

Students' reactions to the last year's political climate

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

Donald Trump was inaugurated on January 20, and one year after a controversial election, people have many things to say. Reactions come from people on all scopes of the political spectrum; at Marymount Manhattan College, students also have their opinions.

The Monitor conducted a survey with 16 students. The responses show that 43.8 percent of students surveyed are Democrats and left-leaning, 18.8 percent are independent, 12.5 percent are Republican or right-leaning. The final 24.9 percent are conservative libertarians, left leaning independents, and some that fall in the middle of the political spectrum.

These results reflect student opinions one year after the election, as a majority of students at Marymount are Democrats and left leaning. Conservative students in the school express their opinions on the election based on the under-representation of views in the school.

Darby Schnoebelen talked about the year, "I have felt sad every day since the election. The world is a mess, and it feels as if everyday I wake up expecting something terrible to happen."

Schnoebelen went on to talk about having somewhat conservative views at Marymount. "There have definitely been times that I have felt shut down for some of my views. While some of the people in this school listen and disagree kindly, there are also people, even in the staff, that can be unkind to individuals with different opinions. I also think that it is telling that many people who hold even

slightly conservative views want to remain anonymous," she said.

She pointed out, "Sometimes, you become what you try to snuff out, and sometimes by saying that you are trying to get rid of everyone's prejudice, you become prejudice."

One year after the election, Megan McCarthy, a Democrat, talked about how she felt. She stated, "I feel terrified, if I'm honest. I moved away from the South in order to escape the mindsets of my hateful neighbors and peers that threatened my own identity and life, and I still find myself increasingly worried about the future with each passing day. I'm a military child; I know firsthand how deadly wars are, and I am extremely nervous we could be heading into an unnecessary and avoidable catastrophe."

Jordan de Paola is a student in the middle of the political spectrum. Paola has views on both sides of the political spectrum, and he doesn't accept the libertarian label. Paola stated, "I encourage people to accept that President Donald Trump is in fact the President of the United States of America. There are reasons why people voted for him. He resonated with people. I honestly do not agree with anything that the Trump Administration has done since his inauguration. I believe President Trump is reductive for any type of development for the American economy."

Paola thinks it's important for people to know one year later that they should be more open to ideas. He asserted, "Don't assume that because you're a liberal, Republicans have bad ideas (like ideas for unemployment and education), this situation applies vice versa."

Alissa Rosen, a Democrat, felt disappointed about the state of politics and talked about why she is a Democrat. "I am absolutely disgusted and very disappointed at where today's politics are heading," she said. "I am not a follower. My views are not simply because of the way I was raised or opinions I've been forced into having. I form my political values based on what I find to be right. I have my particular views based on morals and values towards certain topics that are trending today."

Mackenzie McGuire is a left leaning independent who talked about the need for equity one year after the election. She said, "I feel like this world has gotten tremendously worse. I am terrified of the world around me. I believe in equity. Everybody should have equal opportunities, but if they opt not to take those opportunities, that is on them. I also believe that our country doesn't have equity right now. I also believe both the far right and the far left need to be more open minded."

McGuire also pointed out the importance of voting for a candidate who shows competency. "I identify myself as a left-leaning independent because my views typically align with the left, but I'm also very open to the potential of good ideas from the right. I don't decide who to vote for based on their party. I decide based on their competency," she said.

Victoria Gagliardo-Silver, a Republican, stated, "I didn't vote for Donald Trump. I actually protest-voted for Evan McMullin. I'm definitely not a fan of our President's policies, but I wish the best for him because I want the best for our country."

Gagliardo-Silver also stated, "I don't believe my political views really affect me at Marymount. It's definitely a liberal school, but I've been provided with an open and accepting environment to share my beliefs in a clear and respectful manner."

In contrast, Danny Bastalla feels that at Marymount it's hard to be open about your beliefs. He stated, "This school doesn't let people have their own beliefs because once you do say something, it backfires."

Bastalla, a Democrat, also shared how he feels one year after the election. "I felt betrayed because I couldn't express who I was anymore. I used to have to watch my back, but now I'm even more conscious as a minority".

An anonymous Junior in her Political Thought class shared a discussion the class had about the post-election climate at Marymount. "Marymount could be super liberal and into their own way. They make others who might have opposing views feel thrown aback for their views," they said.

On a national scale, political views and opinions of Trump range after one year. At Marymount, opinions range too, with students who come from all sides of the political spectrum. Student beliefs range from not supporting Trump, to feeling shut down for their beliefs, and believing in a society where everyone is open-minded and can have honest discussions.

Plethora of sexual misconduct allegations stir up Hollywood

By Megan Arnold
Website Managing Editor

Over 100 women have recently publicized accusations of sexual misconduct, rape, and more against well-known producer Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein was an incredibly powerful man in the Hollywood scene who worked on films such as *Pulp Fiction*, *Gangs of New York*, *My Week with Marilyn*, and more. Many of the women he crossed paths with looked to him as their "shot" into the big Hollywood lifestyle; he saw them as bait to fulfill his needs.

These women, including Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd, and Heather Graham, to name a few, neglected to come forward on these accusations when they initially happened in an attempt to save their careers.

"No one should ever [have to] live with that type of guilt," Rachel Gasparello said, "It's never their fault... I do think it is important for them to speak out, although I do also understand why they didn't [initially]."

Following the Weinstein accusations, a number of men within Hollywood were also accused of similar crimes. Some of the most shocking have been the accusations against Kevin Spacey, who has been an incredibly prominent figure in Hollywood for years. Spacey starred in *American Beauty*, *Se7en*, *Baby Driver*, and more; however, his most popular and recent role is Francis Underwood in Netflix's original series *House of Cards*.

Spacey was accused by multiple men of alleged sexual misconduct following the Weinstein uproar. Anthony Rapp, an actor most known for his role in *Rent*, accused Spacey of attempting to molest him when he was only 14 years old. Following Rapp's public accusations, Spacey posted an apology on his Twitter account; this apology also doubled as a coming out letter, which sent the public and gay community into a frenzy. "I just think Kevin Spacey is [pathetic] for trying to distract everyone from the fact that he's a pedophile," Jane Segovia said.

Spacey also tried to use his sex-

uality as a cover up for his public image. As a gay man, Spacey should understand how insulting and poisonous this is for the queer community. "I can see how close-minded individuals can use this example to blanket the entire LGBTQ+ community as dangerous or as rapists," Kennedy Blankenship said.

Netflix responded to Spacey's public statement by suspending Spacey from *House of Cards* and announcing their plans to end the series.

Weinstein and Spacey join the long list of Hollywood personas who misuse their power and fame for sexual or professional gain. These stories are incredibly terrifying for any aspiring actors or actresses who are looking to make their mark in Hollywood.

Why is it that those with talent and dreams have been pressured to compromise their self-respect in order to get a role in a movie? Is that what Hollywood has become? Maybe not entirely, but these men have definitely put the industry to shame. "The whole entire [idea] of being an

actor, or whatever, should be based on your performance. It shouldn't be based on your looks or anything. You're this person, you can do this job, you can do this role, and that's what it should be," Gasparello said.

With the exposure to all of the corrupt Hollywood individuals, we have developed a clearer understanding of power, money, and misconduct. We have learned that even our favorite, most iconic actors like Spacey or even Ed Westwick, who starred in *Gossip Girl*, are capable of abusing their power and other individuals, as well as using that power to cover it up any way possible.

As more of these individuals' actions are brought into the spotlight, it is important to understand that many, many more have also partook in these type of actions and are still not public about it.

We must also acknowledge how difficult, yet important, it is for these victims to come forward; it encourages other victims of other crimes to understand that it is not their fault and that their voice deserves to be heard.

Mosque attack in Egypt targets Sufi muslims



Photos from Vox.com and Voanews.com

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

The Middle East is known to have a long history of conflicts. Some of the most prominent conflicts include the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Syrian Civil War, The Iran-Iraq war, and the War on Terror led by the United States. Most of the people in the Middle East practice Islam. Muslims in the Middle East highly identify with their faith and make up a large amount of the population. Due to centuries of conflicts in the Middle East, and a misunderstood religion in Western Society, it is easy for people to overlook the terrorist attacks that happened in a mosque in Egypt.

On November 24, The New York Times, Al Jazeera, Vox, CNN, and other major media outlets covered the story. The attack happened in Egypt, which is located in Africa but known to be in the Middle East. Egyptian Sufi Muslims were attacked in a mosque in Sinai. Militants led the attack on a small al-Rawda village, targeting worshippers with gunfire and a bomb. As a result of the attack, 305 people died and 128 people were left wounded. Officials have reported this attack to be the deadliest terrorist attack in contemporary Egyptian society.

In the wake of the attack, people have noted the attack was on a

mosque with Sufi Muslims. Islam, like any religion, has people with different sets of beliefs, such as Sunni, Sufi, and Shia Muslims. Sufi Muslims are usually targets of attack by Sunni militant groups due to different religious beliefs. Sufi Muslims, according to a New York Times article on the attack written by Declan Walsh and Nour Youssef, believe in a "Mystical form of Islam that the Islamic State and other Sunni extremist groups deem heretical."

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is speculated that ISIS was behind it. These speculations come from reportings of attackers carrying ISIS flags and other attacks on Sufi Muslims from extremist groups. In the past, ISIS has bombed a Sufi Shrine, Mosque, and festival in Pakistan. ISIS's core beliefs also make them a major suspect in the attacks. ISIS believes in a fundamental Islam, which is Wahhabism. Wahhabism is a conservative reform movement that ISIS has adapted and took to their hands. ISIS tries to purify, and in doing so uses violence against Sufi Muslims who have mystical beliefs.

Alex Ward from Vox News says that another motivation for the attack might have been the state of politics in Egypt. The repressive politics in Egypt are controlled by president Abdel Fattah el-Sissi. El-Sissi "continues to crack down on religious extremists, students, protesters, and anyone

who expresses political dissent."

After the attack the Egyptian military carried out airstrikes in the area of Bir al-Abed, targeting vehicles. The news later came out reporting that the number of deaths included 27 children. It was also reported that the attack was led by 25 to 30 militants who surrounded the mosque carrying weapons. The world started to react to the news as Donald Trump tweeted about the attack. Trump used the attack to explain the building of the wall between Mexico and America. Trump also said the ban is needed, referring to immigration control as well as the Muslim ban that came out earlier this year.

The gunmen were described as ruthless and that they blocked civilians from escaping and targeted ambulances as well. Some of the wounded were taken in a cattle truck as the scene got chaotic, according to New York Times journalist, Mayna Nasser. Many civilians were taken to the general hospital in the northern Sinai town. According to the New York Times, the medics were overwhelmed with patients who had severed limbs, wounds, burns, and some were dead.

Marymount Manhattan College student Olivia Bennington commented on the tragic events and also supported the theory of ISIS being behind the attacks. "I don't believe ISIS claimed responsibility, but I wouldn't be surprised if they

did. They're known for these types of cowardly intimidation tactics, targeting almost everything that goes against their religious/conservative/orthodox views."

Bennington also compared the events to American terrorist attacks and said, "I'd look into other 'orthodox' terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram and the KKK. The incidents and justifications are almost identical. White supremacist Dylann Roof walking into a church and killing 9 people is no different than killing 250 plus people in a mosque. Terrorism is terrorism despite color and creed."

"It's almost voyeuristic for us as Westerners to observe and comment on these interactions which have been happening/gradually evolving for hundreds and thousands of years," Bennington continued. "It's incomparable to any kind of political or domestic turmoil that we, as a 241 year old nation, experience."

Despite the common fear Americans have of being attacked by extremist Muslims, it is important to acknowledge Muslims in the Middle East are currently targeted by extremist groups everyday. If ISIS is responsible for the attacks in Egypt, that is just one of the examples of Muslims being the main target of ISIS. The genocide of Syrians everyday since the Civil War started is another great example proving that Muslims too are afraid of these extremist groups.

Women's History Month shines bright with beautiful female inspirations

By Skylar Woodhouse
Guest Writer

March might be when daylight savings occurs, but more importantly it is Women's History Month. Women in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia are celebrating Women's History Month along with International Women's Day on March 8th. Women's History Month brings awareness, and gratitude to those who sacrificed and created change for the little girls and women of today's world. Women have come a very long way since the days when women were seen as only homemakers. To this day the United States has had 15 women hold cabinet positions since 1933 when Frances Perkin made the first female cabinet appointee serving as Secretary of Labor. Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman to be elected to congress in 1968 and was also the first African American to gain a majority party recognition to run for president. The film and music industry is filled with male dominance and

not until 1987 was Aretha Franklin made the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There were many of firsts, but there are even more firsts to be made in years to come. Marymount Manhattan College student Mahalia Brooks sees Women's History Month as a new light for younger generations. Brooks exclaims, "I feel women history month is a time to let the younger women of the upcoming generation know that women can also be leaders."

Though women have seen much change and gained credibility in the workplace and on the streets, women are still being cut short when it comes to respect. It is 2018 and women of all races are still receiving unequal pay and being told no to jobs because they are a female. During the 2016 Presidential Election, Hillary Clinton lost votes because she was a woman and people could not bare to see a women as the Commander in Chief for the United States of America. She received constant worry about her health and if she would be able to handle the de-

manding stress of being President. These serve as two evident examples of the struggles women are still facing. The United States it is still a white man's world, no matter how far society has worked to evolve. According to a study done at Rutgers University, there are 106 out of 535 women who hold a seat in the United States Congress. Women do not even have a quarter of the seats. This lack of representation of women has proven time and time again that women are viewed as being below men and cannot hold equal power because of their gender.

President Trump has paid off porn stars, and repeatedly made inappropriate sexual remarks about women and nobody has done anything. People have acknowledge what he said, but no action has been done. People have complained about his inappropriate behaviors but he is a white male and has been able to get away with it. Each Women's History Month is supposed to celebrate the achievements of women. But in a society where celebrities, doctors, and government

officials can make comments and harass women as they please is unacceptable. The 2018 Women's History Month is a movement as a whole, as men can spend a whole month reflecting on their behavior.

Women are fed up, tired and over being mistreated and this Women's History Month you can look for protest and movements from women who are more focused than ever to bring about a new path for women so they can receive equal pay with no ifs and or buts, and walk the streets without being catcalled. MMC Student Faith Heinaman feels inspired come Women's History Month; "This drives me because there has already been so much progressive change in society put forth by incredible resilient women and men in society, that these issues currently being faced need the right people to take them on and together we can be that change."

Women's History Month is not just about looking at how far women have come, but is about recognizing and thinking of ideas to continue to build success for women.



Photo from affinitymagazine.us

Corporate America neglects understanding of history, beauty of African American hair

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

The history of this country starts from the framers dividing up the power between the branches. The framers originally gave Congress the bulk of power, but federalism in this country is changes and the courts got more power. As the courts got more power, each of the circuits had their central views, from the activist court during the Civil Rights era to more conservative courts in other time periods. Despite the central views in the Supreme Court some of the decisions made in different court cases surprise the public.

Race in this country is held under strict scrutiny, so learning about the Supreme Court case Equal Employment Opportunity Commission vs. Catastrophe Management Solutions baffled me. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that refusing to hire a person because of there dreadlocks is essentially legal.

Chastity Jones applied for a job at Catastrophe Management Solutions as a customer service representative and was hired. The human resources management as C.M.S told Jones she should cut her hair and Jones responded she wouldn't.

Jones' job offer was revoked, and the case was filed by E.E.O.C on behalf of race discrimination. The trial court said the court had no cause of action. The case had doubts from the start and it was completely shut down by the Supreme Court. Jones' job getting revoked is disheartening because her job entailed no physical contact. No one would see Jones but her coworkers, a professional appearance was to please her coworkers. There is a difference between keeping a professional manner for your job then facing discrimination for your hair. Dreadlocks in the African American community is rooted in discrimination by people who don't understand it. Jones as a human has a right to wear whatever hairstyle she wants. Just because Jones' hair doesn't follow eurocentric beauty standards, it was instantly deemed unprofessional. According to NBC News, E.E.O.C claimed dreadlocks are a racial characteristic used to stereotype African Americans as not deemed for the workplace or "Not Team Players." This is discriminatory because dreadlocks are a hairstyle "physiologically and culturally associated with African-Americans." The Supreme Court ruled that Title VII of the

Civil Rights act of 1964 doesn't protect hair styles associated with race. The court claimed traits associated with a person's culture and changeable are not protected and can be used to deny job offers.

I would like to believe that the Supreme Court's decision was fair but this country has a history of systematic racism. In similar cases regarding discrimination the court has ruled that cultural practices aren't protected by the Civil Rights Act. NBC News talks about Garcia vs. Gloor; the Supreme Court ruled that being fired for speaking spanish because of an English Only Policy didn't violate the Civil Rights Act. Anything can be deemed a cultural practice; dreadlocks, spanish, or a hijab. Cultural practices are interchangeable based on what people think is a cultural practice, this is what enforced the decision made by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's ruling tells me that it isn't protected because it doesn't fit to the white standards of America.

People of color in this country constantly live with a double conscious mindset. That's not enough for America, we now have to change to be hired in workplaces, Jones was expected to change her hair. The inherent discrimination in that statement tells me that the Supreme Court doesn't protect dreadlocks that have a history of being labeled, that the Supreme Court doesn't protect a person of colors way of living if it's not the white way of living.



Photo from affinitymagazine.us

Black Lives Matter movement continues to inspire change



Photo from ibitimes.co.uk

By Fahima Degia
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Police brutality and systematic racism are prevalent in this country and have been impacting people's lives for decades. As social inequality remains intact, people continue to organize movements to fight back against the injustice. 2013 marked a historic year for social activists because a new movement was founded, Black Lives Matter (BLM).

BLM was founded by three radical strong black women: Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, as a response to the death of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman. Since its inception, it has become a global phenomenon with 40 chapters fighting against systematic and intentional racism, according to the website.

One of the objectives of the growing movement is to include marginalized people into the fight for black rights. BLM activists work with everyday people and strive to incorporate women, trans, and queer people into the fight. BLM became an organizing tool and a fight against anti-black racism.

The biggest moment in the movement is the community of Ferguson in St. Louis, protesting the death of Mike Brown against the officer Darren Wilson. According to the organization's website, the protesters were being "brutalized by law enforcement, criticized

by media, tear gassed, and pepper sprayed night after night. Darnell Moore and Patrisse Cullors organized a national ride during Labor Day weekend that year ... In 15 days, we developed a plan of action to head to the occupied territory to support our brothers and sisters. Over 600 people gathered. We made two commitments: to support the team on the ground in St. Louis, and to go back home and do the work there. We understood Ferguson was ... a clear point of reference for what was happening to Black communities everywhere."

BLM grew after St. Louis. People went back home and started BLM chapters, and today the movement is thriving. This month BLM has Black Futures Month 2018 which focuses on Black Feminism and honors Erica Garner. Black Futures month is dedicated to explore "radical black imagination." The movement is celebrating four years while facing FBI security threats as the organization has been deemed as black identity extremists.

On January 16, Black Lives Matter activists travelled to the Canadian border Lacolle to support Haitian Immigrants. About 16,000 Haitian Immigrants were detained in Canada after fleeing America because Trump repealed their Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS gave 60,000 Haitian Refugees a safe place in America after the brutal earthquake in

Haiti. The activists took a lawyer with them and intended to provide legal advice and support.

On the day of the Super Bowl BLM's Minneapolis chapter organized a protest. The protests goals were "transparency from the local government, so that folks can know where their tax dollar is going, the protection of black and brown communities" ("The Super Bowl Is In Minneapolis And BLM Minneapolis Is Ready For Action"). A local paper Pioneer Press covered the event and described the protesters as chaining themselves to one another,

taking a knee in support of Colin Kaepernick, and surrounding the stadium and Metro Transit trains.

This week the community is honoring the death of Muhiyidin Moye, a popular BLM activist from South Carolina. According to The New Yorker, Muhiyidin Moye died from gunshot wounds on Tuesday while riding his bike in New Orleans.

Muhyiddin Moye leaves behind a legacy and is an example of the amazing work BLM activists do. BLM has become a movement created by the people, for the people, in order to fight for their rights.



Photo from theadvocate.com

A look into Model minorities

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

Growing up an Asian-American Muslim Immigrant, you realize the odds are in your favor. Growing up, I realized I was a person of color and was part of a marginalized group of people in America—because I wasn't white. Realizing that institutional racism exists towards minorities is heartbreaking. It also took me awhile to realize I still had it better than other people of color in society. I first heard the word Model Minority from my sister, and then in my Writing 101 class and realized I was a Model Minority.

A model minority is typically an Asian American in the United States. Kat Chow discusses it in "Model Minority Myth Used As A Racial Wedge Between Asians And Blacks." Chow argues that glamorizing the success of Asian Americans in society negates and doesn't hold people

accountable for the racial injustices that African Americans face.

Chow thinks Andrew Sullivan's article for the New York Times generalizes Asian Americans and also compares black failure and Asian success on the same bar. Chow mentions Janelle Wong's ideas to portray the history of inequality for African Americans has been for two centuries and states, "the role that selective recruitment of highly educated Asian immigrants has played in Asian American success." Chow continues to prove that Asian success is praised to create a racial wedge, in order to ask why African Americans aren't hard working?

Chow talks about the end of World War II and Japanese Americans rising from oppression and the incarceration camps. Chow uses that to mention Claire Jean Kim who stated the reflection Japanese American success had on African Americans, still in poverty. Chow argues we cannot continue

to put Asian American and African American success on the same bar because, "Asians have been barred from entering the U.S. and gaining citizenship and have been sent to incarceration camps, Kim pointed out, but all that is different than the segregation, police brutality and discrimination that African-Americans have endured."

Being South Asian you also hear people in the community claim the "N word" as their own, but being a Model Minority it simply isn't my word to use. As Arti Patel of the Huffington Post states "The word carries history, negative connotations and experiences South Asians will never have to live with."

It's time we realize Model Minorities are

used as an example for success and creates excuses for racism.

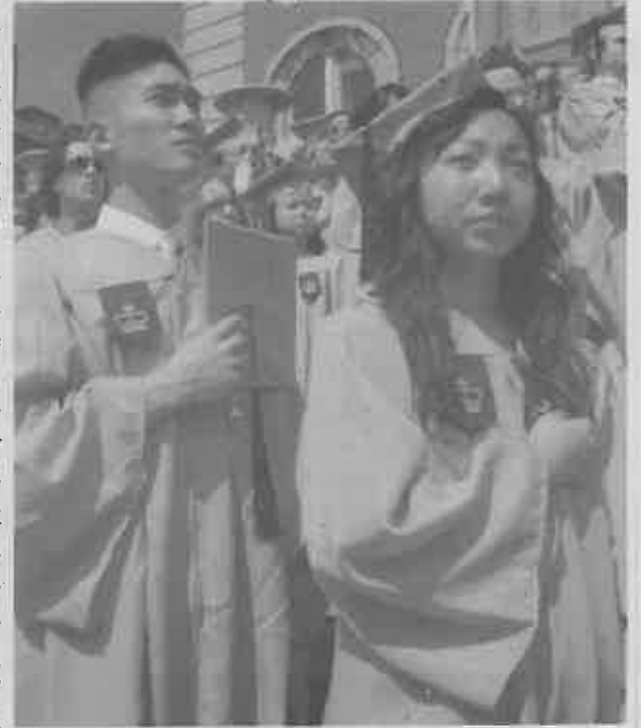


Photo from New York Times

Netflix takes on Cloverfield and diverse cast to play it

By Stephen Hladik
Staff Writer

During 2018's Super Bowl, Netflix dropped the trailer for their new Cloverfield movie, The Cloverfield Paradox. The movie was to be subsequently dropped during the Super Bowl in a major, unprecedented movie release strategy. The film was seen as a flop for Paramount and was salvaged by Netflix and their ability to make movies readily available for streaming. The movie was met with some initial excitement. Ava DuVernay tweeted hours before the game about how "Film Twitter" was not ready for what was coming that night.

The Cloverfield Paradox also has quite the diverse cast and crew, with an African-American director, Julius Onah, and a cast that included David Oyelowo, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, and Zhang Ziyi. However, Netflix was only able to drum up excitement beforehand, and the final product was not met with as much excitement. It received negative reviews with a 16 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Netflix famously doesn't release numbers on acquisitions or viewers so there's no real way of knowing if the movie was a success in that regard. What is frustrating, however, is how Netflix tends to dump some of their most quality movies on their site, with very little to no promotion.

A famous example of this is this past year's Mudbound, directed by Dee Rees. The American epic which tells the story of two families, one black and one white in the post-WWII South received overwhelming critical acclaim and four Academy Award nominations. Its nominations were for Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Supporting Actress, Best Song for Mary J. Blige, and Rachel Morrison for Best Cinematography, who was the first woman to ever be nominated in that category.

When the movie was released, it was buried on Netflix's home page, and didn't receive any major press on the site post awards nominations. Mudbound, with its

devastating depiction of race relations in America, is a necessary for people to see, so why isn't Netflix truth to make people see it? At the same time, Netflix was the only major film distributor that offered to buy Mudbound out of Sundance last year despite major acclaim. According to Rees, no one wanted to touch a movie as intense and painful as Mudbound. So on one hand, one wants to praise Netflix for picking up movies that may be forgotten elsewhere, but one can help but wonder if they put it more than just saving these lost causes. Imagine if Netflix gave Mudbound and Dee Rees this new post-Super Bowl spot?



Photo from Netflix

'Yes Theory' proves to be YouTube's silver lining

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

YouTube is a growing social media platform with millions of users all around the world. The social media platform also changes throughout time from sponsorships, original youtubers, and demonetization. One channel in particular that has stuck with me is Yes Theory.

I started to watch Yes Theory after a long and stressful day. I was scrolling through the app and I saw Yes Theory on my recommended page. The first video by Yes Theory I saw was "We Crashed A Billionaire's Oscars Party." My first reactions to the video is that the people in the video were brave and bold. After that video I started to watch other Yes Theo-

ry videos because the video style was unique, and the people in the video had such a positive energy.

As you learn about the theory and ideas behind the videos, you get hooked and continue watching. Every video is a new adventure for the boys in Yes Theory. From asking "Strangers To Get Matching Tattoos," "Taking 88 Year Old Grandma To Complete Her Bucket List," "Sneaking Onto Rooftops In Paris," and "Climbing The Great Pyramid Of Giza." All the content of the boys has one idea to "Seek Discomfort." The boys of yes theory want people to get out of their comfort zone and go on thrill seeking adventures. As college students we often forget to live our young lives and take care of our mental health. I think Yes Theory reminds people that no matter your age or

moment in life it is important to live it to the fullest. Thrill seeking adventures for Yes Theory is even the little things, and as college students we can take those little risks.

The story behind Yes Theory starts with Thomas, Matt, Ammar, and Derin. Thomas is from France and Sweden, Matt is from America, Ammar is from Egypt, and Derin is from Turkey. The four boys met in the Summer of 2015, they started with a few camera tools to record videos and a couch in Canada. The boys according to the Yes Theory welcome video started on YouTube for six months then moved on to Snapchat's discover page on Brother. The boys moved to Venice, there main headquarters, after creating their impossible unbreakable friendship they talked about in "Our Impossible Friendship."

Freshman Julie Leon was introduced to Yes Theory after recommendations from Instagram. Julie has opinions on Yes Theory, she says, "Yes Theory is Inspiring and awesome because there first few videos they went on risky adventures everyday. I also like that Yes Theory connects with there fans on personal levels by telling their own life stories and battles."

Leon also appreciates that the boys of Yes Theory take time to communicate with their fans and take them on adventures as well.

Yes Theory has changed the YouTube game by being authentic and bold. Every video with Yes Theory you go on an adventure, and every adventure you remember to get out of your comfort zone in order to grow.

Ryan Murphy continues to bring entertainment to t.v. with "ACS: Versace"

By Stephen Hladik
Staff Writer

Earlier this week, mega-producer, writer, and director Ryan Murphy signed a 300 million dollar deal with Netflix. This deal (which is apparently the biggest TV pact in history) will have any projects that Murphy develops after July 1 be a property of Netflix, while his existing shows on cable, FOX's 9-1-1 and FX's Feud, American Horror Story, American Crime Story, and the upcoming Pose will continue to be broadcast on their respective networks. This move perhaps marks a major turning point for Mr. Murphy, who since Glee debuted in 2009, has established himself as one of the successful and audacious creator-producers in the business. He has proved to have an uncanny ability for telling unique stories that wouldn't likely have a home anywhere else on TV.

Thus far, the project that has given him the most acclaim is the anthology series American Crime Story. The first season of American Crime Story was The People Vs. O.J. Simpson, which detailed the trial and subsequent fallout of the O.J. Simpson case. As of now, O.J. is Murphy's masterpiece, a sprawling, epic account of not only the most famous trial in history, but the racism and sexism that informed the entire ordeal.

Murphy's work is best when it's focused, tight, and with a clear message and a desire to explore the painful social issues that lay at the heart of America's worst chapters (American Horror Story's best season, Asylum, was a depiction of 60's oppression while Feud was a deep dive into the misogynist, abusive nature of Hollywood long before the #MeToo movement).

He's at it again, and with thrilling results, with his recent TV outing The Assassination of Gianni Versace, the second installment in the American Crime Story anthology. Versace chronicles the killing

spree of Andrew Cunanan, who murdered five men over the course of five months in 1997, which culminated in his assassination of fashion designer Gianni Versace on the front steps of his Miami mansion. While the title and presence of such a prominent figure in the fashion industry would suggest a campy, soapy romp through the fashion world of the 1990's, that is the exact opposite of the direction Murphy is going in. Pretty early on, it's established that while Versace's life and career is an integral part of the story, it's really not what's concerning the show. What does concern the show is the pervasive homophobia that allowed for Cunanan to get away with his crimes for so long and the privilege that was offered to only one of his victims, Mr. Versace, that made people actually care. Instead of reaching for the operatic heights of O.J. by trying to emulate its scope and grandiose, it turns its attention inwards, turning each episode into chamber pieces of sorts about Cunanan and the innocent people he roped into his orbit.

"A Random Killing", "House By The Lake", and "Don't Ask Don't Tell", the third, fourth, and fifth episodes of the season form a devastating trilogy about the destructive nature of the closet. Each of these episodes centers around one of Cunanan's victims, Lee Miglin, David Madson, and Jeff Trail as they not only meet their devastating fates but try to navigate the vicious pitfalls of what their sexuality put them up against: social status, Middle America, the military. None of these episodes have the pizzazz or snappiness of O.J., but are relentlessly dark and punishing explorations into how isolation can lead people into tragic circumstances.

What sounds like a depressing slog is kept engaging by the commitment of its actors, keeping the show grounded in the horrors of its reality and never tipping over into camp. Ricky Martin acquits himself nicely as

Versace's longtime partner Antonio. Edgar Ramirez does a fantastic job of locating the humanity behind an icon in Versace and Penelope Cruz reminds us that she is one of the best actors working today, revealing dimensions in Donnatella that have never existed in the public eye before now. The show rests on the shoulders of Darren Criss, who's never been asked to play a role of this magnitude before. The gamble pays off; Criss is smashing in the role of Cunanan.

However, there are two actors who not only steal the show, but define it: Judith Light as Marilyn Miglin, wife of Cunanan's 3rd victim Lee Miglin, and Cody Fern as David Madson, who was the second. Light, a Tony-winning veteran of stage and film and Fern, an up and coming actor from Australia, wouldn't appear to have much in common, but their roles in Versace ask them to do very similar things in completely different ways; they both have to communicate so many of the show's central themes in such non-verbal and non-explicit ways. Their circumstances, that of the wife of a very known, closeted Chicago real estate developer and of a young man, barely out to his family and community in Minnesota,

don't afford the characters a chance to express their true feelings; Miglin must preserve the family name and Madson is fighting for his life. Instead, they have to show us the cost of a life lived in stealth through intense closeups and physicality.

While there are still four episodes left of the series, I can't imagine there's going to be any moments as haunting as some of the ones that Light and Fern provide. I'm thinking of a moment in Madson's episode where he breaks the window in a highway dive bar bathroom trying to escape Cunanan. Scored to Aimee Mann's melancholy cover of The Cars "Drive," he contemplates for a few seconds before resigns himself back to Cunanan, sealing his fate. Another moment, in Miglin's episode, where Marilyn is sitting at her granite kitchen countertop, staring despondently as she finds out her husband is dead. She neither cries nor rages, instead she utters a chilling "I knew it." What did she know? Why didn't Madson try to escape? While we will never know the real life answers, Light and Fern give us all we need to know, and almost without any words. Just a silence, a silence that helped take five lives and more unquantifiable damage we will never know.



Photo from FX

Manhattan tea tasting ceremony provides glimpse of Asian culture



Photo from moziru.com

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

Of all the seven continents Asia is a prominent one due to its history, culture, and traditions. In my Survey Of Asian Art class I was introduced to Eastern Asian art. From bronze mirrors, painted bowls, and jade, one of the major components from the class that I learned had to do with my experience at the Urasenke Chanoyu Center of New York. Urasenke is located on 153 E 69th street near the six train and close to Hunter College. I recommend going to the Urasenke Chanoyu Center not only because of its close proximity to Marymount Manhattan College, but because of the experiences you get while in the center. One of the key things you get in the center is meditative. The host explained the meditative aspect to the ceremony. He stated that looking at the host while they serve us the tea slows down the process and is calming and spiritual in itself. The

act of performing the ceremony allows you to forget worldly stress!

The purpose of the Urasenke Center is to provide a tea tasting ceremony in the city. One of the hosts explained that the ceremony isn't in Times Square but it is still in the city. He explained you still get to be in the Manhattan, yet away from the business and buzz of areas like Times Square. The host has worked there for over fifteen years and explained that tea ceremonies are traced back to Japanese culture. He also explained that working for more than fifteen years is considered a low amount of time to lead ceremonies.

We started off the ceremony with settling down and taking off our coats. It is recommended by the center to put away phones and not take pictures. The host then led us with some history of ceremonies and background about himself. He then told

us to take off our shoes and we headed upstairs and entered the setting of the ceremony. One of the few things you see is a separate area with an outside setting and also a sitting area. There is a Japanese script on the wall and an open area in which people could sit in threes, where we were led to sit down. Sitting in threes in a circle, we were told that the proper way to sit was on our knees, but we were encouraged to sit in whatever way made us feel comfortable.

After sitting, we were told that in the Japanese culture the first guest sitting usually is the oldest with younger siblings/family all around. The first guest helped guide the ceremony along with the other hosts. We were then brought out cookies and matcha green teas and we were served these things in a proper respective manner. There were two hosts bringing out the cookies

and matcha green tea, but they first showed the steps of cleaning/making the materials in a meditative process. Each person was served tea and cookies, but you have to bow respectfully and place the tea bowls down after rotating them. The main host leads the ceremony and you will not be lost because every step and tradition is explained.

In this process you learn that no question is wrong and after the ceremony the host allowed a range of questions! You also learn that observing and taking in your surroundings on simple acts like making tea is healing. The ceremony emphasizes the importance of slowing down and pushing away stress, which is a metaphor for life and the meditation. You learn that sometimes all you need is a warm cup of tea!

THE MONITOR

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Marymount Manhattan College's Student Newspaper

May 12, 2018

Dining staff makes effort to accommodate students with diet restrictions

By Shealyn McFadden
Staff Writer

When walking into the school cafe we expect to be fed safe, reliable food. Yet, when it comes to our special requests in regards to eating, Marymount hasn't lived up to it's promises. While waiting in line for a smoothie, I watch as the dairy spoon gets mixed into various vegan products. For some it may not be a big deal, but when your lactose intolerant, gluten free, or vegetarian this poses serious concern. Dietary restrictions are promised to be respected while in Marymount food services. However, there has been questions asked by students and faculty while watching there food get prepped or feeling the after effects of cross contamination. Foodborne illnesses affect almost all Americans at least once a year, 76 million illnesses annually, federal agencies estimate. Usually, these illnesses are mild and won't slow down a healthy adult, but 20 percent of foodborne illnesses are severe enough to require hospitalization. On top of that, 2 to 3 percent of these acute illnesses develop life-long complications such as hemolytic uremic syndrome. One of the leading reasons so many people get

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Photo from author

Cinemaniac's Film Festival showcases impressive student talent

By Billie Sangha
Staff Writer

"We felt that there was something missing on campus in terms of giving students a space to create in a hands-on way when it came to film production," spoke Adrian Alexander at the Cinemaniacs third Marymount Film Festival on Sunday, May 7th in the Regina Peruggi Room to an audience of students who helped pilot, maintain and support the club and also seemed to show interest in joining next semester. The Cinemaniacs is a film production club on campus that allows students real, interactive learning experiences with all aspects of filmmaking. It serves as a platform to experiment and share stories to be showcased at the MMC Film Festival at the end of each semester, after weeks of creative collaboration. The most recent event was the club's third round at coaching students in pre-production, production, post-production before curating a screening party modeled similarly to Tribeca Film Fest, with back drops, red carpets, and speeches. Many students worked independently, troubleshooting throughout the semester, and prefacing each stage of the process with "we'll see what happens", the proactive approach that helps keep the club fun and light coupled with intentionality, a lot of planning, and frequent check-ins.

The Cinemaniacs have come a long way in the regard of restructuring and garnering feedback to improve each semester, based on what students want and need. What was

originally a film viewing and discussion club morphed into something more student-driven, hands-on and creation-oriented, after conversations among Communication Arts majors, Shaneka Williams, Oscar Fouda and Lucas Ferreira sparked the idea to create a community for students to grow, develop, experiment, bond and have fun in the world of filmmaking, collaborating with Adrian, who was the pre-established president.

"We've grown so much since being a handful of students just sitting around watching movies, and now, it really feels like we've grown into a family, and I'm so proud of what everyone has made," original member Katy Milewski reminisced at the podium, among the Executive Board at the end of the festival.

What was particularly notable about this semester's film festival was the commitment and creativity of many new faces. Clubs can struggle with retention in the spring semester as student interest and priorities shift, and although most members have worked in film in some capacity and had been members of the club prior to its transition, the real stars of this year's showcase were students who had walked into Nugent 557 in February and said, "I have no experience, but I have this idea."

These are essentially the magic words for the Executive Board who actively encourage anyone on campus to join. Even the most remote interest in any aspect of filmmaking is the only prerequisite; no previous experience is necessary to have fun and make a movie in the one space on campus designed for it.

This year's film festival featured the work of Sophie Taylor, known as the "unofficial cheerleader of Cinemaniacs" and a never-ending dispenser of film ideas; Thea

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Korean War proven to be a crucial part of the 21st century

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

In order to understand modern international relations between North and South Korea we have to take it back to the original conflict between North and South Korea. We will look at the conflict through United States history inspired by John Green's Crash Course number thirty eight. It all starts with the American Cold War reaching to other parts of the world and leaving lasting impacts nonetheless. The Cold War resulted in The Korean War started from 1950 to 1953 and as John Green of Crash Course World History puts it, is sometimes called the forgotten war. America was directly involved in the war and also fought with communist China at that time. Korea ended up splitting with the North being led by Kim II Sung and the South led by Syngman Rhee.

North and South Korea was supposed to unite eventually but they kept fighting and that war lead to about 100,000 casualties. John Green of Crash Course World History talks about how the war became a global intervention and conflict when Kim II Sung of North Korea invaded South Korea in June of 1950. President Harry S. Truman intervened with the worry that Communist Communist Russia was influencing the decision by North Korea to invade the

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Dining staff makes effort to accommodate students with dietary restrictions

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sick from food each year is cross-contamination. Nobody would arrive at work in a restaurant with the deliberate intention of making others sick. Unfortunately, some restaurants have unintentionally caused customers to become ill from the food they have served. For those with special dietary requirements, scanning the ingredients list on the back of packaging is a regular occurrence. If that list includes milk or eggs, it seems obvious that a vegan would have to return that product to the shelf. However, if there is accidental cross contamination, no one knows the harm that could be done to someone with acute allergy restrictions. Hearing of the concerns raised, MMC Food Services plans to make improvements in order to prevent cross contamination in the future.

Cross-contamination typically occurs as a result of products sharing equipment or by way of the gloves of workers, or by other means. As detailed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA): "it's not a legal requirement to say on the label that a food might accidentally contain small amounts of an allergen." Nonetheless, many companies choose to do so in order to protect customers with a food intolerance or more cynically, to protect themselves from litigation. In some cases, this appears to have led to companies being overzealous with their labeling

when in reality a 2014 survey from the FSA emphasized that the presence of contamination was only a possibility. Upon examining 1,000 supposedly risk-containing products, around half of them contain the allergen in question.

While all of this may have you wondering as a Marymount attendant what the school is doing about this problem. After hearing the concerns about cross contamination at Marymount, Annette Collazo-Comito the director of dining services, decided to take heavier precautions in food safety. Starting with simple steps such as separating silverware used for dairy, meat, vegan, nut free and gluten free products. In a similar fashion, all products will be stored separately in containers that won't be mixed. Proper sanitation and glove wearing procedures will be upheld and improved in the upcoming weeks as well. Stations that students can help themselves to will have improved precautions as well, such as; distinguished utensils for different food products, labeled food restrictions, and more options! While examining how to improve conditions of cross contamination, the idea of adding more versatile food to the menu put into action as well. Cross contamination may be nothing more than human error, but if there are precautions that can help prevent it, then MMC demands them!

Korean War proven to be a crucial part of the 21st century

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South. President Truman's hope was to save the "Free World" which is a term used at that time to represent non communist soviet countries. President Truman got the go from the United Nations to intervene in the conflict but never went to Congress. President Truman never called it a war instead saying that the United States was intervening with United Nations "Police Action." Under General MacArthur the United Nations forces (South Korea and America) pushed North Korea pass the 38th parallel where Korea was divided.

President Truman than tried to unify Korea as a noncommunist country by going to the Northern border with China, China ended up retaliating on November 1 1950 due to the fear of Americans getting close. Then the two sides stayed at a stalemate on the 38th parallel. The United States continued fighting by dropping bombs through the "Scorched Earth" policy. The two sides tried to create a treaty that didn't work and the two stayed divided.

In 1991 North Korea and South Korea did join the United Nations but that didn't change the hostility both sides had toward each other. North Korea became a totalitarian dictatorship lead by Kim Jong Un. The mystery behind North

Korea is how it oppresses its citizens and how it handles international relations. The biggest way international relations is handled is through the portrayal and knowledge of nuclear weapons.

The fear of another war between North Korea and South Korea remains until something happened in the past week. Both North and South Korea talked about peace after many years of hostility. Both sides vowed to get rid of nuclear weapons and discussed ending the war. South Korean president Moon Jae stepped over the line dividing both countries and Kim Jong Un stepped in the South. Kim stated according to The Atlantic newspaper, "I came here to put an end to the history of confrontation."

South Korean president Moon Jae stated Trump deserves a nobel prize for his role in these events and also leading the plan for Trump to meet Kim to discuss nuclear bombs. As The Atlantic's article "North and South Korea's Push for Peace" says, "The real challenge will be to work out a deal that guarantees enforceable and verifiable denuclearization in clear steps, at an acceptable price to the U.S.—which keeps over 20,000 troops in South Korea."

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Cinemaniac's Film Festival showcases impressive student talent

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Henry who debuted with her adaptation of George Melies' "A Trip to the Moon", a colourful and trippy remake that hypnotized the audience; the editorial work of Ariel Hilario who has worn many hats this semester from acting, writing, editing, and directing; Lucas Ferreira's "NY Commuter" which features parkour and scattered moments of comedy that will leave you out of breath from either laughing or realizing you could not do half of what his lead actor does in the film; a personal performance piece of Lora Mathis's "The Rape Joke" that challenges the stigma of talking about rape culture and the long-term effects of living in a society that still struggles to take it seriously; and Adrian Alexander's "What Happened", a drama that offers perspective on navigating change, adulthood, and success in a romantic relationship.

The club is currently in a transitional phase, as the film festival is the concluding event after the last meeting during which members are expected to submit the final cut of their films that will be queued up for the screening. Currently, the Executive Board is comprised of Adrian Alexander as President,



Photo from Jaswin Sangha

myself as Vice President, Shaneka Williams as Treasurer, Oscar Fou-da as Secretary, Victoria Gargiulo as Club Manager, and Alyssa Chua as Production Manager, with applications for these positions being opened up to the student body.

Because majority of the board includes graduating or rising seniors and students who have retained the role for the maximum number of semesters, younger students shouldn't hesitate to step

into the leadership roles that not only look good on resumes (because we're all aiming to boost our LinkedIn profiles, aren't we?) but will develop them as young professionals and keep the Cinemaniacs alive. The current e-board will be available as mentors to onboard people entering their positions and will continue to be active propellers for the club.

Next semester's weekly meeting times are being deliberated to

ensure maximum participation, but interested members can join the Cinemaniacs private Facebook group, especially since that is a central message board outside the world of Outlook emails and a place where pitches, casting calls, scripts, updates, and questions live.

Past films have ranged from light-hearted romantic comedies, satirical parodies, music videos, horror films to experimental work, performance pieces, documentaries, dramas, everything. The structure of the club is explained in the Cine-Guide which breaks down the entire process: how to pitch a film, what a cast and crew should include, as well as a timeline to help guide students on how to prepare for the screening. That is the moment where the weeks of hosting auditions, lugging camera equipment, and deciding which bloopers you refuse to delete because they are too hilarious pay off.

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Marymount community faces a multitude of micro-aggressions

By Fahima Degia
Staff Writer

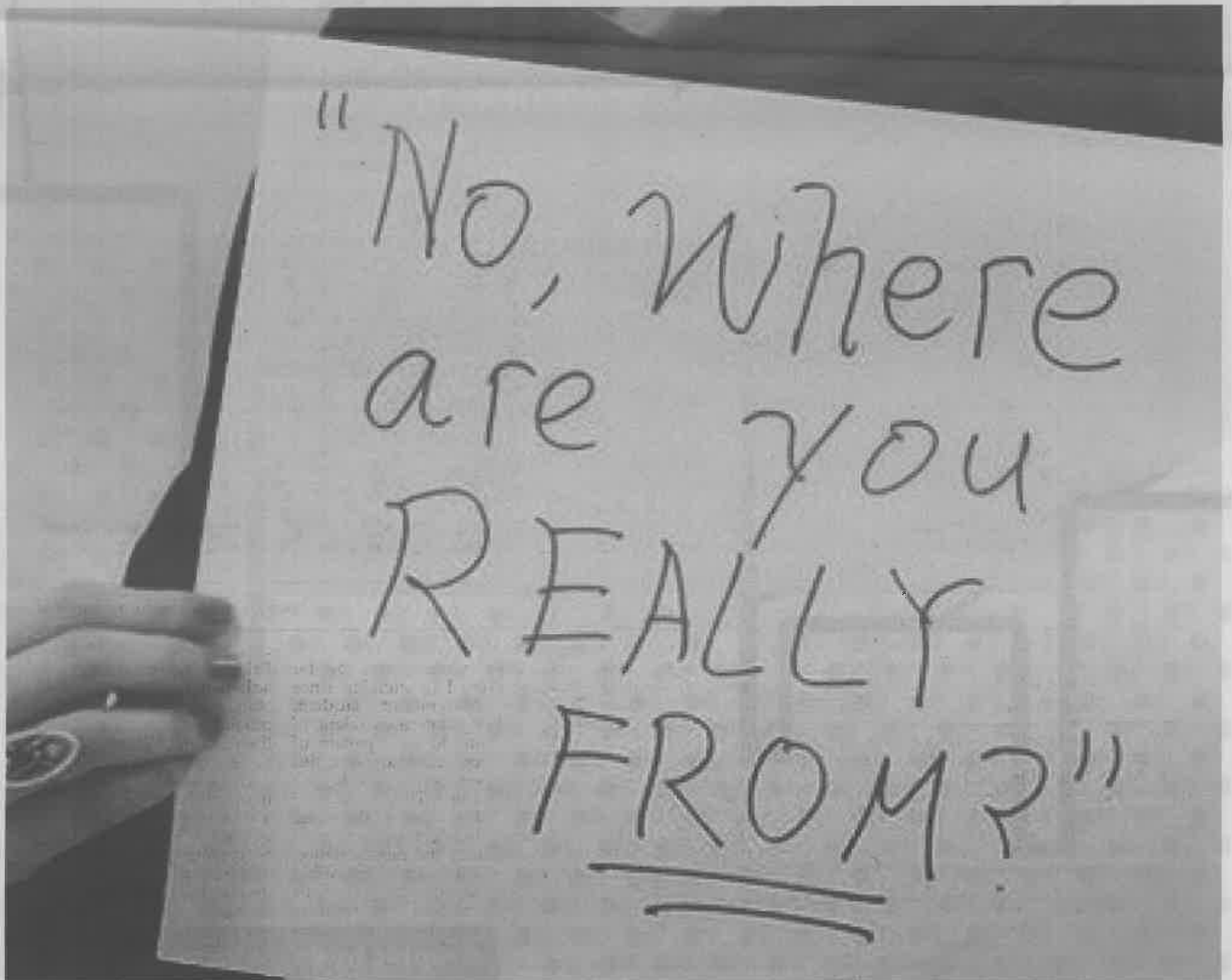
According to Psychology Today microaggressions are "the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership." There are three different types of microaggressions that the American Psychiatric Association talks about such as micro insults, micro assaults, and micro invalidation. Micro insults are unconscious and devalues a person of color like asking how a person of color got there job, which insinuates that the person got their job because of an "Affirmative Action Program." Micro assaults are downright racist and conscious like hiring a white person because you prefer them. Microinvalidation is making a person's feelings and experiences less than and by saying things like "I don't see color," you are invalidating what a person of color experiences everyday. Common examples of microaggressions which I got with the help of University of Minnesota are where are you from, where were you born, or asking an Asian

American to teach them words in their language. All those microaggressions assume that person isn't an American. Other microaggressions include holding on to your purse or following a person of color in a store these aggressions criminalize a person of color. The biggest one I see is when white people deny there racial biases by saying things like "I am not racist I have friends of color" or when a white women says "As a women I know what you go through as a minority." These kinds of microaggressions are saying I don't see color because I have friends of color. Also comparing gender and racial oppression as the same is insinuating that i'm not racist because were are alike. Which is untrue because women of color have different experiences from white women in this country. How do microaggressions apply to the Marymount community? Well let's start from a thought I had since I started to attend Marymount which is we call ourselves inclusive and we are in terms of many people's sexuality, but Marymount lacks diversity, so is it fair to say Marymount is inclusive? 1,915 students were enrolled in Fall of 2017 and 1,157 of them are White according to the statistics page on the Marymount website. With these thoughts in my mind I started to encounter many students who face

microaggressions in Marymount which sparked my interests to write about it. One of the stories that really frustrated me was the story of my friend from HEOP, as a fellow HEOP student I felt deeply empathetic for her. My friend had a theatre professor who told her that her writing looked like spanish, despite her writing in english. Instead of giving my friend advice on writing styles, mechanics, and grammar (which my friend asked for) she choose to say that her writing sounded like spanish. My friend has since than also had other disheartening encounters with the same professor. Tavia Cummings has also faced microaggressions regarding her name, "I've had a professor never pronounce my name right, even when I would correct her. One day I corrected her and another student asked me how to say my name, she cut me off and said 'we can call you whatever we want.' I thought it was so rude and like she was purposely pronouncing my name wrong because other students had 'hard to pronounce' names, but after one correction she would say it right. The only difference was my race." Ta'lor Mosley has dealt with people asking to touch her hair as a black women. An anonymous student feels as if there are many "trans and gender related microaggressions everyday, usually by

teachers assuming everyone's gender or refusing to call a student by their name." Madison Weisend has faced microaggressions regarding dietary restrictions, "I suggested dietary restrictions as a form of oppression and was told that dietary restrictions are unable to oppress people. Go to the cafeteria. Ask a Jew or a Hindu or a Muslim or a vegan or even a vegetarian or someone with a medical intolerance how much food they can actually eat there." Neka Knowles similar to Tavia Cummings had a professor tell her that her name was grammatically incorrect. The Marymount community has to do better in informing students and faculty on what microaggressions really look like. We also have to do better in taking student concerns seriously because so many microaggressions go unreported, or nothing changes, or people feel as if nothing will change so they don't speak up. Of all the stories I compiled including my Monitor Microaggressions Survey only two people reported what happened. This speaks volumes and calls for changes because the students who face these things matter. Just because microaggressions aren't overt forms of oppression doesn't mean they aren't important.

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Trump Regime continues to embarrass themselves, America



Photo from huffingtonpost.com

By Fahima Degia
Copy Editor

Republican candidate, Donald Trump, was inaugurated on January, 202017 after a controversial election. Donald Trump ran against Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, who lost the electoral votes. According to CNN politics Hillary Clinton won the popular votes receiving 65,853,516 while Donald Trump received 62,984,825 votes.

Since the time Trump was a candidate America has been divided by the right and left. Liberals and leftists have candidly protested Trump's policies and ideals on how America should look [should "leftists" be "Conservatives" since you used "Liberals"]. We overlook people in the middle of the political spectrum who have mixed feelings about the policies and ideas of Trump. Some Republicans have highly supported and stood behind Trump, while other Republicans haven't. It is clear that America is divided with different political ideas.

Despite the divisions in our country and a heated political environment, Trump was elected. Now it is our job as Americans to either support or speak up against his policies. This starts with analyzing his executive orders, policies, and the changes he has made in this country since his inauguration. By analyzing the policies you can protest the ones you do not like and hope that change is made to prevent future policies.

The Supreme Court plays a major role in this country; it is one of the three branches of Government that is able to create laws that impact the whole nation. The activist court during the sixties made a lot of progress in promoting social progress. Supreme Court cases like *Roe v Wade* and *Brown v Board* impact the ways in which women and African Americans can live in this country, because the Supreme Court enforces federal policies and shapes federalism [the second half of the sentence "... because..." doesn't fit with the first half]. The Supreme Court has the power to make changes to the Constitution, a vital document that applies to everyone.

Representation in this country means power and that is why it is important to acknowledge that Donald Trump can elect in a new Chief Justice. Trump's Executive Powers allow him to do this and if he elects a Republican candidate in the Supreme Court they will always back up Trump in his decisions. This can also potentially get rid of rights that previous Supreme Court cases gave. For example, *Roe v Wade* gave women abortion rights and that can be taken away by the Supreme Court under a majority Republican court creating a conservative shift in the court.

Trump has elected in Judge Brett Kavanaugh as his second nominee for the retiring Justice, Anthony Kennedy. Last year he nominated Justice Neil Gorsuch. Kavanaugh according to the *Chicago Tribune* would "be a

young addition who could help remake the court for decades to come with rulings that could restrict abortion, expand gun rights and roll back key parts of Obamacare."

Trump's nominees are worrisome because they lean left and would essentially shift the policies in this country. Not only that, immigration in this country is a hot button topic as Immigration Customs Enforcement is being stricter with Immigration Policy. One of the ways it is doing that is through policies like The Muslim Ban. The ban was obviously targeted for Muslim Countries because of the perception that terrorism ties to being a Muslim. The gripe with that is why do people of color represent their entire race? Why do the actions of extremists define an entire religion or group of people who want to come to the land of opportunity? Why is America unwilling to help refugees fleeing from harsh environments? Why do we as a society ignore humanitarian crises?

Sanctuary cities are willing to help undocumented immigrants and fight back against Immigration Customs Enforcement. New York City is a sanctuary city and the Supreme Court put out an order that blocked federal grants going into the cities. However, recently according to CNN, "The Trump administration Monday asked the Supreme Court to put on hold a nationwide injunction that blocks it from limiting federal grants to so-called sanctuary cities." According to CNN, "Nationwide

injunctions are a relatively new phenomenon, but they have had a big impact on Trump's policies." Injunctions are a new phenomenon but we should be worried about them because they shape the way Trump thinks about politics.

Besides the sanctuary city ban and new Supreme Court nominees, Trump also signed the executive order that stopped family separation. Children were being separated from their parents on the United States Mexico border. According to Politico, the Supreme Court originally waited for Congress to fix the problem. Trump still wants to enforce strong policies at the border but he signed the executive order halting the separations. His executive order doesn't make anything better because Immigration Customs Enforcement has been ripping families apart all around America. Many undocumented immigrants don't know their rights and people take advantage of that [Consider revising to avoid ending with "that" maybe Undocumented immigrants are at a risk of being taken advantage of because many of them don't know their rights]. The Executive Order doesn't make anything better because the fine print says, "Administration officials also said that children who have already been separated from their parents won't immediately be reunited, even if the parents remain in federal custody." When did we stop caring about the children of this country?

THE ELECTION RUNDOWN

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE EAST COAST PRIMARIES

By Siobhan Hayes-Keane
Guest Writer

Before general elections come up we should reflect on state elections to guide our voting decisions. The east coast is looking blue after the primaries. Many republicans are scrambling to hold their seats in upcoming gubernatorial elections. Current Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker is in danger of losing to democratic nominee; former Secretary of Administration and Finance of Massachusetts, Jay Gonzalez. Similarly, current Vermont Governor Phil Scott has fallen in the polls behind democratic nominee Christine Hallquist. Hallquist is the first openly transgender major party nominee for Governor in United States history. Pennsylvania's recent map redraw showed that this traditional swing state is more favourable to democrats

than anyone had thought. The redraw was made to overturn republican gerrymandering after the 2016 election. (map graphics). Pennsylvania continued its streak of major political change as a record number of women ran for office this year. PA's contribution to the house of representatives is projected to be more female than ever after seven women secured democratic nominations on the November ballot.

A notable takeaway from the 2018 primaries were the many victories for people of colour, particularly women of colour. In New York, political newcomer and former organizer for the 2016 Sanders presidential campaign; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez beat incumbent Joseph Crowley for the democratic spot. In the words of Senator Bernie Sanders, "She demonstrated once again what progressive grassroots politics can

do." Many had the feeling of déjà vu in Massachusetts, where another huge upset win occurred. Boston City Councilwoman Ayanna Pressley beat the over 20 year incumbent Representative Michael Capuano, for Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District 59%-41%. If she is to win in the November election, she will be the first black congresswoman from Massachusetts. Furthermore, should political newcomer and Connecticut's 5th congressional district's nominee Jahana Hayes also win in November, she and Pressley will be the first two black congresswomen from New England.

Although incumbent Senior United States Senator from New Jersey Robert Menendez is under fire for accepting gifts from wealthy benefactors, republican nominee Bob Hugin is still behind in the polls. Jersey is unlikely to break its almost

50-year Democratic senate streak this November. Looking down south, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum won the Florida primary for Governor and shocked everyone. He is up against Representative Ron DeSantis, a man steeped in controversy over racist remarks who is backed by President Trump. If Gillum is to defeat DeSantis, he will be the first black governor in Florida's history. Republican Governor of Georgia Nathan Deal is unable to run again due to term constraints, leaving the seat up for grabs. Democratic nominee Stacey Abrams is the first black female major party gubernatorial nominee in the United States, and she is dominating the polls. She is going up against republican nominee Brian Kemp this November.

THE "CONTERVERSARY" OF SERENA WILLIAMS

NOT ALL SPORTS PLAYERS ARE CREATED EQUAL

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Serena Williams is a professional tennis player famous for being ranked number one by the Women's Tennis Association. Throughout her career, she has achieved four Olympic medals, became the first African American woman to win a Grand Slam title in the 1999 United States opening, and she has dominated the tennis world.

Though Serena Williams is a great tennis player, throughout her career, she has dealt with many unwarranted controversies. Recently, she was fined \$17,000 for her actions that were considered tournament violations in an "altercation" with the umpire during one of her openings for the

United States.

According to SB Nation, written by James Dator, "Chair umpire Carlos Ramos argued with Williams throughout the match after charging Patrick Mouratoglou, Williams' coach, with instructing her from the stands. Coaching mid-game is technically against the rules, but routinely happens without incident. The charge escalated tensions between Ramos and Williams, leading to numerous verbal altercations before Williams broke her racket in anger."

After the incident, many users on social media blew up against Serena Williams. Videos of her throwing her racket went viral. And the referee association charged Williams with \$10,000 for speaking up to Ramos, \$3,000 for breaking the tennis racket, and \$4,000 for

not following the warning from the coach.

The CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, Steve Simon came out with a statement that SB Nation discusses. "The WTA believes that there should be no difference in the standards of tolerance provided to the emotions expressed by men vs. women and is committed to working with the sport to ensure that all players are treated the same. We do not believe that was done last night."

Williams pointed out the umpire's blatant sexism and then the umpire threatened to boycott the matches with Williams in them. Williams points out the double standard in the sport, and according to an AOL's article, she made the statement, "I just don't understand...if you're a female

you should be able to do even half of what a guy can do."

The expectations we have for women players in any sports is unjust. Serena Williams is undoubtedly a great player that breaks records, yet she is frequently criticized, whether it is about her muscular body not being deemed socially acceptable for a women to have or her responses to double standards in professional sports.

It forces the public, private organizations, and associations to consider the differences in male reactions when disagreeing with a call. What is competition and passion, and what is aggression and constitutes a violation and heavy fine?

ADJUSTING AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

DIVING INTO THE UNKNOWN, TRYING NOT TO DROWN

By Marine Bergeron
Guest Writer

Back to school. While it might sound like an ordeal to some ears, others might hear fresh start. Whether you see it through a positive lens or not, the root of everyone's back to school experience is somewhat always pretty similar: you will probably meet new students, try to adapt to new teaching methods or mentally adjust to a new schedule that at first glance seems overwhelming. Yet, while most know what to expect, there is still a minority that most surely will find it challenging. I'm talking about those international students diving in a new world, far from their comforting bed, caring friends or supportive family.

After attending the Welcome Week it was clear that international students were a non-negligible part of Marymount Manhattan College's community. In fact, you could expect to see at least 100 international students while walking in the hallway as they represent 5% of

its student body. Hence, it's not difficult to understand that MMC has chosen to focus on inclusivity and embrace diversity.

Nonetheless, numbered facts are fruitless when it comes to answering the important question: How are these students adapting and coping with potential culture shock?

After looking into the potential differences between US colleges and European universities, a few stand out. Disparities in details such as, the number of years it takes to attain your bachelor (4 in the US while only 3 in Europe) which itself is a result of a much more substantial distinction - while in the US, you are to develop your general education (ultimately giving you a strong base in multiple fields of study), European countries view it otherwise. They expect you to have acquired that general knowledge prior to entering college, consequently, they immediately focus in a specific area of study. While each present advantages and constraints, it's nevertheless fascinating that such

a stage in our life could be widely altered depending on which part of the earth you call home.

Yet, aside from having a general overview of the situation, in order to have a more accurate and personal insight on the matter, who better to ask than foreign students themselves. Thankfully, two students from Kyrgyzstan, Aiana and Aruzhan, willingly shared their experience with me. While Aiana came to the US under her sister's recommendations and strong will to live in a diverse environment, Aruzhan's choice was driven by both, her wish to discover a new continent (as she has already studied in both the Asian and European continent) and find a college that could deliver her a degree in fine arts, as Aiana later confirmed that options were more limited in their country "Given the opportunity to do a double major was completely new to me". Both felt "Kyrgyzstan is more conservative, with a strict hierarchy enforced between students and professors that has to be respected", Aiana explained after she had

witnessed how fewer conventions were expected from students when addressing to teachers here in the US. "Yet, in Kyrgyzstan, teachers will always allow you to improve your grades" Aruzhan added as she feels that such a thing would be more difficult to do in the US.

Finally, it was interesting to listen to their contrasting point of view when asked about any culture shock experiences. It was then clear that coming from the same country doesn't make your experience less personal as Aiana explained that, she was surprised by the immediate friendliness some strangers could display and unsettled by the American diet, while Aruzhan, doesn't describe it as a proper "culture shock", but simply as dissimilarities when taking the subway or settling in her apartment (such as having to share washers and dryers).

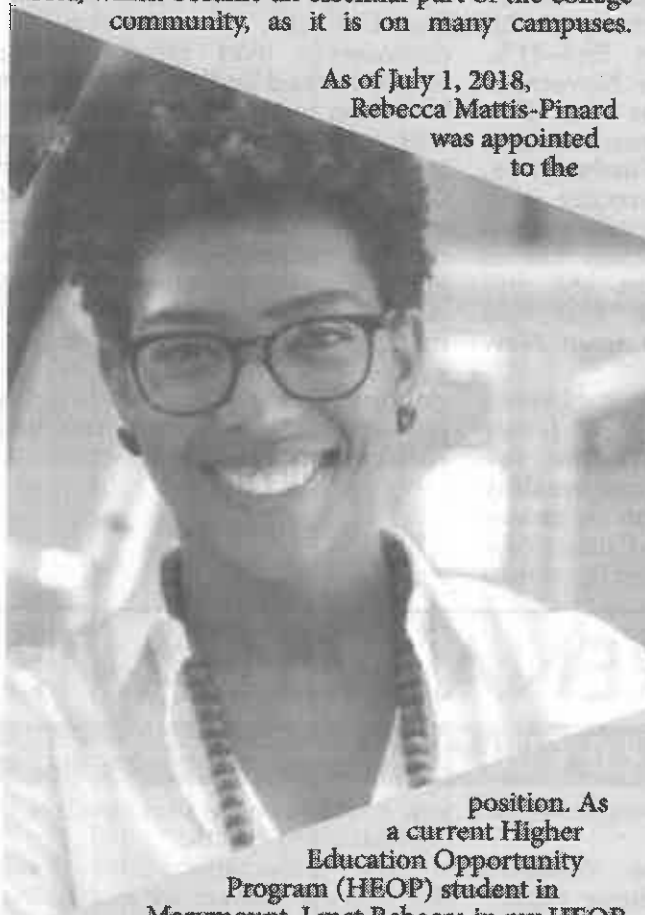
Ultimately, New York, already seen as the quintessential melting pot in the US, still lives up to that tradition today.

REBECCA PINARD

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

When Kerry Walk became the president of Marymount Manhattan College, she created the Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator role, which became an essential part of the college community, as it is on many campuses.

As of July 1, 2018, Rebecca Mattis-Pinard was appointed to the



position. As a current Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) student in Marymount, I met Rebecca in my HEOP summer program. She has been an important member of the Marymount community working in the HEOP department as director. As President Walk states, Rebecca's role as the HEOP director came with her passion for social justice. "Rebecca has focused on equity and social justice

for over a decade—as a higher education leader, faculty member, career counselor, and academic advisor. She is well known to the MMC community as Director of HBOP, the Higher Education Opportunity Program, a position she has held since January 2015. Before her promotion to HEOP Director, Rebecca served for four and a half years as MMC's HEOP Counselor while teaching courses on career development as an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Cooperative Education Department at LaGuardia Community College. She has also served as a career counselor at Pace University.

In her time as HEOP Director, Rebecca has shown her deep commitment to supporting underrepresented students in higher education, giving them the tools and motivation to succeed. Besides the enthusiastic testimonials of scores of HEOP students and "HEOP

adoptees," an important measure of her effectiveness is that 90% of HEOP students attain a college degree.

Among her many accomplishments as HEOP Director, Rebecca launched a HEOP initiative through which HEOP students are required to become involved in the life of the college and embrace leadership opportunities. With a major gift from an anonymous donor, she established a professional development fund for HEOP students, which supports conference participation and research and field experiences. And she has been a strong and inspiring advocate for HEOP by giving the program visibility throughout MMC, all the while strengthening the relationship between MMC and New York State to ensure HEOP's sustainability. She has also served as a founding

member of the President's Advisory Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, which has become essential to the implementation of the new Strategic Plan."

As I interviewed Rebecca, I discovered that while she worked in Marymount for eight years, the school was having trouble opening discourse about diversity and inclusion. Students and faculty were bringing up issues regarding these topics, but it wasn't until President Walk came into her role that there was a push for it. President Walk made her vision and leadership mission clear and under her administration, the role of Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator role was established.

With the new position, Rebecca hopes to create a Diversity and Inclusion strategic plan. Rebecca states that the plan will help the college stay accountable to its goals while allowing feedback from the community. It also allows the institution to stay committed, so the next person in the role can build from the plan. She also hopes to get more faculty of color on campus and develop ways to retain the students of color that are enrolled in Marymount.

Rebecca's transition to the role across varying departments is different. She states she worked in HEOP for 8 years directly with students and that energy guided her role. She worked with different marginalized groups: low income, first generation, students of color, LGBTQ+ folks. Working with those groups, Rebecca learned about the diverse needs of the students and she hopes to apply that to the entire college community.

Long-term, she wants alumni to come back and see the progress Marymount made. Creating intellectual engagement within the students is pivotal in allowing everyone's voices to be valued and heard. She also wants students to know there are on campus and off campus resources available for students, regardless of if they are in HEOP. For more information and to reach out, Rebecca can be contacted at rpinard@mmm.edu and her office can be found in Carson Hall Room 315.

JENNY XIE

By Halle Roberts
Guest Writer

Jenny Xie is the author of *Eye Level*, a book of poems regarding the dichotomy between the seer and the seen, from the perspective of someone who prefers to be the seer. Earlier this year, the book received the 2017 Walt Whitman Award for poetry and earlier this month, it was long-listed for the National Book Award. Suffice to say, Xie's work has been "seen" this year. Recently, Xie gave a reading of selections from her book at Marymount and answered some questions we had about her work. Read on for our discussion of the perspective Jenny Xie writes her poetry from, the process with which she writes it, and her advice for young poets on how to sustain their own work as seers in a society obsessed with being seen.

A recurring theme in *Eye Level* is the "I's preference for being the seer, rather than being seen. Now that you, personally, have been "seen," how might the perspective of the "I" in your future poems shift?

Thanks for this question. The "I's that appear across my poems, both within *Eye Level* and elsewhere, shift constantly. I use the first person to inhabit different modes, tonal registers, and occasionally to achieve certain kinds of immediacy on the page, but I don't often use the "I" to refer to a fixed being in the world.

A few of your poems, as well as your book itself, begin with epigraphs. What came first? Did you write poems to epigraphs or did you find the epigraphs afterwards?

It depends. I'm usually immersed in many

different texts as I write, and I like to jot down passages and lines that provoke thought or stir feeling in me. Occasionally, I'll begin a poem with a line in mind, which may turn into the epigraph, or get transplanted into the poem itself. Other times, when I'm in the editing stage, I might see that an epigraph provides a satisfying lead-in for the work or lends it a certain charge.

How do you end a poem? How do you know when it's complete? What about a book?

I'm not sure I know how or when poems get completed. Perhaps they feel completed when I make the decision to stop editing them, in part because my mind is on the trail of something far afield. On

occasion, I'll feel there's an intuitive rightness about a poem's length, how it traces an inquiry, or how it reaches its last lines, and that will signal to me that I can trust that it's finished, in some sense.

As for a book, I don't have much practice with knowing when one is complete. I think some of the same principles might apply: there's a sense of internal coherence across a collection, and perhaps also a sense that newer work or preoccupations are tugging in a slightly different direction.

In poems of yours set in big cities, you've made the point about how effortless it is to go unseen. But, in

cities like NYC, there is also an immense pressure to be seen. Any suggestions for young writers on how to relieve that pressure? Or is it better to lean into it?

If you mean the pressure to be visible in literary communities for professional reasons, I would caution against confusing visibility and exposure with one's work and what drives the work. Each writer has to calibrate how

comfortable they are with being in the public eye, though. Doubtless being seen can carry with it certain pleasures and kinds of power; it can also bring a writer into communities that sustain their practice. That said, I do think it's crucial to be protective of one's time to think, read, and write, and much of that remains solitary labor.



NUYORICAN POETS CAFE

— STORIES, CULTURE AND HISTORY. —

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Have you ever felt a little somber and needed something, anything to smile? Have you ever been in an environment in which you felt truly content? Have you ever been in sync with a hundred strangers all from different walks of life? Have you ever felt so much empathy with someone's words that tears started to pour from your eyes? Have you ever felt a bittersweet feeling within your heart just listening to someone speak?

That is what the Nuyorican Poets Cafe can do for you. The performing venue/cafe is a place filled with stories, culture, and history. Most importantly and obviously, it's filled with poetry. Words can change people's lives, words can make an impact, and words can heal - the Nuyorican Poets Cafe gets that.

Located on the Lower East Side on 236 E 3rd Street, the Poet's Cafe has been around since 1973. Poets, philosophers, writers, and activists who were part of the beat poet generation of the 1950s

have often praised the space as "the most integrated place on the planet." The cafe has become a secret gathering place filled with years of culture in a city that is constantly moving but never losing its flare for poetry or spoken word. Time seems to stop in the Nuyorican Poets Cafe for people who want to connect to words and people in a place designed to do just that.

After waiting in line and paying in cash, or reserving your seats, you can get into the cafe. Those who wait in the line tend to not get seats, but that is because the cafe has two floors. The tradition is to sit on the ground or to go on the second floor to get a view from above. After everyone is sitting and the DJ is blasting music, the bar by the doors is available for everyone.

Once everyone is settled, the host introduces themselves and discusses the events of the night. Fridays are usually interesting, particularly for the poetry slams. Every host is different for the introductions; my favorite moment with my host's introduction was when

all the lights went out and she made us all dance freely. I started moving my legs, then my hips. I didn't feel like me but I felt like me. In an environment with fellow poetry lovers, moving my hips, I felt like me. Because I never dance but I felt comfortable dancing in sync with the people around me. Another truly awesome moment that night was when the host started calling out countries and states. People from the crowd would scream to represent the place they were from, showing how accepting, magnetic and diverse the cafe is.

Afterwards, the poets start to perform. On the day of poetry slams, there is a panel of judges in the audiences as well, scoring winners for who gets to move onto the next round. The poetry is understandably the best part; I didn't realize the power of words until I heard the whole crowd silent, cheering, applauding, or completely immersed in the presence and performance of the person onstage.

The passion in their voices and

the spark that fills the room describes the beauty of listening to poetry. I got to connect with each speaker for different reasons, there were moments I teared up, and then I had the vision that I wanted to be up on that stage one day telling my story. The Nuyorican Poets Cafe did that for me and I hope it can do that for others who may find themselves in the electric magic of that cultural icon. The history, culture, and soul in that place is truly and utterly wondrous.

A poet will express themselves through words but in this cafe its particularly special. That is because the cafe promotes diversity and talks about social justice issues in poems. The cafe intersects poetry to politics through different artists every night. It is also special because it doesn't allow anyone to record the artists without consent; that forces people to be present with the art and not consumed by their phones. People should experience the poets cafe at least once in there life in order to understand the magic of it!

THE FLOWERS OF GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

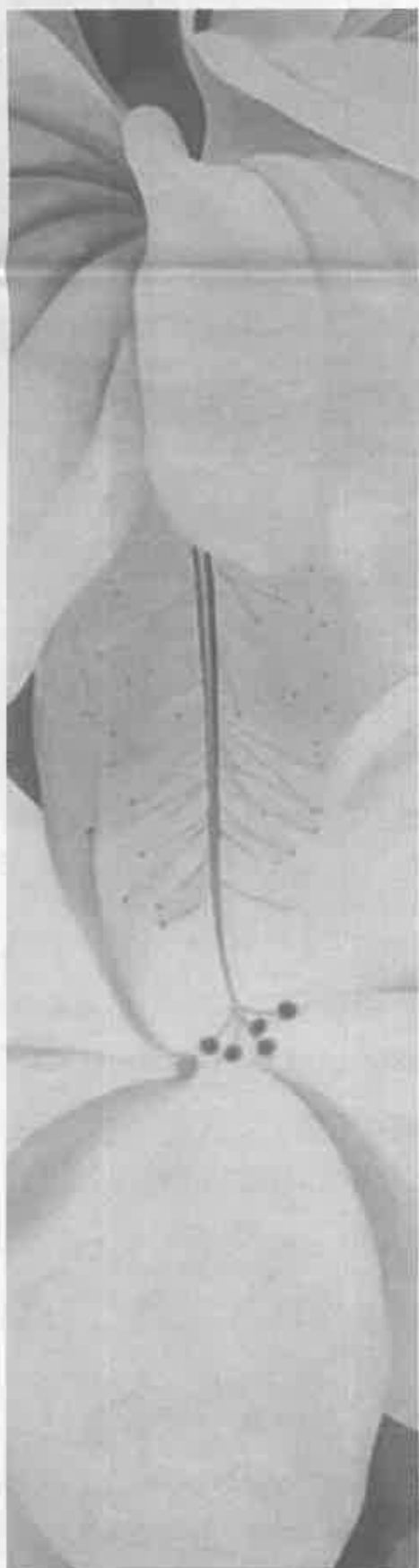
— THE BOTANICAL GARDEN'S VISIONS OF HAWAII EXHIBIT —

By Cross Nelson
Staff Writer

For centuries, flowers have been the muse of painters worldwide; however, no one is able to capture the subject's beauty quite so intimately as Georgia O'Keeffe. American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe, was born in Wisconsin in 1887 and after moving to Chicago, New York City, and finally to her permanent home in New Mexico, she pioneered a new era of art history. Known as the mother of American Modernist painting, Georgia O'Keeffe's unique works challenged the conventional art of the time and her distinct style became a symbol of innovation in the art world. Along with the title of mother of American Modernism, O'Keeffe has also earned the title of being the most renowned painter of flowers in the world, thanks to her numerous masterpieces depicting lively blossoms of color. In general, O'Keeffe seemed to have a relationship with flowers that no one else had and that is what set her work apart. She could so easily capture the plants' hidden details, and make the viewer feel that they are seeing the flower for the first time in an entirely different light, as if they are being reintroduced to an old friend. In the spirit of O'Keeffe's favorite subject, the New York Botanical Garden is hosting a special exhibition titled, "Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of Hawaii," featuring some of O'Keeffe's most prolific, yet unknown works. In the spring of 1939, the Hawaiian Pineapple Company (today known as Dole), offered O'Keeffe an all-expenses paid trip to the Hawaiian islands, where she was instructed to paint two ads for the promotion of the company's pineapple products. O'Keeffe readily accepted the offer and spent nine weeks exploring and painting in the island paradise. During her time in Hawaii, O'Keeffe painted twenty pieces depicting the exotically beautiful and lush landscapes of the islands; creating works that differed greatly

from her recognizable canvases of New Mexican landscapes and desert flowers. Hawaii afforded O'Keeffe with a wealth of inspiration, and introduced her to a myriad of new subjects that she had never before had the chance to paint. Mountain waterfalls, vibrant hibiscus flowers, soaring guava trees, and jagged volcanoes are all objects that sparked her interest whilst experiencing an entirely foreign terrain. Perhaps what inspired O'Keeffe most about the Hawaiian landscape was the abundance of one of her favorite things - color. As an artist, O'Keeffe greatly admired color, and her skillful use of it became one of the most characteristic aspects of her art. Fittingly, in addition to the exhibition of her paintings, the gardens also showcases Hawaiian plants and flowers that inspired the artist herself, which are featured in many of her Hawaiian works. Walking through the gardens invites one to experience a similar feeling as to what O'Keeffe must have felt as she stood surrounded by the beauty of the islands, and brings the exhibition to life in a more tangible way. This allows the viewer to share a more personal connection with the artist, and one can begin to comprehend why O'Keeffe had such a unique passion for the flora around her. Upon her return from Hawaii, O'Keeffe's husband and renowned photographer, Alfred Stieglitz, displayed all twenty of O'Keeffe's paintings at his Manhattan gallery. Now, nearly eighty years later, these paintings are being displayed together in New York City for the first time since 1940, which marks a truly monumental moment in art history. One would definitely agree that the botanical gardens have captured this iconic moment, and have showcased it in such a way that would certainly bring a smile to O'Keeffe's face. The exhibition runs through October 28th at the NYBG, so there is still time to experience the beauty of Georgia O'Keeffe's Hawaii for yourself.

Photos courtesy of author



SNAPCHAT ORIGINALS

IS SNAPCHAT THE NEW NETFLIX?

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

If you're a millennial you most likely have heard of snapchat. Snapchat is an iconic app that started with two basic features. The first feature allows you to post snapchat stories for all your friends, this lasts for only twenty four hours. The second feature allows you to send snaps to your friends in seven second videos that disappear.

Throughout the years and since the launch of Snapchat in September of 2011, the app has constantly updated to make improvements for its users. Some of these renovations include being able to save your pictures to memories. This awesome feature became some people's personal camera roll. Snapchat also came out with it's exquisite filters

that became viral and reposted on Instagram. Snapchat also establishes streaks that you have with your friends, snaps sent everyday produces the streak. Streaks become super official between friends and can last for 500 days if you'd like, but you have to remember to send a snap a day.

Other updates Snapchat produced throughout the years include the discover page and being able to swipe through peoples snapchat stories efficiently. Some updates on Snapchat I do remember having backlash. This includes changing the discover page to make it so you can't see your friend's stories; you can only snaps from celebrities, youtubers, news channels, and entertainment. Snapchat fixed this once the backlash from the masses was strong, Snapchat is very good with producing updates based on the people who use the app. Snapchat also created the

feature that allows you to post your snaps for longer than seven seconds, it also created the feature that allows you to replay people's Snaps.

With these abundant updates I didn't expect that Snapchat would create television shows all within the app, this is also known as Snapchat Originals. When I was looking through the shows I realized we all needed to hop on board. All within the comfort of your phone you can now go on the discover page and within it in tiny font you see the Snap Original shows.

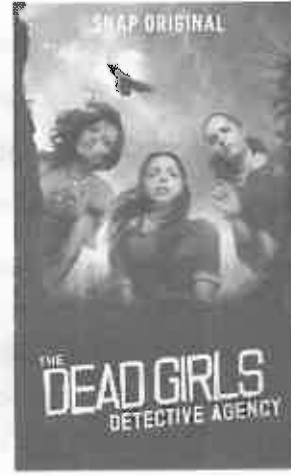
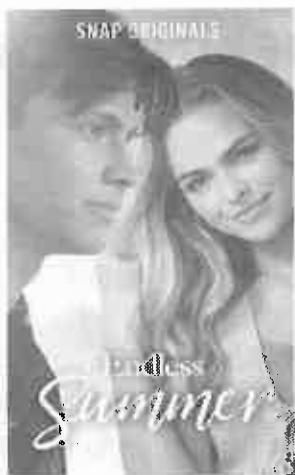
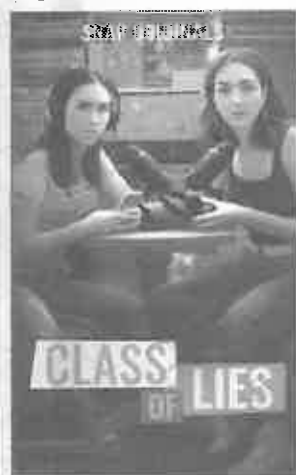
"Endless Summer" is one of the shows you can find on the Discover Page. It is a show centered around influencers Summer McKeen and Dylan Jordan in Laguna Beach balancing fame, family, and friends. "Class Of Lies" is The Monitor's personal favorite, perfect for the spooky halloween season. Any true crime and unsolved mystery

lover will be obsessed with the show because we follow the journey of two true crime best friends solving the case of a missing best friend.

"Styld By Science" just came out recently with one episode focusing on the question of "Can Science Actually Make You Hotter?"

"This Is How I Made It" is a show that lets you delve into the lives of celebrities. You see the stories of celebrities in the show and see how they overcome hardships to make it. The message of the show is to live your best life.

"Co-Ed" is a show that we can all relate to as college students. The show follows two roommates Ginny and Chris as they figure out the ropes of college through their freshman year. If these Snapchat Originals become popular enough, let's hope the font on the Discover Page identifying the show trunks big, just like the shows could be.



Photos courtesy of snapchat

TAYLOR SWIFT'S INFLUENCE

TAYLOR SWIFT GETS 65K PEOPLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

By Mary Durocher
Guest Writer

As of October 7th, Taylor Swift is no longer silent about politics. The Grammy award winning pop star wrote in an Instagram post that, "In the past I've been reluctant to publicly voice my political opinions, but due to several events in my life and in the world in the past two years, I feel very differently about that now". Swift's post continued to detail her ideology when choosing candidates to vote for, her rejection and endorsement of political nominees in Tennessee (her voting state), and a link to vote.org, urging her fans to register.

Days after Swift's original Instagram post, she again used her platform to encourage people to vote for the midterm elections. At the American Music Awards (AMA) Swift won "artist of the year", topping Whitney Houston for the record of most awarded artist. During her acceptance speech she said, "This award, and every single award given out tonight, were voted by the people, and you know what else is voted by the people? The midterm elections on November 6th. Get out and vote. I love you guys". Swift's uplifting speech was followed by a second Instagram post about early voting, and referenced a link in her bio for more information. If Swift's recent actions reveal anything, it is the superstar's commitment to speaking out about the power of voting.

The effect of Taylor Swift encouraging her 112 million followers to register to vote was almost immediate. Kamari Guthrie, director of communications for Vote.org, told BuzzFeed, "We are up to 65,000 registrations in a single 24 hour period since Taylor Swift's post". Guthrie further said that in Swift's home state of Tennessee, approximately 2,144 out of 5,183 new voter registrations were in the span of 36 hours



Photo courtesy of instagram.com

after Swift's Instagram post. Although there's a trend of voting numbers spiking near registration deadlines, Vote.org's statistics shows a strong link between Swift's post and the instant rise in new voters. Soon after Swift's post, both fans and other celebrities applauded her for inspiring young people. Even Katy Perry, who Swift previously had a years long feud with, supported her activism. Perry told Variety she thought Swift was, "setting a great example". Fans demonstrated their support by tagging Swift on Instagram with the hashtag #justvoted. Swift featured her fans who participated in the hashtag on her Instagram story. In their captions fans included snippets of their voting experience, such as voting for the first time or applying for an absentee ballot because they were

attending college out of the state in which they are registered as permanent residents. Despite praise for finally ceasing to be politically neutral and encouraging voters, Swift also received backlash for entering the seemingly controversial realm of taking a stance at all. One of the reasons Swift received criticism was because of her endorsement of Democratic nominees Phil Bredsen and Jim Cooper and rejection of Republican nominee Marsha Blackburn. Since Swift has been apolitical in the past, her fan base is comprised of a mix of political views. Consequently, after Swift's post, many in the fanbase felt divided and debated whether it was her place to mention politics. Fans took to Twitter to explain their frustrations and one user stated, "Does every pop star/actor have to voice their

political opinions to the world? Newsflash: we don't care. Never have, never will".

Taylor Swift is not the first pop star to express her views and motivate fans to vote. Rihanna, Chance the Rapper, John Legend, Kim Kardashian, and other celebrities are posting links on social media to increase voter registration. Other than celebrities, organizations such as March for Our Lives: Road for Change have toured to high schools across the country, stressing the importance of registering to vote and researching candidates. Swift's political activism shows that she is one more added voice to a growing movement, a movement which encourages young people to stand up for their beliefs, use their voices, and get out and vote.



THE MONITOR

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 05

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

AMERICA: A CONTINUATION OF HATRED



Photo courtesy of WBUR

NATION FACES A MULTITUDE OF THREATS AND HATE CRIMES IN 2018

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

October brings about excitement for Halloween, pumpkins, and the beauty of seeing leaves fall. This October was different though, America's excitement faded with the news of hate crimes and pipe bombs that were sent to influential Democrats.

One of the hate crimes took place in The Tree Of Life Synagogue, located in Pittsburgh, on October 27th. The synagogue was invaded by Robert Bowers shouting anti-Semitic slurs. Bowers had an AR-15 rifle and three handguns. Bowers killed 11 members of the congregation, four officers, and two onlookers.

The victims of the tragic shooting, their names are Irving Younger, Melvin Wax, Rose Mallinger, Sylvan Simon, Bernice Simon, Jarry Rabinowitz, Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Daniel Stein, Cecil Rosenthal, and David Rosenthal.

Marymount Manhattan College acknowledged the hate crime. In the words of President Kerry Walk, the attack that took place is "the deadliest attack on Jewish people in U.S. history, which

is horrific in and of itself. It is also a deeply disturbing example of crimes fueled by hatred and intolerance that have occurred in this country in recent weeks and months."

Another hate crime this month is the killing of two civilians at a Kentucky supermarket in which Gregory Bush, a 51 year old white male shot and killed two older black shoppers. Bush walked into the supermarket and pulled a gun on 69-year-old Maurice Stallard and shot her several times in the back of the head. Bush then went outside and shot 67-year-old Vickie Lee Jones, who died of multiple gunshot wounds. He now faces two murder counts and 10 other felonies for his previous history with breaking the law.

The similarity of both hate crimes in Kentucky and Pittsburgh is that the intent was clear. Before the murder of Vicki Lee Jones and Maurice Stallard, Gregory Bush had walked into a predominantly African American church intending to attack churchgoers. Robert D. Bowers had been posting anti-Semitic comments on social media preceding his attack as well. There was context to inform that these were predetermined, hate-fueled murders, not random acts of violence.

As the nation heals from both hate-fueled

murders, it also gets ready for midterm elections on November 6. Just as the news of hate crimes came out, America was also informed about bomb threats. A man sent more than a dozen bombs to critics of the president and influential Democrats. These bomb threats coincidentally happened before the election and targeted members of the Democratic Party.

Suspect Cesar Sayoc sent 14 pipe bombs around the country to important Democrats. Sayoc used the mail system and none of the bombs detonated. Among his alleged targets according to CNN are "President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former US Attorney General Eric Holder, California Senator Kamala Harris, New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and California Rep. Maxine Waters."

The hate-fueled murders and the pipe bombs all happened during midterm season. This brings about the question, will the hate crimes and pipe bombs sway votes?

Before the general election there was also a rise in hate crimes and violence. Before the midterm elections we also see a rise in hate crimes and violence. History repeats itself and also reflects on our current political climate. The

current political climate makes people worry for their safety.

Safety concerns is why an amber alert was sent out to New York City residents when a pipe bomb was sent to the CNN office. Organizations and people are doing their best to educate and enforce safety protocols, especially with the spur of hate crimes and bomb threats in an intense political era.

There is no perfect solution to safety protocols, but there is preventive measures institutions and organizations can take. This is why Marymount Manhattan College has its own safety system, similar to amber alerts. MMC's alerts are available to students in cases of emergencies and schoolwide updates.

To get onto the system you can go onto Marymount's website and under Campus Safety; Emergency Notifications Via Connected there is an Emergency Notification Link. The link guides you to log in, once you do you can be connected via text and email. You would fill in required fields and will always be notified in the case of any event.

SGA'S 4TH MEETING: STUDENT Q&A

By Brenelle Braganza
Guest Writer

Student Government Association (SGA) hosted their annual fall student assembly that happened on Monday 29th of October. The attendees of the event consisted of SGA members, administration, professors from the various departments and students. The mission of the Fall Student Assembly (FSA) was to hear from the students about the issues that exist at Marymount and find creative solutions to the existing issue and/ or have a member of the administration address the issues. SGA talked about their goals and what they have achieved so far during the semester. A few of the goals that they achieved so far; the first goal was having tabling events that educated the students of Marymount on voting and how to get registered. Second, the creation of the first-year student council that is aimed to groom first year students into SGA leadership roles and to help advance the mission of SGA. Third, moving the New York Times Subscription from physical paper copies to online, continuing with their free water initiative

where they give out reusable water bottles to the new incoming class every year and shifting from a paper budget request and allocation form to an online form which all goes with their sustainability goals. Fourth, implementing a rule where by which no registered student organizations can send emails to the whole student body but only to the people that sign up. Lastly, to host two student town halls meetings (fall student assembly and spring student assembly) during the course of the academic year. In case students were not able to make the FSA or/ and wanted their name to be anonymous, SGA created a platform where students could post their questions, comments and concerns. The questions that were raised by students revolved around academic rigor, space constraints, required courses offerings, environmental sustainability efforts at Marymount, financial aid office, recycling at Marymount, international student recruitment, addition of new majors and the prospect of bringing a language minor to Marymount. The students that were present also brought up the idea to have an appreciation day to appreciate the people that work in facilities, Starbucks and the café as an act of positive reinforcement and a way to let the people working in these spaces know that they

are appreciated. This was an endeavor that was taken on by SGA in the previous year and is something SGA is willing to organize this year as well but make it bigger and have more student run organizations be a part of since it would get most of the student body involved. Most of the questions that were raised by students were definitely rising concerns, however, they were not issues that SGA as an organization have jurisdiction over, but some the board of directors and higher-level management have jurisdiction. Some of the concerns such as the environmental sustainability efforts, recycling, and the prospect of bringing a language minor are things SGA are actively working on alongside other registered student organizations and specific people from administration and faculty. The other concerns that were raised were addressed by the administration such as space constraints, required courses offerings, financial aid office and international student recruitment. All in all, it was structured assembly that heard concerns of the student body, established solutions to the concerns and addressed the concerns that were voiced.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

COLLEEN BOWES AND JAKE BANASIEWICZ OPEN UP ABOUT THEIR NEW PLAYS



Image courtesy of vrypan.net

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Marymount Manhattan College is well known for the Theatre Arts program. The students part of the theatre department are involved in all the stages of production. This includes, design and technical production, directing, producing and management, writing for the stage, theatre history, theatre performance and musical theatre.

Marymount's playwrights, Colleen Bowes and Jake Banasiewicz discuss the writing process and the uniqueness of both their plays. Colleen Bowes's play *Dead Ringer* takes place in a cemetery with grave robbers, and it has an intriguing plot twist. Jake Banasiewicz's play *Blinking* has no setting and that is what makes it novel.

Both plays will be performed February 16 and 17 in the Bordeau Box Theatre and the times are to be addressed.

Colleen Bowes answers questions about her play:

What inspired your play?

A theme I played with while writing was 'fear.' I wanted to write a story that both targeted a specific fear and also elicited fear from the audience. Premature burial is a common theme in a lot of Edgar Allen Poe stories. While doing more research on those pieces, I discovered the concept of safety coffins. I wanted to write a play that incorporate both of these ideas, so it was clear the setting had to be a cemetery. The characters and plot came after.

Are the characters and events in your play inspired by events in your life?

The only thing inspired by events in my life is the background of Hazel's character. I wrote a monologue in which Hazel recites the complex story of her grandmother immigrating to America from Ireland. It's based on a real story of my great-grandmother immigrating from Sicily that I've always loved.

How did you become a writer?

I've always enjoyed writing. I've been writing from a very young age, whether it was silly plays I would perform with my sister or lyrics for my aspirations of being the next Hayley Williams.

What are some challenges you face during the play writing process?

I don't know anyone who doesn't get writer's block. I'm heavily influenced by music, so for each different piece I'm working on, I create a playlist to give me inspiration while I write. I also create a Pinterest board with an aesthetic for each piece I write. Whenever I get stuck, I pull from the specific playlist and Pinterest board for that story to keep my creative energy motivated.

What are some playwrights that inspire you?

FEMALE PLAYWRIGHTS! Sarah Kane, Caryl Churchill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Anne Washburn, and Paula Vogel, to name a few.

Do you have any advice for future Marymount playwrights?

Write what you would want to watch. Write what you love. Write for yourself.

Are your plays being performed?

The performances are the 16th and 17th of February in the Bordeau Box Theatre.

I love the eerie setting of *Dead Ringer*, what made you choose it?

The setting for the piece came first. I typically begin with character and plot, so I wanted to challenge myself for this project by starting with a setting and building the other details after. The setting of a cemetery came to mind concurrently with the concepts of premature burial and safety coffins.

Is there a reason the characters work in a graveyard?

The characters don't actually 'work in a graveyard.' They're grave robbers, so they dig up caskets and steal expensive possessions to sell. They travel to a bunch of different graveyards.

What motivated the plot twist?

The plot twist was inspired by the idea of the consequences of an unsettled grave. I originally thought to play with elements of the supernatural (like a ghost of one of the dead bodies, or a zombie-like being), but I thought it would be more powerful for the punishment to be dealt by a human. I was striving to still have very human connections even in such an uncommon setting/scenario.

How would you describe Solomon and Livvy as characters?

Solomon and Livvy are both people who would do anything to get by. Both have nothing to lose. They work the job they do, not only because it makes them a lot of money, but also because it's a rush. They're doing something incredibly illegal. It's a very unconventional way to make a living, because they're unconventional people. They're not '9 to 5,' sit behind a desk all day kind of people. They had a very intense romantic relationship in the past, but it was left without a lot of closure. We're watching them dig up their past while they dig up a dead body. They don't necessarily still have feelings for one another, but there's a lot of unresolved love between them.

Jake Banasiewicz answers questions about his play:

What inspired your play?

My play was inspired by some exercises we did in playwriting by Mac Wellman. Mac Wellman plays with form a lot by making his students write plays that "float" or "run" or stuff like that. So I wrote a play that blinks.

Are the characters and events in your play inspired by events in your life?

Some yes, some no. Some I came up with, others are from notes on my phone.

How did you become a writer?

Let's just say that sophomore year was rough.

What are some challenges you face during the play writing process?

I struggle a lot with revisiting old works. When I write, I have to write the full play right then and there. If I write half and then try to finish it later on, I can never find my way through the piece.

Has the Marymount community both helped or inspired you in your writing process in any way?

Frankly, Marymount seems to like theatre in a very specific way that I don't necessarily enjoy. But because of that, I've been inspired to go out and find the theatre that I do enjoy. I have found so many marvelous things that I would have never been exposed to at Marymount.

What are some playwrights that inspire you?

Sarah Kane is a huge inspiration for me. Also Andrew Schneider.

What are the prevalent themes in your play?

I would say prevalent themes are life, heart, and absurdity.

Do you have any advice for future Marymount playwrights?

Create what you want, not what they want.

Are your plays being performed and how do you want to see it come to life?

February 16th and 17th in the black box. Times to be determined.

I noticed your play doesn't have a normal transcript, what inspired that?

The idea of tradition bores me, so I tried something new!

What inspired you to not have a setting?

In playwriting, we constantly learn about the three unities (time, place and action). This play was an attempt to abandon all three.

How would you describe and summarize your play?

I honestly don't think I can.

I notice religion is a common theme in your play, why is that?

It's funny that you say that, because I didn't consider it to be until you mentioned it. I'm not sure where that came from.

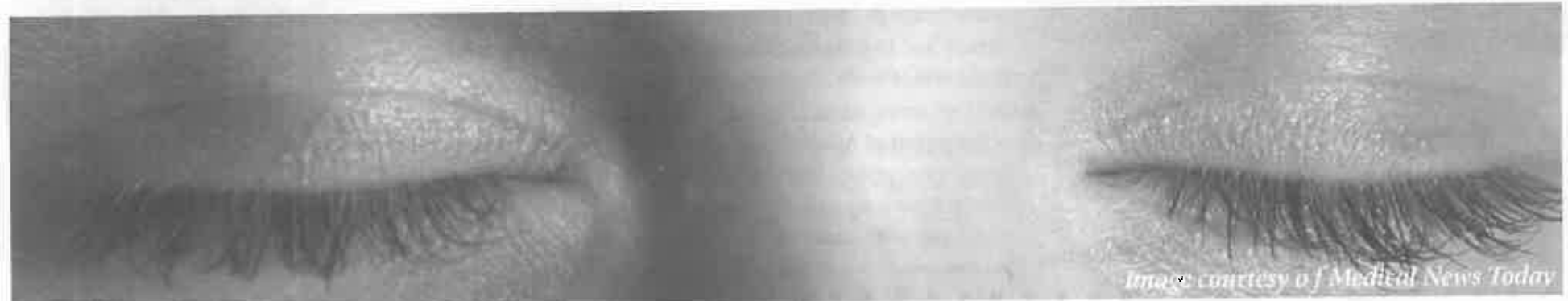


Image courtesy of Medical News Today

STUDENTS START YDSA CLUB

THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

As of now Marymount Manhattan College officially has its own chapter of The Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA). The club was created by Adam Pedro, Claire Hubble, Scott Devenny, and Marden Peterson. The club's first meeting took place on February 13, 2019.

YDSA takes an intersectional approach to activism and fights for many different groups, "[we] fight for the immediate needs of workers and students while building our capacity to fight for more radical and structural changes."

"We work with labor campaigns to organize student workers of staff. We organize to defend immigrants through campaigns for sanctuary campuses. We campaign to divest our schools from fossil fuels. We do anti-poverty work through local mutual aid programs in our communities, and much much more."

YDSA is the youth chapter belonging to the Democratic Socialists of America. The club has chapters in other New York campuses such as City College, Hofstra, New York University and Stony Brook.

Along with attending the first meeting, the interviews with board members Adam, Claire, Scott, and Marden will give you more perspective about YDSA at Marymount.

Adam Pedro answers questions about YDSA:

Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?

Marymount was definitely lacking a socialist organization. I was asked to come speak with SGA before we got our approval and was asked why at such a liberal college was YDSA necessary? It's necessary because like everyone else, Democratic Socialists deserve a safe space to get together & voice their opinions. That wasn't something that Marymount offered.

What are your hopes and goals for this club?

The hope is that people will become more politically active and have a better grasp of Democratic Socialism. I'd say a lot of people are there, they just don't know it yet.

What are some future events you are planning on holding?

Currently, we're talking about Apple Fest & YDSA meeting with other groups in the city.

What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?

It took us 6 months to actually get off the ground. Lots of emails & meetings, so to be honest starting a club at Marymount is not easy & that should change.

Since this is a new club to Marymount, how do you think you will get people interested and involved?

We're at a time in history where we have to be active politically or else we are just sitting on the sidelines while people around us suffer. The past idea of "it doesn't concern me," just doesn't work anymore, it most certainly does.

Do you fear getting backlash for creating a radical organization in a neoliberal/liberal institution?

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." We aren't fearful at all. Every voice that wishes to better this institution should have a platform. Marymount is full of Democratic Socialists they just don't know it yet.

How did you become a socialist/activist?

I've worked for a few campaigns, most recently on the Cynthia Nixon gubernatorial campaign. I'd say I was a socialist way before I knew I was one.

Have your personal experiences inspired you to create YDSA?

When I was 6 my dad lost his job & we became a single income family. Suddenly you start seeing the cracks in the American Dream. I've seen what it's like to go without & that's not something I want anybody else to have to go through. In the wealthiest & most powerful country in the world, people should not have to suffer to attain the bare necessities.

Is there anything else you would like the Marymount community to know?

Our club is open to anyone, you don't have to be a Democratic Socialist. If you want to be more politically active & create positive change at our college, this is the club for you.

How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?

We had a great first meeting, I loved seeing the energy everyone had. We definitely have a good group of people & found a few issues we already want to work on.

Claire Hubble answers questions about YDSA:

Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?

I think Marymount was lacking a political group in general. We have a killer Politics and Human Rights department with awesome professors, so I'm not sure why students haven't thought of a political club before. I also think everyone at our school (students, faculty, and staff) could benefit from socialism and reading about and implementing socialist ideas throughout our campus. We're happy to be the first though and happy to be representing and turning more students into socialists.

What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?

Well, I think the major problem between us having a club and not having a club was our lovely Student Government Association. Adam and I looked into making this chapter of YDSA early last semester. SGA said at the time that if we applied to make a club, we would have a

response within three weeks to a month, and we ended up having to wait two whole months just for them to say "yes, you can officially start having a club." It was frustrating. And SGA apologized after the fact, but they didn't say anything to us for a while which was strange and unhelpful.

How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?

I think our first meeting went really well! We were hoping to have a discussion based on ideas our members brought to us and we definitely did. We ended up devoting about half of the meeting to talking out the various problems Marymount has and figuring out how YDSA can get involved and hopefully change things for the better. I hope this school community can see and understand that this club is for everyone (students, workers, even professors). If you have a problem with how you're being treated -- whether it be because of who you are, what you look like, how much money you earn, your status on campus -- we want to help you solve it. And we want to help you solve it by uniting the student section of our college. We are a small school, but we have way more students than faculty. We have power if we unite against the forces that are making us uncomfortable.

Scott Devenny answers questions about YDSA:

What inspired you to create YDSA?

I was approached by Claire at the very beginning of the Fall 2018 semester. She was enthusiastic about starting a YDSA chapter at MMC. I was feeling politically charged and particularly excited about the opportunity to start a new club at Marymount.

Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?

Yes! I think that Marymount is definitely lacking the representation and organization of a socialist group. We (the officers) were approached by a few students in the early stages of making the club and they seemed really excited by the idea of a YDSA at Marymount. There seemed to be a missing link between students with similar ideas. This club most certainly can help bring those people together.

What are your hopes and goals for this club?

My hope is that YDSA at Marymount sticks around for a good while. It would be great to come back in ten years and see students still partaking in politics and carrying out the legacy of the club.

What are some future events you are planning on holding?

YDSA is running a few campaigns, which include college education for all people, and voter registration drives. At our first meeting, we discussed possibly working to better the conditions of Marymount's culinary employees, debating with other political clubs, holding guest lectures, and bettering the conditions of students

at Marymount.

What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?

There was (and still is) a lot of red tape. Kevin Croke has been extremely accommodating of our new club and has done a tremendous job in helping us prepare for our first meeting. Getting people interested in the beginning was tough because we had no clue when the club would actually be up and running to hold the first meeting.

Since this is a new club to Marymount, how do you think you will get people interested and involved?

At our first meeting, the members of YDSA at MMC mentioned having a table at Strawberry-fest and Apple-fest. The officers have discussed possible movie nights, mixers, and general collaboration with other clubs at MMC. You can also learn more about our meeting and events by signing up for text alerts. Just text "@ydsammc" to 81010 to enroll.

Do you fear getting backlash for creating a radical organization in a neoliberal/liberal institution?

I wouldn't say fear. We are, of course, expecting some opposition, but we hope it is channeled through open discussion and that it may spark the organization of opposing clubs.

How did you become a socialist/activist?

I realized that I was a bit of a socialist during the Primary Elections for the 2016 Presidential Election. I was a big supporter of Sanders and was quickly shut down by my elders for being so, which made me think and question our current political climate. Although I may not agree with every aspect of socialism, I do find myself wishing for a dignified life for human beings.

Have your personal experiences inspired you to create YDSA?

Trump's election in 2016 was a pretty big jumping-off point for me. I have been searching for ways to better my knowledge about all political viewpoints, and YDSA, I hope, will be a great opportunity to express my political beliefs and create change in our community.

Is there anything else you would like the Marymount community to know?

All are welcome at YDSA meetings! We are open to hearing from students and staff about what needs to change in the Marymount community, and especially open to those MMC community members that will put in the work to make change happen.

How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?

Our first meeting went very well! Members showed up with great ideas about events and campaigns that we'll be discussing further at our next meeting. We will also be holding elections for our Board on March 27, 2019 (time and location TBA).

MARYMOUNT'S DRAG RACE

STUDENTS STRUT THE RUNWAY

By Gwen Attridge
Guest Writer

On February 8th, Marymount Manhattan students went about their normal, day-to-day college routines, which at some point included a trip to the third floor Commons. With its cafeteria set up, students can be seen grabbing a bite to eat between classes, busy typing away on MacBooks for a paper due who knows when, and chatting and laughing with fellow classmates. By the end of the day, the bustling social hub of MMC falls quiet, as the last few students who have to suffer through a night class trickle in and out of the area. And finally, after a long day of entertaining America's next Broadway stars, directors, writers, and politicians, the Commons falls quiet.

But not last Friday.

An area that normally looks straight out of the cafeteria scenes from "High School Musical" turned into the catwalk that would shake Anna Wintour

into her grave. The ceiling was doused with colorful lights and purple and blue hues tinged the room to resemble some of New York City's most iconic nightlife. The chairs that were normally positioned at their designated tables lined the room to form a walkway that would soon be overcome with Rupaul's two favorite things: heels and FANS. That's right, Marymount Manhattan debuted its third annual Drag Show that night, where the queens that walk among us through the halls during the day can finally shine to their full potential.

This year's drag show differed slightly from the previous two, as it has progressed from a showcase to a competition. After two successful years of giving the MMC community the fierceness it was missing, it was time to finally crown Marymount's first Drag Superstar. The queens that stepped up to the plate to the plate this time around were Anne Cunningham, Cosimo Satalino, Brooke Stocken, Robert Williams, Hayden Ergenbright, and Marie Wallace. All

dressed to impress (lashes, wigs, heels, and all), the catwalk and a rowdy student audience (equipped with fans, of course) were ready to welcome the queens to battle for the drag title in MMC history.

Each gave incredible performances that had the crowd bald, as they say in drag terms. To top off the night, none other than Marymount's own Infamous Unit closed out the show with some pieces that embodied the drag show spirit, including lots of voguing, fan throwp-ing, and death dropping. The energy was high, and the audience was waiting on the edges of their seats to see who would take the crown. Founder and host of the drag show Romello Rodriguez stepped out on the catwalk to commend all of the participants and tell audience just how important the addition of the Drag Show as an event on campus has been to the student body. In reflection, Rodriguez says the biggest effect of the establishment of the event, "has been the creation of a space that fosters creativity, risk taking, and

no judgement. Even beyond no judgment I would say encouragement to be whoever you are, and be loved for that."

And then, it was the moment everyone had been waiting for, the announcement of the winner of the 2019 Drag Show. With my much anticipation, Princess Romello called the two lucky queens who had worked it on the runway the most in the judges' eyes. Miss Anne Thrope and Miss Marie Yonette were called as the crowd roared with excitement. They shared one final lip sync to Donna Summer's "Last Dance," and then the heat was on to see who would be crowned the first annual Drag Superstar. Miss Marie Yonette was called, and the crowd went wild, as Infamous Unit crowded around the queen of their own and hoisted her up in the air in all her glory. Though Miss Marie took the ultimate prize, anyone in attendance truly felt like a winner, because in a place where love and acceptance are celebrated, everyone is truly a queen.



THE MONITOR

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 09

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

MARCH 10TH, 2019

ARE SUMMITS ENOUGH?

TRUMP AND JUNG-UN FAIL TO AGREE ON NUCLEAR DEAL



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Vietnam hosted a historic nuclear summit this week. North Korea's Kim Jong Un, met with Donald Trump in Hanoi, Vietnam. In the schedule of events, the discussion of nuclear weapons had high stakes. The discussion took place Thursday, it was supposed to be concluded with lunch and a signing ceremony. However, disagreements about sanctions placed on North Korea by the United States ended the summit. North Korea wanted the United States to grant partial sanctions in return for nuclear disarmament in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Trump left for the summit Monday afternoon and arrived Tuesday evening UTC time. Trump left with the hopes of convincing North Korean leaders to disarm nuclear weapons. Kim left Monday evening traveling by private train. On Wednesday, both leaders greeted each other, answered press questions, and had dinner. Thursday closed the events as Trump walked out before the meal and

ceremony. Both leaders concluded events by telling their perspective.

After the summit, Trump held a press conference discussing why both leaders couldn't reach agreements. During the conference Trump claimed his relationship with North Korea was still "very warm," and his encounter with Kim was like a "friendly walk." During the conference, Trump stated that he took Kim's word for the situation with Otto Warmbier, the American student detained in North Korea. Warmbier died of a coma when returned to the United States, due to harsh treatment in North Korean jails.

Coming out of the summit, Kim answered questions from the press with confidence and ease. Kim also stood firm with demands about releasing sanctions placed by the United States, as he built nuclear weapons despite U.S. hostility. Kim said he asked for partial sanction reliefs from the main site of nuclear weapons. Sources from NBC state, that Kim said he would portray the summit in North Korea as a victory for both leaders. Kim also

said he "appreciated that the second meeting in Hanoi offered an important occasion for deepening mutual respect and trust and putting the relations between the two countries on a new stage."

The first summit between Kim and Trump took place last June in Singapore. The aim of both summits from the U.S. perspective is to discuss an end to the Korean War. The top priority however is nuclear disarmament by North Korea.

Two summits later, both countries have not come up with an agreement and the threat of nuclear warfare looms high, with nine of the world's superpowers owning nuclear weapons. According to the Federation of American Scientists, out of the nine countries, North Korea is the only one actively testing nuclear weapons.

A summit is needed to discuss the fear of nuclear weapons. According to the Federation of American Scientists, there are already 14,500 nuclear weapons in the world. Along with the the total number of nuclear

weapons in the world, people also fear North Korea. This is because it actively tests bombs capable of mass destruction.

Nuclear weapons create fear, we saw this generations ago in 1947 during the Cold War. Russia and the United States were actively testing weapons, fear ran so high that there were bomb drills in schools.

In 2017, there were similar trends. Fear came from bomb threats between North Korea and the United States. North Korea was testing an intercontinental ballistic missile that could reach the United States.

Fear of nuclear warfare created both summits. Despite summits and discourse between leaders about potential North Korean nuclear disarmament, no agreements were reached.

With no agreements being reached and the growing fear of nuclear warfare and destruction, the question looms, are summits enough?

SGA UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TALK TO FACULTY

By Catherine Pool
Staff Writer

A great deal of the work done by the Student Government Association often flies under the radar of many students because typically it is comprised of small goals aimed at improving Marymount as a whole. There are rarely large events put together by SGA, but there are many small meetings conducted by the members with administration, faculty, and staff to improve problems both small and large at our school. Julia Furnari '20, Senator for Service and Sustainability, has four major goals for this semester in SGA all of which are either in progress or accomplished. Julia recognized that there is little to no recycling signage on campus and through meetings with Kathleen Iebesco, Lucia Wells, Diana Zambrotta, Emunah Vannote, and Dayne Hutchinson, an agreement was reached. The solution for better recycling signage around campus is placing signs

and/or decals on all the public garbage cans with information such as which recycling company we use and how the trash is sorted and recycled after being discarded. Organizing a Day of Action event(s) is a top priority for both Julia and SGA as a whole. In order to see this through, Julia has met with Core Council to brainstorm ideas for what campus involvement will look like. Another goal is planning and running events on campus for Earth Day. Through collaboration with myself and other Registered Student Organizations, these events will occur. Julia's final goal is assisting Social Sciences Assembly with the grant writing and overall presentation of their Green Roof Proposal. Each goal aligns with Julia's senator position and will help bring more sustainable practices and awareness of them to campus.

Kiara Mendez '20, the Senator for International Students, has three goals for this semester. One of her goals was a talkback with administration to express the concerns faced by the international community on campus. This event took place on February 25th

of this year and some of the administration that participated in the talkback include Carol Jackson, Christian Andrade, and Rebecca Pinard. At the event, students were encouraged to express their concerns and discuss their need for work and useful information. Administration in attendance were receptive to the student concerns and offered answers and/or solutions to the best of their ability. Another goal is focused on requiring cultural sensitivity training for members of faculty. Kiara has discussed this with Rebecca Pinard and it is being explored as a possibility. The final goal is to give international students the option to live with other international students when they apply for residence life. This goal is new and still being discussed. Other goals of SGA in progress include Safer Sex Week, the continuation of the discussion about implementing the language minors, and the updates to our social medias. Overall, there are many exciting things to look forward to as this semester progresses.



THE MONITOR



VOLUME 21, ISSUE 10

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

MARCH 24TH, 2019

ILHAN OMAR CONTROVERSY

WHY HER COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL CREATED A FIRESTORM



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Less than two months into being United States Representative, Congresswomen Ilhan Omar faced criticism and it started from a tweet. The tweet stated "It's all about Benjamins, baby." Omar tweeted that in response to Republicans who promised action against her and Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib, as they often criticize the Israeli government. The tweet suggests pro-Israel lobbying from groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. It hints at the idea that pro-Israel lobbying, is what influences United States support of the country.

Omar apologized after the tweet stating, "[I am] grateful for Jewish allies and colleagues who are educating me on the painful history of anti-Semitic tropes."

Later on, Omar was part of a town hall meeting at Washington's Busboys and Poets. Omar stated, "I want to talk about the political influence in this country that says it is okay to push for allegiance to a foreign

country."

After the events, Congress passed the bill H.Res.83 condemning "anti-Semitism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values and aspirations that define the people of the United States and condemning anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against minorities as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contrary to the values and aspirations of the United States."

Congress passed the bill because House Democrats were worried that her comments played into anti-Semitic tropes about Jewish attachments to Israel. People stated her comments insinuate that the Jewish community has dual loyalty to both countries, making them disloyal to the United States. Democrats came out of it by passing H.Res.83 by a vote of 407 to 23.

After Omar's tweet the controversy started, but it peaked after the town hall meeting and H.Res.83. Omar started facing backlash from Republicans, House Democrats, and the public. However, Omar also got a lot of support

as a movement arose #IStandWithIlhanOmar.

Republican reaction started in the West Virginia Legislature, where an Islamophobic poster was put up connecting Omar to the 9/11 hijackers. After the event Trump said he thinks Omar should resign from Congress. After the event Pence also came out with a tweet, "@IlhanMN tweets were a disgrace & her apology was inadequate. Anti-Semitism has no place in the United States Congress, much less the Foreign Affairs Committee. Those who engage in anti-Semitic tropes should not just be denounced, they should face consequences for their words."

Despite criticism, many stood with Omar in the Democratic Party, left-progressive community, and Jewish leftists. Those who support Omar state that she is wrongfully being attacked as a Muslim woman of color, because she has the courage to criticize Israel.

Those who defend Omar also point out that anti-Semitism on the right doesn't get as much attention and Islamophobia doesn't get taken as serious. As Vox discusses,

"Republican officials frequently call on anti-Semitic tropes and say worse about other minority groups without nearly so much bipartisan condemnation. Pushing for a House vote on anti-Semitism really did feel like unfairly singling out Omar. Republican officials frequently call on anti-Semitic tropes and say worse about other minority groups without nearly so much bipartisan condemnation. Pushing for a House vote on anti-Semitism really did feel like unfairly singling out Omar."

Omar held a panel in which she made clear that it's important to be sensitive when Jews take offense at her comments. However, she also points out that being Muslim leads people to assume that you are anti-Semitic. Omar and the 2020 Democrats who stand with Omar claim that the anti-Semitic label is used to shutdown the debate.

With a rise in hate speech, hate crimes, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, it's important to look at controversies like these from all perspectives.

SGA UPDATE: THE 2019 ELECTION DRAWS NEAR

By Julia Furnari
Guest Writer

A busy month for Student Government Association! We are now in the full swing of campaigning for the 2019 election. There are many fabulous candidates this year. Campaigning begins Monday, March 25th through Friday, April 1st. If you are interested in hearing each candidate's future plans, stop by the Candidate Forum on Monday, April 1st in the Regina Peruggi Room from 1:00-2:20pm. Like what you heard? Vote for the candidates who you think would best suit their desired position at the April

2nd and 3rd in the Commons. Best of luck to all candidates! Along with campaigning, members of SGA are busy in their projects. Dejah Bradshaw, Senator for Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity, organized an off campus housing resource fair to provide students with information regarding apartments, guarantors, and rent. There were several housing companies who will also offer information. Julia Furnari, Senator for Service and Sustainability, is currently working on obtaining better recycling signage for the trash bins on campus. She also recently attended a meeting for the new Environmental Sustainability SPIN Team. Julia has followed SGA's Vice President Allison Lehman in her involvement in organizing

events for the Day of Action in May. Allison has also been involved in organizing Safer Sex Week activities with Katie Pool, Senator for Food, Safety and Health. Safer Sex Week events will start on March 18th, with a second self-defense class organized by Shaelyn McFadden, Senator for Retention. SGA's President, Brenelle Braganza, has been working closely with the senior marshalls to organize the senior gift. Finally, Marchael Giles, Senator for Media and Technology, has been working hard to lay the groundwork for a TV Production Club as well as other media outlets. These are just a few of examples of the efforts the members of SGA have working on. SGA meetings are open to all students, so stop by if you have questions or concerns!



THE MONITOR

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MADY MOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL 6TH, 2019

NEW ZEALAND VS. FLORIDA

TWO MASS SHOOTINGS DEALT WITH IN DIFFERENT WAYS



Photo Courtesy of WFTV.com

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

On March 15 the Christchurch mosque shootings took place in New Zealand. 28-year-old gunman Brenton Tarrant opened fire at two mosques during Friday prayer. The attacks began at 1:40 pm in the suburb of Riccarton in Al Noor Mosque and ended at 1:53 pm in Linwood Islamic Centre. The attacks left 50 dead and another 50 injured.

According to The Washington Post, after the shootings, it was found that the gunman Tarrant was on his way to attack another location. Mike Bush, the Police Commissioner, did not disclose the location. However, an assumption about Tarrant's next target was made from his manifesto titled The Great Replacement, he listed the mosque in Ashburton as another target.

Prior to the shooting, Tarrant wrote his 74 page manifesto, he also posted about the attack on social media, and he planned to live stream it. However, his interests in white supremacy were long in the making. According to The

Daily Beast, Tarrant donated 1,700 dollars to a fascist group in Austria, Identitarians.

Although Tarrant didn't have a prior criminal history in New Zealand and Australia, it is evident that he is a terrorist and he plotted his attacks. Tarrant's manifesto details his white nationalist, far right views, including the lengths he would go to spread his message. Tarrant also frequented white nationalist sites and claimed his views were radicalized while visiting other countries.

Mass shootings are not limited to New Zealand. In the United States, school shooter Nicolas Cruz opened fire on students and staff in Parkland, Florida. This event took place on February 14th of last year in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Cruz was previously expelled from the school and similar to Tarrant, both perpetrators planned the attack. Both also expressed desire for the attacks on the internet. Cruz would tell those around him that he wanted to kill people, he would send himself text messages about it, and his instagram account @nikolascruzmakarov had posts of assault rifles and ammunition. Cruz

also had a Youtube channel in which he would show off his bullets. Cruz also commented about shooting someone in an exchange with another Youtuber, Michael Wood.

Even on the day of the shooting, Cruz recorded a video proclaiming, "I am the next school shooter of 2018...it's going to be a big event... when you see me on the news you all know who I am."

The impacts of both mass shootings are tremendous, in Florida a year after the shootings, 2 teens who attended Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School died of suicide. 19-year-old Sydney Aiello died of suicide as she faced survivor's guilt. A week after 16-year-old Calvin Desire also took his own life. In New Zealand the victims of families wait to bury their loved ones and memorials are held to remember the victims.

The impacts on politics and gun laws in both countries is also drastically different. In New Zealand the Mosque shootings were the first in over a decade, and three days after the shooting cabinet members agreed to change the nation's gun laws. Prime Minister Jacinda

Ardern announced a ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons, assault rifles, and high-capacity magazines.

In the United States, after multiple mass shootings including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting, AME Church shooting, and many more there is still a debate over gun reform.

Cruz and Trenton heavily planned their shootings, using weapons to help carry out their plans. The impacts of their actions were huge and the response by politicians in New Zealand is different from the United States. It took the Mosque shooting for New Zealand to address gun control. In the United States according to the Educational Fund To Stop Gun Violence, 40,000 people die from gun violence each year, that leads people to ask: should the United States follow in New Zealand's footsteps in regard to gun reform?



THE MONITOR



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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

MAY 5TH, 2019

2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

WHO'S RUNNING AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR

BETU
FOR AMERICA

KAMALA HARRIS FOR THE PEOPLE

BERNIE
WARDEN

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

The 2020 presidential election is being held on Tuesday, November 2, 2019. Before the general election in November, the primary election is being held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The primary election will decide who will represent the Democrats and Republicans in the general election. The New York Times article "Who's Running For President In 2020" lists the Democratic and Republican candidates. Similar to the New York Times listed below are the candidates and their main issues.

For information on registering to vote visit: <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>

Democratic Nominees

Joseph Biden: Senator from Delaware and former Vice President to President Obama
 • Wants to restore the middle class.
 • Demonstrate leadership on the world stage.
 • Make sure the Democracy includes everyone.

Cory Booker: Former Mayor of New York and Senator from New Jersey
 • Plans on passing the American Opportunity Accounts Act to address class divide.
 • Believes in equal justice for all Americans.
 • Wants to fix the broken criminal justice system.
 • Wants to legalize marijuana.

Pete Buttigieg: Military veteran and Mayor of South Bend, Indiana
 • Wants to fight climate change.
 • Supports background checks as a form of gun control.
 • Supports a single payer healthcare system.

Julián Castro: Former Mayor of San Antonio and served in President Obama's cabinet
 Fights for immigrant rights as his family has

immigrant roots.
 • Wants a universal healthcare system.
 • Wants to rejoin the Paris Climate Treaty.
 • Believes in Universal pre-K education and grant two years of higher education.

John Delaney: Former businessman and Congressman from Maryland
 • Wants to implement a federal carbon tax and rejoin the Paris Climate Treaty.
 • Wants immigration reform though effective border security and a clear path to citizenship.
 • Believes in pre-K through 14 education and two year community college or technical training.

Tulsi Gabbard: Army National Guard Veteran and Congresswoman from Hawaii
 • Wants an end to fossil fuels for electricity and doesn't believe in fracking.
 • Tuition free college.
 • Wants medicare for all.
 • Wants to withdraw from Afghanistan and Syria and end U.S. support for Saudi conflict in Yemen.

Kirsten Gillibrand: Former Congresswomen and Senator from New York
 • Supports expanding medicare.
 • Calls to abolish Immigration Customs Enforcement and sponsors the DREAM act.
 • Women's equality is at the center of her agenda.

Kamala Harris: Senator from California, former San Francisco district attorney and attorney general.
 • Create new direct tax breaks for middle and lower classes.
 • Believes in medicare for all.
 • Wants to re-examine Immigration Customs Enforcement.

John Hickenlooper: Former Mayor of Denver and former Governor of Colorado
 • Supports universal healthcare.
 • Supports trade deals like NAFTA.
 • Supports gun control.

Jay Inslee: Former Congressman and Governor of Washington State
 • Climate change is at the top of his agenda.
 • Supports universal health care and legalizing marijuana.
 • Advocate of gun control.

Amy Klobuchar: Senator from Minnesota and former Hennepin County attorney
 • Wants to expand medicare to age 55.
 • Does not want to abolish ICE but wants more path for citizenship.
 • Wants to set goals for cutting greenhouse gasses.

Wayne Messam: Mayor of Miramar
 • Wants to get rid of student loan debt.
 • Advocate of gun regulations.
 • Advocate for fighting climate change.

Seth Moulton: War Veteran and Congressman from Massachusetts
 • Wants to cut massive weapons program and invest in research and install cyber technology.
 • Wants to reform the middle class through taxes.
 • Wants to improve the Affordable Care Act and supports immigration reform.

Beto O'Rourke: Former Congressman from Texas
 • Wants to legalize marijuana.
 • Pro-immigration reform.
 • Favors taxing the wealthy and corporations.

Tim Ryan: Congressman from Ohio and former Congressional staffer
 • Wants a clean energy economy through free enterprise.
 • Supports medicare for all.
 • Wants to out compete China.

Bernie Sanders: Former Congressman and Senator from Vermont
 • Wants free college tuition.
 • Believes in medicare for all.

• Wants to get tackle class inequalities.
Eric Swalwell: Congressman from California
 • Supports health care that grants all Americans coverage.
 • Wants to create new jobs, renew infrastructure, and wants tax codes that spur economic activity in low income communities.
 • Pushes for better gun control.

Elizabeth Warren: Senator from Massachusetts
 • Wants to rebuild the middle class.
 • Wants to reform lobbying in order to end corruption in Washington.
 • Co-sponsor of medicare for all and the #MeTooMovement.

Marianne Williamson: Lecturer and author
 • Wants to propose 100 billion in reparations for slavery.
 • 10 billion to be distributed annually for economic and education projects.
 • Wants to combat climate change and enforce gun safety.

Andrew Yang: Former tech executive who founded an economic development nonprofit.
 • Wants a universal income of 1,000 per month for Americans over the age of 18.
 • Wants to shift to human centered capitalism which would measure the GDP, but standards of living.
 • Advocates for a single payer health care system.

Republican Nominees
Donald Trump: U.S. President
 • Building a Trump Wall and stricter immigration policies.
 • Withdraw American troops from overseas.
 • Wants to renegotiate or cancel international trade deals.

William Feld: Former governor of Massachusetts and federal prosecutor
 • Favors fiscal restraint.
 • Favors free trade and moderate immigration reform.
 • Has taken steps to legalize marijuana.

SGA UPDATE: REFLECTING ON THE SCHOOL YEAR

By Brenelle Braganza
Guest Writer

As the 2018-2019 school year winds to a close, Student Government is reflecting on the accomplishments of this school year, and is looking ahead to the plans of the newly elected administration. Over the course of this school year, Student Government has worked diligently in creating change both within our own organization, and in the institution at large. We've now developed and are getting ready to graduate out our inaugural First Year Student Council, have held two successful Fall and Spring Student Assemblies, as well as a successful Voter Registration week in the Fall 2018 semester, and our recent Safer Sex Week in the Spring 2019 semester. Student Government has also been dedicated throughout the year to developing, and maintaining valuable relationships with Marymount's staff, faculty, and administration. On the executive side, Student Government has provided the campus with online access to The New York Times, and has worked to develop a Laptop Program in the Library which provides extended, free access to laptops for students who cannot afford them, or who lose or damage the ones that they currently have. Student Government began this program in the Fall 2018 Semester, and has since grown

the program with the help of the Senior Marshals, and the class of 2019's generous senior gift of laptops that will go towards the program.

On the part of the Student Government Senate, strides have been made in the way of strategic events, programming, and campus-wide initiatives. Senator Dejah Bradshaw (Senator for Diversity and Inclusion) most recently created and hosted our first-ever Off Campus Housing Resource Fair, along with one of the programs during Safer Sex week, titled "Let's Talk About Sexual Fetishization". Senator Kiara Mendez (Senator for International Students) has been invaluable in unifying and advocating for the International Student community at Marymount during what has been a particularly challenging year. Senator Juha Furnari (Senator for Service and Sustainability) has been dedicated throughout the year to working in Student Government, as well as with other Registered Student Organizations on increasing, and better communicating the college's efforts to environmental ethics and sustainability. Senator Catherine Pool (Senator for Food, Health, & Safety) has spent her term working closely with Campus Safety and Dining Services on streamlining communications between them and the rest of the campus, sat on our Campus Safety Committee, and helped plan and execute our Voter Registration, and Safer Sex Weeks. President and Vice President-elect Marchael

Giles and Yasmin Serrano boast an ambitious agenda for the upcoming year. Giles, who is currently finishing out his term as Student Government Senator of Media & Technology, plans to work with college administration on expanding work-study programs, and the creation of more media publications. Over the course of this year, Giles was instrumental in working with the Department of Information Technology on the creation and trial period of the OneTouch ID system, which will allow all students, staff, and faculty to scan into campus and residence hall buildings through an app on their mobile devices. Serrano, who began the year in Student Government as a member of the inaugural group of our First Year Council and later was appointed to the position of Executive Secretary, plans on working more intimately with developing events and student engagement. The elected executive slate is joined by incumbents Juha Furnari (Senator for Service and Sustainability) and Aubrey Tolentino (Senator for Community Student Life), along with newly elected senators Anna Bahn (Senator for Transfer Student Life), Dominique Cagliuso (Senator for Senior Issues), and Harrison Moutoo-Simmons (Senator for Student Life). The current Student Government administration is proud of the foundations built during this school year, and are excited to see how the incoming elected students expand on them, and continue to serve our campus community.

COLLEGE BRIBERY SCANDAL

CELEBRITIES LYING THEIR WAY INTO COLLEGE



Image Courtesy of Elle

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

On March 12, 2019 United States federal prosecutors accused 50 people for influencing student college admissions. Among the 50, 33 bribed admissions into elite colleges. The Justice Department reports that the scandal involves 25 million in bribes and planning with college faculty and coaches.

Some of those accused are famous actors Lori Loughlin, known for her role in Full House and Felicity Huffman, known for her role in Desperate Housewives. Huffman and her husband covered up a 15,000 dollar bribe to get their daughter to be involved in a SAT cheating scam.

Lori Loughlin and her husband Mossimo Giuliani, a designer, paid 500,00 dollars to get their daughters into the University Of Southern California. They got their daughters into the college by making them crew team recruits. However, both her daughters don't play the water sport. One of their daughters is famous Youtuber and influencer Olivia Jade, who has stated on her social media accounts her disinterest for school.

Marymount Junior Rebecca Maxwell states that the recent college scandal isn't a new phenomenon, "White wealthy parents have been paying their

kid's way into prestigious scholarships for decades. If we took a look at most ivy league schools we will see that majority of the students there either paid their way through and/or is a legacy student."

Junior Grace Wright-Pazdra states that she isn't surprised by the scandal, "I think that this scandal is not surprising, but still disappointing. I'm not at all surprised to hear that people of privilege are bribing their way into college, or out of standardized tests, but it's still disappointing to see."

Sophomore Jordan Hysler feels similar to Grace, "The Olivia Jade scandal isn't surprising because a lot of celebrities pay for their children to be enrolled in universities. What shocks me the most is that Olivia Jade knew about it and publicly stated how much she hated school. She told everyone on her Youtube channel how much she hated it and USC still let her in

just because her parents paid them for it."

The United States is a meritocratic society, in which college education establishes your status in society and your career opportunities. To get merit based opportunities, we see 44 million Americans in the United States exceeding student loan debt of about 1.5 trillion, according to the Federal Bank of St. Louis. Most students work hard and are in extreme debt to get a college education. The actions of wealthy parents takes away spots of those hard working students.

Grace is one of the many American students working hard to afford her college degree, "I worked extremely hard for my education and still will be in debt when I am finished. So seeing these people with wealth being able to bribe their way into college, and being able to afford full tuitions without debt, is really frustrating.

I think that people who can afford college without worry of debt should be aware of their privilege and wealth and definitely should be treated by the admissions offices the same as financial aid students."

Jordan also works hard to pay for college, "As a student who comes from a low income household and works very hard to stay at Marymount, I find it like a slap in the face to everyone who works hard to stay at the schools they're in because someone wanted a taste of the party life of college. It's like the degree Olivia Jade's parents bought her is wasted because someone else who was well deserving should have been in her spot."

The Economic Policy Institute reports that in 2015, the top 1 percent of families in the United States made 25 times more than families in the 99 percent. As the gap between the rich and poor grows, it's important to put the college scandal in context with the role of wealth in society and college admissions.

The implications of the college scandal reflects a bigger problem, as Grace states, "Privilege and wealth [leads] over what is morally right, and those of privilege [get] special treatment that less privileged individuals do not get. Just because you have the money to bribe others doesn't mean bribery is the right thing to do, or legal."

This is not a new phenomenon. If we took a look at most ivy league schools we will see that majority of the students there either paid their way through and/or is a legacy student.



Image Courtesy of Closer Weekly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>