Sivan - Madeline
Anastasia (Original Broadway Cast Recording) - Valene
DAYTONA by Pusha T - Nora
Dirty Computer by Janelle Monae - Emma
Panic Vertigo by The Wrecks - Isabella
Giant Steps by John Coltrane - Frank
Apricot Princess by Rex Orange County - Tracy

Favorite Song of 2018

"Batphone" by Arctic Monkeys - Caleb
"Julia" by meWithoutYou - Sujay
"Be Alright" by Dean Lewis - Marika
"Come for Me" by Sunflower Bean - Matt
"Get the F**k Off My D**k" by Vince Staples - Wilson
"Desert Horse" by Melody's Echo Chamber - Adam
"Hunger" by Florence + the Machine - Anna
"Side X" by Standing on the Corner - Paola
"IDOL" by BTS - Madeline
"Thank u, next" by Ariana Grande - Valene
"ICY GRL" by Saweetie (2017) - Nora
"Worst Nites" by Foster the People - Michelle
"King of the Clouds" by Panic! At the Disco - Isabella
"Sing, Sing, Sing" by Benny Goodman - Frank
"Happiness" by Rex Orange County - Tracy
"Only" by Imagine Dragons - Alexandra

Favorite Article (Any Publication) of 2018

"Post Malone is the perfect pop star for this American moment. That's not a compliment." - Sujay
"A College QB's Suicide. A Family's Search for Answers" - Marika
"What Bullets Do to Bodies" - Matt
"Dystopias Now" - Wilson
"Detailed Maps Show How Neighborhoods Shape Children for Life" - Adam
"Gitty's First Month: The Heroic Ascendence of a 'Ghastly Empty-Eyed Muppet'" - Anna
"Resist, Refuse" - Paola
"Bruno Latour, the Post-Truth Philosopher, Mounts a Defense of Science" - Emma
"How do we talk about the Nagini casting in *Fantastic Beasts*?" - Frank
Can't choose - Madeline and Alexandra

Favorite Tartan Article of 2018

"Mac Miller's Blue Slide Park vigil" - Caleb and Tracy
"Be Here Now" - Sujay
"Nassar case shifts discourse in sexual assault" - Marika
"Humanities fall by the wayside at CMU" - Matt
"An ode to a mascot: something Gitty this way comes" - Wilson
"Astronauts find hole in spacecraft, plug it with thumb" - Adam
"Out in the sciences: 'without limits and without fear'" - Anna and Valene
"2018 midterm voting guide" - Paola
"Predictive policing in Pittsburgh" - Nora
"How can AI analyze online extremism?" - Emma
"Movies in November" - Michelle
"Sierra Burgess is a terrible person" - Isabella
"Jeffree Star: Why we have to stop waiting for people to change" - Frank
Can't choose - Madeline and Alexandra

On behalf of everyone at The Tartan, thank you for reading!

Holiday Magic: Let it Glow!

Phipps celebrates the holiday season with their annual winter lights show

article and photos by Frank Hu | Assistant Forum Editor

This year, Phipps Conservatory is pulling out all the stops for their Winter holiday installment, appropriately called “Holiday Magic: Let it Glow!” As the name suggests, the decorations focused on using lights and colors to convey a festive mood, something that is immediately clear from the way the Conservatory is illuminated at night.

Inside, things just get better. When I visited on the last Friday of Thanksgiving Break, Phipps — which to me was always very green — looked completely transformed, resembling a Christmas wonderland more than a botanical garden. Countless Christmas trees, wrapped in brilliant lights and ornaments, were dotted throughout, and fairy lights hung from the ceiling. Even the workers who were surveying the crowd and acting as guides were dressed in elf hats and Christmas lights. Everywhere I looked, people were crowded taking pictures, giving the otherwise spacious rooms a very packed and cozy feeling.

Continuing through the different rooms, the decorations became increasingly whimsical. There were interactive diorama displays showing Phipps’ history in the South Conservatory, a giant gingerbread house, gargantuan presents, and posh tea sets decorating the Serpentine Room, penguins (not real ones) enjoying themselves in the East Room, and the massive Fir tree in the Victoria Room. Other rooms, such as the Orchid Room, Fern Room, and Stove Room had minimal decorations, but it was a pleasure nonetheless to see the colorful flowers and the carefully curated flora.

The most impressive exhibit, however, was not inside the Conservatory but outside it in the Outdoor Garden. I had never visited the Outdoor Garden before, so it was doubly shocking to see this previously unexplored outdoor space transformed into a field of lights. With curiously shaped light sculptures, strings of colorful LEDs, and even more trees both real and fake, there was something to look at wherever you turned. With the saturation of families and couples, the atmosphere felt warm and encompassing despite the cold, with hot chocolate and other treats available from vendors set up around Phipps. Admittedly, I felt a little out of place wandering solo among the crowds, but it was all well worth the visit.

Holiday Magic is around until Jan. 6th, so I would recommend going before leaving for break. When I went, the event was not free even for Carnegie Mellon students because it was the opening night and thus required the purchase of a timed ticket, but things might have changed by now. Despite the price, it was a wonderful experience, and one that I highly recommend. Whether it’s with friends, a date, or by yourself, a visit to Phipps is sure to help lessen Winter’s cold and put you in a festive mood.



DAREDEVIL SEASON 3

written by Sujay Utkarsh | Assistant Pillbox Editor

art by Anna Boyle | Art Editor

Recently, Netflix cancelled *Daredevil*, despite it being very critically acclaimed as well as a fan favorite; and earlier in the year, they also cancelled *Iron Fist* and *Luke Cage*. It's clear that Netflix is winding down their corner of the Marvel Universe, which they cited was due to creative differences. But it's baffling that they are doing this. These shows, especially *Daredevil*, were incredibly successful. But given Disney's plans to create their own streaming service for their own content, it was only a matter of time before the Netflix universe came to an end. They will never say it's because of Disney, but everyone knows it's that. So, in honor of its cancellation, I figured I would finally gush about season three of *Daredevil*, which I have been wanting to do since October.

Season 3 was easily the best season of all the Marvel Netflix shows. After a lull for the Netflix shows in the last year, season 3 came out swinging and knocked it out of the park. This is why the show's cancellation blew my mind. They completely nailed it this season, and yet it got cancelled. Almost everything about it was perfect. This is the first season of all the Netflix Marvel shows where I didn't feel the pacing all that much. There were a few elements that could have been cut here and there, but there wasn't a single filler episode for once. Every subplot had something to do with the main story or contributed to a character's arc throughout the season. Everything was tight and fresh, and there was a constant sense of forward momentum that made the season really intense.

On the subject of intensity, let's talk about the show's action. This season raised the bar for action on TV. I can name every single fight scene in every episode, because each one was a standout. This season made a smart decision by only including one big fight per episode. This made each one more creative and intense, and they all had narrative purpose. There was one fight in episode four that floored me. It was an eleven minute single shot that transitioned between a fist fight, a plot-forwarding conversation, and a full scale prison riot. It's one of the best action sequences I've ever seen, and I don't think I can watch any other action scene on TV or film without comparing it to this show now.

The other thing that made all the action intense was just how much it made you care about all the characters. Matt Murdock's crisis of faith creates a very compelling arc for him in the season that ended in a satisfying manner. You really feel his struggle to balance his duty as Daredevil, his life as Matt Murdock, and the religious belief that drives him. He was also incredibly underpowered this season after a devastating injury he sustained in *The Defenders* crossover miniseries, which meant he was in constant danger and I felt like he could die at any moment. He is matched by Wilson Fisk, AKA Kingpin, who is now second to the Joker as one of the best on-screen comic book villains. He is menacing and calculating, with an incredible amount of depth that has been built since the first season. You get how he ticks, and while you realize it's horrible, it's also fascinating to watch him. He manipulates the season's other villain, Benjamin Poindexter, AKA Bullseye. His character finds the right balance between scary and tragic, and you honestly feel bad for his character as much as you hate him.

There honestly was no weak character this season. Returning side characters Foggy Nelson and Karen Page, both of whom I typically found annoying in the other seasons, were given a lot to do and had amazing character arcs. Ray Nadeem, the FBI agent watching over Wilson Fisk, is another side character who could have been handled in the most cliché and boring way possible. But the show avoids that and instead gives him excellent motivations, and as an Indian-American, I really appreciated the added details and accuracy of his family life. Father Lantom and Sister Maggie were great foils to Matt's increasing cynicism with religion, and they provided this season with some of the best dialogue exchanges.

It's a shame that this show is cancelled now because there was so much potential for the show to get even better than it already is. But as it stands, season 3 is the final season of *Daredevil*, and it was a near perfect and fitting conclusion to an amazing, but flawed, show.



FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF FILMMAKING

written by Izzy Sio | Contributing Editor
art by Rebecca Enright | Staff Artist
layout by Tracy Le | Visual Editor

Over Thanksgiving break, I finally saw the highly anticipated *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* with my dad and some family friends. It was a last-minute decision, but overall they seemed to enjoy the movie and make the most of the night.

I, however, walked out heated and angry.

Rather than telling the story of the thrilling global adventures of magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) like its predecessor, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* follows a chase after powerful magical fugitive Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller), who is searching for answers on his identity.

Credence is pursued by several bodies of the Ministry of Magic: Auror Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) and Auror Theseus Scamander (Callum Turner), the nefarious Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp), and a young Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law), who sends Newt to retrieve the young man who takes Redmayne's movie – and at this point, his franchise – away from him. Even the plot summary of *The Crimes of Grindelwald* takes the focus away from Newt Scamander, stating that "Albus Dumbledore enlists his former student Newt Scamander, who agrees to help, unaware of the dangers that lie ahead."

Despite the introduction of Gellert Grindelwald within the final 15 minutes

of *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them*, *The Crimes of Grindelwald* drastically shifts what its predecessor established, and turns the Harry Potter franchise from one previously seen as untouchable and a fixture in the childhoods of my generation into a "Wizarding World" that is cursed with the same issues as nearly every other studio attempting to build their own shared cinematic universe.

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald shows the largest, most damning faults of the filmmaking business. It is plagued by heavy studio involvement due to the arrogant, pigheaded beliefs and mindsets of Warner Bros. and Harry Potter veterans J.K. Rowling, David Heyman, Steve Kloves, and David Yates. It shows how little they regard the public's opinion, their inflated refusal to decide when they're done, and their overall lack of respect for their consumers, revealing Warner Bros.' startling willingness to experiment on a franchise held so deeply in the hearts and experiences of their audience.

The Crimes of Grindelwald is a mixed bag of potentially compelling and interesting ideas, but the film is weighed down with copious exposition and too many completely unnecessary Easter eggs. The movie has made passing references to Professor McGonagall that implied she was a professor at Hogwarts before she was born, thus causing a huge, absurd plot

hole; Nicolas Flamel and the sorcerer's stone, with the former being more significant to the plot than he actually needed to be and the latter serving more as a cheap gaudy gemstone; Nagini, Voldemort's future snake companion, who ended up doing absolutely nothing and bringing Asian representation down a peg or two; and many more that drew down a confusing line of being necessary to the plot and half-hearted attempts to show how the Wizarding World was all connected. It is not afraid to show off Hogwarts and to bring that audience back into that familiar nostalgia, manipulating the feelings of the audience and hoping that by doing so they hide the rest of the movie's problems.

The plights of *The Crimes of Grindelwald* have brought on many comparisons as "our generation's *Star Wars*." If we follow this accurate comparison to the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy (Episodes I-III), J.K. Rowling is George Lucas, a creator who doesn't want to let go of her baby and thus refusing to hear out newer, fresh perspectives – or worse, attempting to and displaying a fake sense of social awareness. This movie is *Attack of the Clones* – panned and making audiences yearn for the franchise to be over despite *The Crimes of Grindelwald* being the second out of five films. Villain Gellert Grindelwald is slightly representative of character Jar Jar Binks; while this franchise

won't destroy Johnny Depp's career like *Star Wars* with Ahmed Best, Grindelwald still stands out as damning to the franchise due to Depp's domestic violence allegations.

However, it is through the ending of this movie that *The Crimes of Grindelwald* makes its most cardinal mistake.

A movie should never, EVER expect a sequel under any circumstances.

Even if it's part of the intergalactic, titanic *Star Wars* franchise. Even if it's part of the ever-growing, unstoppable Marvel Cinematic Universe. Even if it's part of the magical, universally beloved *Harry Potter* franchise. To achieve the shared universe model that a franchise is trying to build, every entry should feel like a building block: it can build to something more (it doesn't need to), but it should be able to stand on its own. If studios want to build something higher and more complex with their franchise, they need to be more patient and understanding. Stacking blocks on top of each other recklessly will only cause the tower they've built to eventually fall, no matter how much they want to deny it or storm through their current path.

This is why no studio has been able to "catch up to Marvel" and replicate its success: they aren't patient. Even Marvel suffered from this fate as well through *Iron Man 2*, constructing storylines about S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers Initiative that drew away from Tony Stark's story. Studios are too eager to build something more and forget about the core essential foundations to a movie: a complete script, a compelling story, and a clear focus and vision

for where they want their franchise to go.

Warner Bros. and J.K. Rowling draw their attention away from these foundations. They expect too much from themselves and lay too much groundwork for the future, and the end result feels wholly incomplete: there are too many unfinished and unnecessary subplots, huge gaps in the overall narrative, an incomplete and uneducated script, and paper-thin, barely-glued together characters that make up 80 percent of this film's protagonists. Maybe they're supposed to build to something grand, but if the movie is just plain awful, no one is going to care.

What haunted me the most was that blatant manipulation of my own

nostalgia. I still had fun with this movie, but I realized that I had fun because I love *Harry Potter* so much. I cherish the memories of seeing *Deathly Hallows* – I saw Part 2 in Manila with my cousins, I get excited for the annual *Harry Potter* party I go to every year, I take pride in my houses – Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff.

When I realized that this fake, manufactured recollection of my memories was where my enjoyment of the film stemmed from, rather than this mess of a movie, I felt like I was being looked down on by Warner Bros., that my thoughts were regarded as irrelevant and pointless.

They're not.



CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA

written by **Valene Mezmin** | Editor-in-Chief

Before the stream of Netflix's cheesy Christmas rom coms was released to the world, a surprising horror hit was found in *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. The show is based on the Archie Horror series of the same name, which was a darker retelling of *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, the basis for the tv show of the same name that aired from 1996 to 2003, starring Melissa Joan Hart. My interest in the new show was rooted in this 90s classic, which was a favorite of mine growing up. The star of the 90s *Sabrina*, besides the title character, was undoubtedly Salem, a talking black cat full of witty banter and an ongoing desire for world domination. In fact, Salem's taste for world domination was about as dark as the old show went. *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* has bigger aspirations.

One of the most surprising aspects of the new Netflix series is just how satanic, demonic, and outright dark it is. Seriously, it goes there. Whereas the magic in the original show was conveyed with a bouncy ping sound to get out of doing homework and to fix other silly teen problems, the

characters of Netflix's show use magic to terrify their professor by drowning him in spiders, to perform exorcisms, and to attack creepy sleep demons that prey on their worst nightmares, which though an interesting concept, was overwhelmingly the worst episode of the show. At one point, someone (I won't say who) has to shoot his undead zombie brother in the face before said zombie brother starts to feed on humans. But wait, there's more. The witches and warlocks in this show serve the dark lord (aka the devil, sometimes referred to as Satan), and on a witch's 16th birthday, they must sign their name over to the dark lord and are bound to do whatever he wishes if he calls on them (which Sabrina isn't too keen on).

In spite of every exclamation of "hail Satan," the show is rooted in Sabrina's journey in deciding who she is as half witch and half mortal, supporting her friends, and being with her boyfriend, you know, just like any regular teenager. Kiernan Shipka as Sabrina makes the role hers, and while I love Melissa Joan Hart's portrayal, Shipka's version is amazing in its own right in portraying Sabrina's inner strength and independence.

The distinct characterization of the aunts

was also great, and the contrast of Hilda's (Lucy Davis) meekness to Zelda's (Miranda Otto) unwavering support of her beliefs (worshipping the devil and all) and their expectations of their niece added to Sabrina's conflicting emotions. Harvey Kinkle (Ross Lynch) didn't retain the "stupid" trope that he had in the original, which was refreshing. But the newest addition of Ambrose (Chance Perdomo), a witch who is housebound after attempting to blow up the Vatican, as one does, was my favorite. Confined to the Spellman household, Ambrose copes with his loneliness as Sabrina's closest confidant and partner in crime, or by trying to win the love of a fellow warlock. With that being said, I have to applaud the show's diversity in casting and LGBT representation. It truly is a *Sabrina* retold for modern times.

Although the overly demonic aspects can be a little unsettling at times, I would highly recommend Netflix's *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* for anyone who hasn't seen it yet. It's a fresh and intriguing retelling of the teenage witch many of us grew up loving, with just a few more deaths and exorcisms thrown in, sans talking black cat.

Movies in November

Sujay Utkarsh | Assistant Pillbox Editor

Just like October, November also had some high profile releases. Let's talk about them.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

I want to preface this review with the fact that I enjoyed this film and that Queen is one of my top five all time favorite artists. So it was painful for me to accept that I simply did not enjoy this film as much as everyone else did. Rami Malek's performance as Freddie Mercury is one for the ages, the music was amazing, and the Live Aid concert scene made my heart leap with joy. I enjoyed a lot of the humor, and I enjoyed watching everyone on screen play these characters. But I couldn't overlook just how stale, uninspired, and by-the-numbers the film felt, and I definitely couldn't overlook all the inaccuracies. The most glaring one was changing the year Freddie Mercury was diagnosed with AIDS for the sake of dramatic effect. They also portrayed Mercury as the villain in the middle part of the film, which was very off-putting. Nothing felt urgent or felt like it had any stakes. It also felt like there were three different films crammed into one film, and there was no focus at all. It's unfortunate that despite Queen's approval of the film, it didn't feel like a film that truly honored them. The entire film was a missed opportunity that I enjoyed simply because I love Queen. I will still recommend the film because I am in the minority with this opinion. I just really wish I enjoyed this film more.

CREED 2

This was much better than I expected it to be. It's not as good as the first *Creed*, but it does come close. The biggest drawback of the film is that there is always the sense of a "been there, done that" feeling. However, not every boxing movie has to be *Raging Bull*, and considering this is the eighth film in the *Rocky* franchise, a franchise built around being inspiring boxing movies, this is almost as good as it gets. Michael B. Jordan is so perfectly cast as Adonis Creed, and seeing his relationship with Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) is just an absolute treat. There is so much feeling infused in both performances, and I just love watching these characters, and the story itself actually has great stakes. In *Rocky IV*, Creed's father, Apollo, is killed in the ring by Ivan Drago, and Adonis is going up against Drago's son in this film. The Dragos were actually fleshed out in this film surprisingly well, and you understood the motivations and dynamics that made the family tick. So when it came down to the fight scenes, they were all really intense because there was so much care that went into giving all the characters depth. All the fights were spectacular, though nothing was quite as amazing as the long take fight in the first *Creed*. Sure, this film is formulaic, but it follows the formula incredibly well and has good direction, performances, and dialogue. I couldn't ask for anything more from a *Rocky* film, and I would recommend checking this one out.

WIDOWS

Widows is the latest film from Steve McQueen, the man behind great films like *12 Years a Slave*, *Shame*, and *Hunger*. His latest film is a heist drama about the four widows of a group of criminals, led by a woman named Veronica (Viola Davis), planning to pull off a final heist to pay back a debt left by their dead husbands. It's an absolutely fantastic film from start to finish. Every character is so rich and detailed, as is the way *Chicago* is portrayed in the film. The plot is incredibly unpredictable, and the film both subverts and reimagines the classic trope of the heist genre. One plot twist in particular made my jaw drop, and it was one of those twists that I should have seen coming but didn't. That's the quality of writing in the film. The dialogue and script were so tight, with every little subplot and detail being used in service of deepening the characters and enhancing the story. Every performance was spot on, and no one felt forced or out of place. This is the first time I've seen Michelle Rodriguez show that she can really be a great actress when given the right role and proper direction. All the antagonists of the film were so fleshed out, with complex motivations and characterization, and a lot of the film was devoted to that. Daniel Kaluuya is quickly jumping towards the top of the list of my favorite actors, and his performance as a psychopathic gangster in this film was even better than his performance in *Get Out*. There was also a lot of political intrigue that I didn't expect from the film. Really, there was a lot I didn't expect, such as the fact that the heist part of the film is the shortest part. It's also incredibly well shot, with some great long takes that are used for fantastic visual storytelling. Overall, *Widows* is one of the best films of the year, and is one of the best heist dramas I've seen. I definitely recommend checking it out in theaters if you can.

BAD MOVIES

First up in the bad movies list is *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, which was an Avada Kedavra for the *Harry Potter* franchise. It was absolutely boring, nonsensical, and just full of empty spectacle. Check out Izzy's amazing review of it on page B8. Next up is *The Grinch*, which was made by the creatively bankrupt geniuses at Illumination Animation who brought you terrible films like *Minions*, *Sing*, and *The Secret Life of Pets*. Their latest film is (surprise surprise) also terrible. It's just loud and stupid, full of sound and color that signifies nothing. It's just so boring and not creative. I did not laugh or smile a single time watching this. This is the second bad adaptation of a Dr. Seuss story from Illumination Animation, who I'm sure is now cursing them from his special spot in hell (he wasn't a very good man back in the day). It's baffling that the animation, the supposed bread and butter of this company, is so bad. They don't have a good art team and they cut costs for their animation, so all the character designs are not good, and it's a visually bland experience. I'm sure infants will be entertained, but everyone else is better off watching any other version. Finally, we have *Robin Hood*, the new one. I snuck into this after watching *Creed 2* because there was no way I wanted to pay to see even a minute of this. Of the half an hour I saw, this is the second worst film of this year, behind Disney's *A Wrinkle in Time*. *Robin Hood* is so laughably incompetent. All the performances are shockingly awful. The action and special effects are shockingly awful. The entire production is just shockingly awful. Films like this make me question my sanity and reality. Am I really watching this? Why does this exist? Who thought this was a good idea? There are certain films that should just be cancelled before they're released, and *Robin Hood*, the new one, falls into this list. There were only a few other people watching, and everyone was just bored. So don't be like those people or me, and don't see this movie.

K

P

D

C

K-Pop Dance Club's (KPDC) Fall showcase, nightlife, brought in new vibes, new looks, and tons of new dances. Each semester, KPDC hosts a free showcase in the university center, where groups of club members perform numerous dances to popular K-pop songs. Every time I attend these showcases, I'm always so amazed by how many people love K-pop. There are usually over one hundred people that participate in the showcase, all of whom have various dancing backgrounds. This semester's KPDC showcase was unique, where there was a greater variety of the types of dances that groups performed. There seemed to be a good balance of edgy, darker themed dances, like the ones to NCT 2018's "Black on Black" or NCT U's "BOSS." But there were also more cutesy pop dances like the one to MOMOLAND's "BAAM," and even some smoother, sensual dances like for Jay Park's "All I Wanna Do." The variety worked perfectly with the event's theme: nightlife. KPDC also did something this year that they've never done before which was host an afterparty, Luminescence, along with other cultural organizations Chinese Student Association and CMU Raasta. The entire KPDC event was a huge success, bringing in a full house of people for both the showcase and afterparty. I can't wait to see what's in store for next semester's showcase!





written by **Michelle Madlansacay** | Pillbox Editor
photos courtesy of **Lexin Yuan**



origins: album review

written by Alexandra Yu | Pillbox Editor
layout by Tracy Le | Visual Editor

Imagine Dragons surprised many with the release of their fourth album, *Origins*, while finishing up the final leg of their Evolve World Tour. Only a little over a year after the release of their previous album, *Origins* also came as a surprise because most artists, Imagine Dragons included, do not typically release new albums every year (their first album *Night Visions* came out in 2012 and *Smoke and Mirrors* released in 2015). As a huge fan of Imagine Dragons since my brother introduced me to *Night Visions*, I was thrilled when I found out I wouldn't have to wait much longer for new music after *Evolve*'s release in 2017.

In "Boomerang," lead singer Dan Reynolds offers up honest lyrics about the difficulty of letting go of past relationships. Comparing this lost love to a boomerang, he wonders, "Should we go ahead or should we turn around?" then follows up with "I know I'll see you tomorrow," showing the struggle to move past this relationship, since he constantly comes back.

"Cool Out" continues with this theme of love and failed relationships, and how the two stand with different perspectives; it shows how one wants to hold on, while the other feels as

though there are too many differences between them to work out. The music perfectly matches the lyrics, with a slower, rhythmic beat as Reynolds muses about the relationship, and more intense and repetitive as the ex has to tell him to "go home" and "cool out" because their relationship isn't working.

With a softer and more natural, acoustic feel to it, "West Coast" is a refreshing change from what a lot of Imagine Dragons' music tends to be. It feels more open and real as he pleads to make his love stay, willing to do and be anything. Although he can't be "Superman," he will "be your West Coast ... the sun ... the waves ... the one you love the most."

"Only" and "Birds" seem to complement each other, with "Only" exploring a relationship that revolves around "you and me / only," but it's just a dream, and waking up from that dream in "Birds" and wishing that they were still together.

An upbeat individualist anthem, "Machine" expresses the idea of being one's own entity, rather than just a part of a "machine" that others can control and manipulate. "Zero," which was produced for Disney's upcoming

Ralph Breaks the Internet, surprisingly meshes well with the rest of the album. Despite being a fun and upbeat song, there are definitely deeper messages in it. Similar to "Machine," it discusses being different from the crowds in another sense: feeling like nothing and trying to break out of that to become someone more. In that sense, both of these songs remind me of the song "Thunder" from *Evolve*, where Reynolds discusses wanting more from his life, and how he was able to make a name for himself while remaining true to his identity.

"Bullet in a Gun" acts almost as a counterpoint to "Zero" and "Machine," tackling the struggle in the rise to fame, and how it can be a destructive industry. It talks about the ones who are unable to make the climb to the top, and how they can lose their minds or identities in the process of trying to be successful. Reynolds sings, "How many voices go unheard? / How many lessons never learned? / How many artists fear the light / Fear the pain, go insane? / Lose the mind, lose the self / (You only care about fame and wealth) / Sellout, sellout, sellout"

"Real Life" takes a darker tone, discussing the horrors of the world, and how we often watch in shock through the internet and news, struggling to cope with these atrocities we cannot control. In a desperate attempt to calm a struggling loved one, Reynolds sings, "Oh, hey, Turn your phone off, only look me in my eyes / Can we live, yeah, real life, real life? / I wish I had the answers / Something you could hold too / Only

thing that's real to me is / You." In a similar vein, "Love" broadens the theme of love with greater social implications. It discusses the state of the world we live in and seeks to know "where did we all go wrong?", emphasizing how perceived differences in race should not divide us and cause us to hurt one another since "We got the same heartbeat / We're living for the same dreams / We got the same bloodstream."

The other songs on the album include "Stuck," "Bad Liar," "Digital," "Natural," and "Burn Out," and although I don't have much to say about these five in greater detail, I do appreciate them as much as the rest of the album.

Origins is unique, but possesses many qualities as a whole that are reminiscent of previous albums, making it easier to ease into the album upon its release. This seems to be a trend with Imagine Dragons, as each album adds a bit more nuance to their sound while ultimately maintaining their identity as a band. Unlike the last two albums, which took some time for me to adjust to and love (particularly with *Smoke and Mirrors*, which took me a few years to ease into), *Origins* was effortless and is probably my favorite album so far, stylistically and lyrically. Imagine Dragons has consistently produced a wealth of beautiful lines and verses, but *Origins* went above and beyond for me. The whole album was emotionally potent, not just in realistically portraying heartbreak in romance, but heartbreak with regards to the greater world.

horoscopes: the signs as
Thanksgiving dishes

Aries
march 21 – april 19
Stuffing and dressing.

Taurus
april 20 – may 20
Roasted veggies.

Gemini
may 21 – june 20
Pumpkin pie.

Cancer
june 21 – july 22
Sweet potato casserole.

Leo
july 23 – aug. 22
Mashed potatoes.

Virgo
aug. 23 – sept. 22
Green beans.

Libra
sept. 23 – oct. 22
Cranberry sauce.

Scorpio
oct. 23 – nov. 21
Cornbread.

Sagittarius
nov. 22 – dec. 21
Pecan pie.

Capricorn
dec. 22 – jan. 19
Gravy.

Aquarius
jan. 20 – feb. 18
Stuffed sweet potatoes.

Pisces
feb. 19 – march 20
Macaroni and cheese.

sudoku

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

sudoku courtesy of www.krazydad.com

last week’s solution
11-26-18

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

Holidays

by Sarah Andersen



sarahcandersen.com

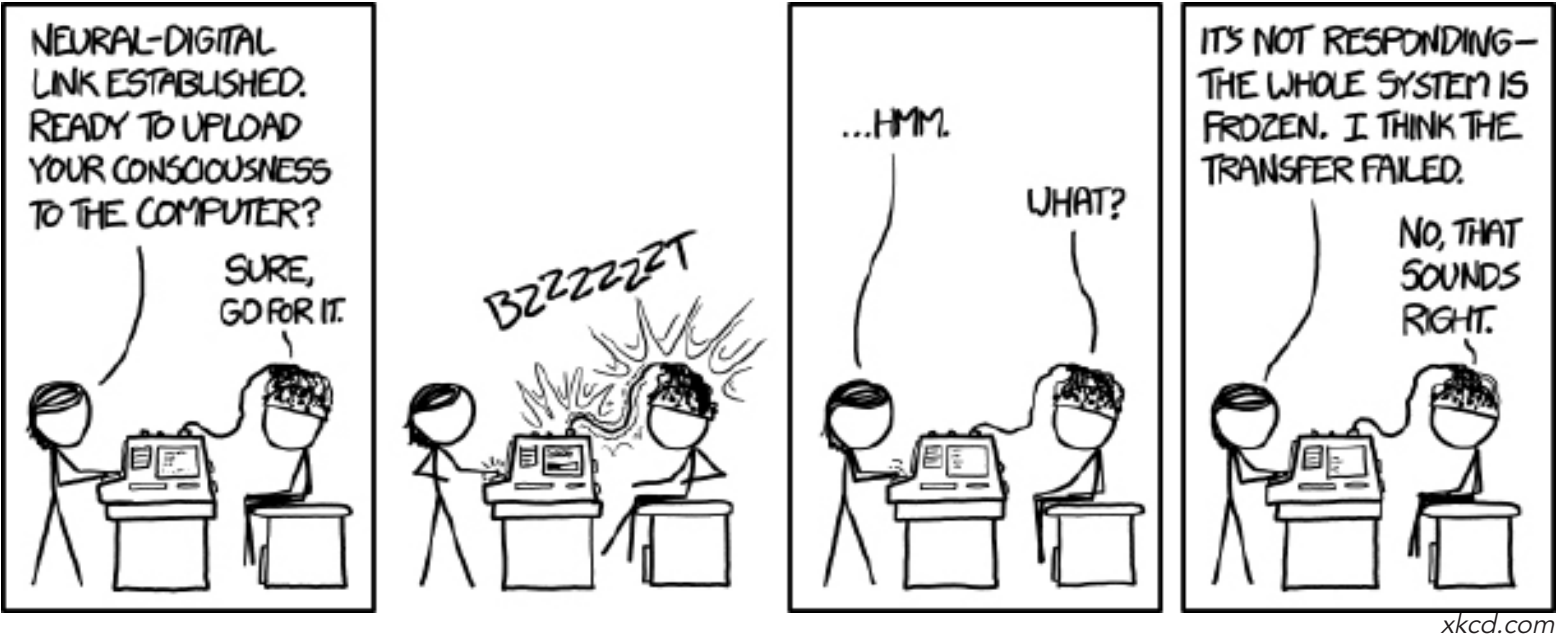
Sure Jan

by Parmita Bawankule



Brain Upload

by xkcd



calendar

friday

12.07.18

Just Trust Us Week

Row House Cinema
11:30 a.m.

Watch some of the most unique indie films from countries around the world like Italy, Spain, Japan, and France, during Row House Cinema's Just Trust Us week. The films are: *Identification of a Woman*, *Live Flesh*, *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*, and *Stavisky*. You won't want to miss this!

Open Studios: Under Construction

Carnegie Mellon School of Art
5 - 9 p.m.

Come see some amazing mixed-media works that upperclass students in CFA have created throughout the semester. From paintings to photography to live performances, you'll find a little bit of everything at this event, so be sure to check it out!

weekend

12.07.18 & 12.08.18

Dancers' Symposium Presents: Luxe

Cohon Center

8 p.m.

Tickets: <https://carnegiemellontickets.universitytickets.com>

It's that time of the semester when we can watch some of the school's most talented dancers at Dancer's Symposium! Be sure to buy your tickets before they sell out. General admission for Friday's show is \$8 and \$10 for Saturday's show. VIP tickets (pre-sale only) cost \$10 for Friday's show and \$12 for Saturday's show.

Scotch'n'Soda Presents:

The Idiot Box

Cohon Center Studio Theater

7 - 9 p.m.

Come watch the last Scotch'n'Soda production of the semester: *The Idiot Box*. The show follows six friends who live in New York City as they struggle to maintain their sitcom-like lifestyle due to a series of unexpected events.

Warning from the Facebook event: This show contains content involving violence, self-harm, sexual assault, animal abuse, homophobia, racism, depiction of seizures, and mentions of eating disorders.

sunday

12.09.18

Breakfast in Bed: Ugly Sweater Edition

The Mattress Factory

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Mattress Factory is inviting you to celebrate the holiday season with them, while wearing a classic ugly Christmas sweater! Enjoy some light refreshments, mingle with people, and take the opportunity to donate a lightly used sweater to the 19th annual *Mister Roger's Neighborhood Sweater Drive*.

Handmade Arcade



Alexandra Yu | Pillbox Editor
photos courtesy of Joey Kennedy

Handmade Arcade returns to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center this coming Saturday, Dec. 8 to display the works of hundreds of creators in the Pittsburgh area. The annual craft fair, according to the press release for the event, is a "thoughtfully curated market [that] offers an authentic, distinctive, and engaging shopping experience featuring innovative, affordable and hand-crafted products made by some of the country's leading independent crafters." Additionally, the Youth Maker Alley also provides a dozen Pittsburgh teens with the chance to create and share their goods. The wide range of vendors offers a variety of fantastic goods, so there is sure to be something for everyone. In addition to purchasing goods from the talented artists and craftsmen, there are also many opportunities for visitors to create projects such as silkscreen printing, book binding, painting, and more.

This year, Handmade Arcade will also host The Cutting Edge of Craft, its first ever fundraising event, on Friday, Dec. 7. It will cover the costs of Saturday's free event, offering early access to more than half the fair's vendors, an auction, and additional opportunities to craft.

