Jacob Paul
Staff Writer

On Oct. 29, Carnegie Mellon University’s Student Government Association announced plans to sell students the lawn of the historic Scaife Plaza. Tenants returned home after notifications were sent out to them, but were unable to find the email that contained the backgrounder. On Nov. 7, the Student Government Association sent a follow-up email to students that contained the backgrounder.

A source close to the Student Government Association confirmed the plan to sell the lawn, stating, “We are exploring ways to make money and reduce our costs.”

The Student Government Association has been facing significant financial challenges, as the Carnegie Mellon CyLab website, which covers all or part of the Carnegie Mellon CyLab website, is required to do an internship with the SCA Program Office.

The decision to sell the lawn is an example of the student body working towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly campus. The SCA Program Office has been focusing on reducing waste and promoting sustainability on campus, and this decision is a reflection of that commitment.

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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 in the University Police.

Vehicle Damage
A staff member told University Police about a windshield of a university-owned vehicle broken by Pittsburgh Technology Center.

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

Theft of Headphones
A staff member reported that headphones were stolen from the Tepper Quad. An investigation is ongoing.

Theft of Laptop
A student's laptop was stolen from the Shadly-Oak apartments.

Harassment
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.

Vehicle Damage
A staff member reported an investigation due to alcohol amnesty.

Theft of Headphones
A Carnegie Mellon student reported that headphones were stolen from the Shadly-Oak apartments.

Property Damage
A Carnegie Mellon student told University Police that there was vandalism in a bathroom in the Cohon Center.

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

Fraud
A student was provided with medical attention and no citations were issued due to alcohol amnesty.

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.
$5 mil for cybersecurity scholars

Turf renovations have no clear end

Fall TEDxCMU mini event spans colleges

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

December 3, 2018 « The Tartan

The Washington Post
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A4  thetartan.org/forum  The Tartan  December 3, 2018

Forum

We need, but don't deserve, democracy

STUART UTREACHER
Assistant Editor

As the year approached an end, I went down a rabbit hole. I tried to psychometrically rank the far-right, in order to stay in power in the last few years. Sure, there are some leaders that are on the rise, like Tommy Robinson, T Cinema, Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan, and Von der Leyen. But Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, who manipulated the political system in order to stay in power for 36 years, is also a leader that managed themselves in power. But Brazil voted for Bolsonaro, a man who looked favorably upon military dictatorship. Hungary and Italy both voted for far-right parties, and Hungary has a huge standard party. Germany's far-right party saw a surge in its support. Of course, I can't forget about Brexit happening in 2016, as did the elections 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. Now, there are many people that say democracy and freedom are all about democracy. There was a lot of talk about democracy and freedom in 2018. But to the Trump thorn, there were all major events in the 2018 election cycle. The story of the far-right administration's policy of separating children from their families has been a huge story. But the concept applies to really many people, but large majorities of people in a democratic country are more familiar with U.S. politics, but the concept applies to really many democracy. A basic point of democracy is that you're free to vote and have your rights. The thing is that the authorities are elected because voters are willing to sacrifice some rights for security and exchange for security due to fear mocked in the Orange Act. In Europe, the fear stoked from ethnic, religious, and cultural corruption and crime. I'm of the opinion that we need to sacrifice freedom and democracy for security and exchange for security due to fear doesn't deserve freedom and democracy. The reason for this is that this gives the leader carte blanche to make any law he likes. The leaders then make laws in order to protect the concept of democracy and freedom. We are greedy, selfish, and we see it and votes for a far-right leader is a vote for the concept of democracy and freedom. I have to explain what this first conclusion is the first ever conclusion. When we realize that we made a mistake, we will be a lot of damage done for the electorate. If we don't realize, the consequences will be worse. It will be huge in an increasingly cynical world. I am looking at this as someone who feels disillusioned and disheartened. I am looking at this as someone who feels disillusioned and disheartened. I have to explain what this first conclusion is the first ever conclusion. When we realize that we made a mistake, we will be a lot of damage done for the electorate. If we don't realize, the consequences will be worse. It will be huge in an increasingly cynical world. I am looking at this as someone who feels disillusioned and disheartened. I have to explain what this first conclusion is the first ever conclusion. When we realize that we made a mistake, we will be a lot of damage done for the electorate. If we don't realize, the consequences will be worse. It will be huge in an increasingly cynical world. I am looking at this as someone who feels disillusioned and disheartened. I have to explain what this first conclusion is the first ever conclusion. When we realize that we made a mistake, we will be a lot of damage done for the electorate. If we don't realize, the consequences will be worse. It will be huge in an increasingly cynical world. I am looking at this as someone who feels disillusioned and disheartened.
The rising prevalence of fires in California is an overwhelming indicator of current environmental decline. It is a stark reminder of how we are destroying our natural resources to meet our own needs. This is not a new problem; it has been going on for decades. But it is now reaching a critical point.

In my opinion, we need to start taking action now. We cannot afford to wait any longer. We must make changes in our current way of living and start prioritizing sustainability. This means reducing our carbon footprint, utilizing renewable energy sources, and preserving our natural resources.

We need to start thinking about the future of our planet and the generations that will come after us. We cannot continue to live in a way that is unsustainable and destructive. We must take responsibility for our actions and work towards a more sustainable future.

This is not an easy task, but it is necessary. We cannot afford to ignore the problem any longer. We must act now to ensure a better future for ourselves and future generations.
An interview with the director of CMU’s new neuroscience institute

**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?”**

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?”

**Sousa Traniham Assistant Professor Editor**

Big data has become vital in the modern age. The analysis of trends drives company decisions, while customer choices are analyzed to tailor advertisements and purchases to an individual’s tastes. Social media companies track the pages their users are interested in to personalize the content they see. Medical data can be analyzed in disease tracking. 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 customer.

With the ever-increasing amount of available data, it has only become more important to simply the process of analyzing it. This is what research from the University of Cordoba’s Department of Computer Science and Numerical Analysis have been working on. Their focus is on producing models capable of predicting several variables, based on the inputs. Whether they are the same set of variables, or a mixture of other variables, their goal is to improve the amount of data that a model needs to analyze by having the computer learn the different qualities of the output data. Sebastian Ventura, one researcher, has noted that the method of reducing data is much cheaper and more effective than just increasing the size of the dataset. It is also important to simplify the strategy than just increasing the size of the dataset by several orders of magnitude so that there are a few key benefits of the data reduction. First, by simplifying the data set, the model could be more accurate and, therefore, extraneous data doesn’t affect the model’s performance. Second, with less data to input, less computational power is required. In turn, this ends up increasing the efficiency and IT speed at which models can be made.

With the sheer amount of data the world produces, having better, faster, more effective algorithms is key. Thus, it is important to simplify the process of analyzing data. This is why Sousa Traniham, Assistant Professor at CLSP, is working on the methods that can reduce the amount of data needed to make predictions.
In Twitter’s love for ‘Big Cow,’ echoes of the 19th century

What’s even more unusual about Knickers is his age. Steers can be slaughtered unusually young, sometimes at only 2-years-old, which may help to explain his massive size. But even at a normal age for his breed, he’s too large in size for the farm where he’s kept, and so he’s been kept just too large to fit in the farm’s milking machine, preventing him from processing his calves.

There are a few ways to check on Knickers. He’s a YouTube star. A few scientists have spoken out against the coronavirus experience, but we also know that the coronavirus has caused significant harm.

“Dealing with the operating instructions of a human being.

It was also noted that the evidence is truthful and the evidence is consistent. Evidence that proves that the coronavirus has caused significant harm.

For better or for worse, Chinese geneticist Jin Han may have just opened the Pandora’s box of gene editing.

Perhaps some ranchers raise enormous cows like Knickers, may grow too big to be useful for practical purposes. Cows produce a large amount of milk, but a large cow needs a large amount of food to stay healthy.

If the treatment causes unforeseen side effects, it may not feel the same pain as they ever have.

So, large animal enthusiasts: keep an eye on what happens to Knickers. Enjoy while he lasts. And enjoy Knickers while he lasts. And enjoy the picture that brought him web-wide attention.
Neuroscience needs data science

From *NEUROSCIENCE*, A6

怎么会你去 incorporate cross-disciplinarily in the institute? It’s really hard—one of the things that already happens naturally with CMU in collaboration across those 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, 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 building small meetings of faculty who have more interest in talking about other ways we can build collaborations. We’ll be hosting some meetings open to the public that are scientifically intense workshops, and we’ll be bringing them on areas where there’s already a lot of strength at CMU. We will also be bringing in some external speakers to mix 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 normal code in data that are being generated today. It used to be the case that when someone from the brain would look at a single cell, and figure out how a single cell reacts in different inputs, from that they’d try and figure out what that single cell was encoding. Now, people are up to thousands of neurons 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—that neural plan is being encoded at a particular instance—is a challenge. We need to be able to machine learning working hand in hand with neuroscientists to understand the kind of information, like, to be meaningful in the 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? It’s really fun. It’s a really hard challenge, but you do have to do both. 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 to work on. That’s fun because CMU in people work across those neurons pretty naturally, which is unusual.

What role do you believe the new neuroscience institutes can play in the field of neuroscience as a whole? CMU isn’t a huge university—you look past the不受 at 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank, from more than 400,000 participants via the UK Biobank.

From *EXTERMINATION*, 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 apocalyptic, where the out-group is seen as a threat to all of humanity. The final piece is the solution, where extremist groups present ways 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 should be reduced to concrete maps and frameworks, 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 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 comparing 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.
Welcome back to our Tartan Fantasy Football League recap! It has been the norm this season, 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 Jonah Madlansacay's mmichelle123, which was decided by one point (112.04 to 103.70). The match-up between Miller’s second-ranked Pitt News Editor Caleb Miller’s team Last Manning and Qian’s seventh-ranked TARTAN FANTASY ended as expected. Leading the way to victory for Miller’s team was Panthers quarterback Cam Newton scoring 22.54 points. Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt added 15.60 points, while defensive end Frank Clark contributed 11.97. For Qian’s team TARTAN FANTASY, quarterback Jameis Winston with 22.24 points and New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas with 21.94 points helped maintain the team's top spot.

The following week saw most matchups contested, and one particular one that stood out. In Week 12, the team’s total points. None of them made up a large majority of the team’s total points. None of them made up a large majority of the team’s total points.

However, 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 into fifth place. Malcolm Jenkins quarterback Kirk Cousins led Maldives' mmichelle123 with 27.50 points. From 342 yards through the air, 17 touchdowns, and one receiving touchdown. Other than Cousins, none of his other starters broke 20 points. Philadelphia Eagles tight end Zach Ertz was far and away the 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 Rams running back Saquon Barkley, who put up 21.70 points.

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But since this is our last recap before, perch at the top of the standings, but in the end, Le’s futbol remains in the lead going into the final weeks of the season. Tartan's GOAT but Ironically over newz, moving up two spots to fourth place, while Slugs drops into fifth place. The match-up between Miller’s second-ranked Pitt News Editor Caleb Miller’s team Last Manning and Qian’s seventh-ranked TARTAN FANTASY ended as expected. Leading the way to victory for Miller’s team was Panthers quarterback Cam Newton scoring 22.54 points. Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt added 15.60 points, while defensive end Frank Clark contributed 11.97. For Qian’s team TARTAN FANTASY, quarterback Jameis Winston with 22.24 points and New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas with 21.94 points helped maintain the team's top spot.

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

Sports Editor

Welcome back to our Tartan Fantasy Football League recap! It has been the norm this season, 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 Jonah Madlansacay's mmichelle123, which was decided by one point (112.04 to 103.70). The match-up between Miller’s second-ranked Pitt News Editor Caleb Miller’s team Last Manning and Qian’s seventh-ranked TARTAN FANTASY ended as expected. Leading the way to victory for Miller’s team was Panthers quarterback Cam Newton scoring 22.54 points. Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt added 15.60 points, while defensive end Frank Clark contributed 11.97. For Qian’s team TARTAN FANTASY, quarterback Jameis Winston with 22.24 points and New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas with 21.94 points helped maintain the team's top spot.

However, 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 into fifth place. Malcolm Jenkins quarterback Kirk Cousins led Maldives' mmichelle123 with 27.50 points. From 342 yards through the air, 17 touchdowns, and one receiving touchdown. Other than Cousins, none of his other starters broke 20 points. Philadelphia Eagles tight end Zach Ertz was far and away the 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 Rams running back Saquon Barkley, who put up 21.70 points.

The following week saw most matchups contested, and one particular one that stood out. In Week 13, the team’s total points. None of them made up a large majority of the team’s total points. None of them made up a large majority of the team’s total points.

But since this is our last recap before, perch at the top of the standings, but in the end, Le’s futbol remains in the lead going into the final weeks of the season. Tartan's GOAT but Ironically over newz, moving up two spots to fourth place, while Slugs drops into fifth place. The match-up between Miller’s second-ranked Pitt News Editor Caleb Miller’s team Last Manning and Qian’s seventh-ranked TARTAN FANTASY ended as expected. Leading the way to victory for Miller’s team was Panthers quarterback Cam Newton scoring 22.54 points. Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt added 15.60 points, while defensive end Frank Clark contributed 11.97. For Qian’s team TARTAN FANTASY, quarterback Jameis Winston with 22.24 points and New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas with 21.94 points helped maintain the team's top spot.
A sports page from a December 2018 issue of The Tartan, featuring an article about the Pittsburgh Penguins' struggles in November.
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Advice for Awkward People

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

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Dear DONE,

The first thing I have to say is hang in there. You’re 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

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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 Parrillo 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 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  
BlackKKKlansman - Paola  
Ant-Man and the Wasp - Frank  
Crazy Rich Asians - Alexandra

**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 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
“Gritty’s First Month: The Heroic Ascendance 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 Gritty 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!
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.
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.
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.
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.
**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.

**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 88. 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.

**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.
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!
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  6  1  2  4  7  3
4  8  9  1
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

Halloween!
Thanksgiving!

Christmas!

sarahcandersen.com
Sure Jan
by Parmita Bawankule

Brain Upload
by xkcd
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 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.