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## In the Face of Disaster: How to Help Victims of Hurricane Irma and Maria BY JULIA MELLONI

Over the past few weeks, the western hemisphere has been bombarded with lethal hurricanes. These massive storms hit the Caribbean Islands in waves, barely giving them the chance to pick themselves up before being knocked down once again. Thousands of people across Antigua and Barbuda, Puerto Rico, and other islands were left with demolished homes, no power, no clean water, and none of their belongings. Ranking as the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the Islands, (followed by Hurricane Maria two weeks later), Irma has caused at least 101 deaths, including 44 in the Caribbean and 57 in the United States (as of September 19th), but there is more devastation to come. Thousands will feel the aftereffects of Irma in the coming

weeks and years— from infectious diseases to toxic chemicals released by the floodwaters, stress/PTSD, and industrial accidents rebuilding these shattered cities. The next couple of months are going to be filled with grueling work in an attempt to salvage these islands. Unfortunately, for many islands it could take over a decade.

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the nation was shocked into action when they saw the extensive devastation that was left in his wake. A strong sense of American pride and duty motivated thousands to start fundraisers, organizations, and drives to help to victims of this Category 4 storm. Unfortunately, despite Hurricane Irma's Category 5 status, the Islands will never see the same amount of money or support as Harvey did. When bad things happen on American soil, it inspires a sense of responsibility in American citizens. We have seen this time and time again after natural disasters across the country. When it comes to supporting islands we can't see, that responsibility is immediately passed to someone else, leaving the islands with only a fraction of the support they need. Now is the perfect time to step up and help our neighboring islands by showing them the same amount of love and support.

Here is how you can help.

### Donate Money

Irma and Maria have already caused unimaginable destruction that has cost the Western Hemisphere over 71 billion dollars. This pricetag poses a significant challenge to large countries like the United States, but to the economically unstable islands, this storm could mean a financial nightmare, and the possibility of bankruptcy. Usually when disasters strike, a person's first instinct is to send things like blankets, clothing, toys, and more items to disaster victims. According to the Center for International Disaster Information, however, when a situation is this dire, transporting, sorting, and distributing donated goods can distract from more pressing issues, like emergency health care, shelter upkeep, etc. Sending money ensures that the most pressing issues are taken care of first, ultimately helping the countries get back on their feet more quickly. If you or someone you know is interested in donating, the following are reliable sources you can contact to help. (Continued on 2)



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## NEWS

# In the Face of Disaster: How to Help Victims of Hurricane Irma and Maria (Continued)

BY JULIA MELLONI

### Global Giving's Irma Relief Fund

The GlobalGiving Irma Relief Fund perform extensive background checks on the local organizations it helps fund, and is well-regarded by "charity watchdogs". "Initially, the fund will help any first responders meet survivors' immediate needs for food, fuel, clean water, hygiene products, and shelter," the site reads. "Once initial relief work is complete, this fund will transition to support longer-term recovery efforts run by local, vetted organizations responding to this disaster."

### GoFundMe

If you're interested in helping victims of Irma in a more personal way, you can donate to GoFundMe's Direct Impact Fund; a nonprofit that distributes money to other smaller campaigns within the United States and its territories. You can also use GoFundMe to fund many personal crowd-funding organizations and people who are struggling in the wake of Irma. If you're worried about fraud on websites like GoFundMe, you can rest easy knowing that every campaign is heavily background checked and protected. They're slogan, "The safest place to give. Guaranteed", rings true due to the "GoFundMe Guarantee: If something isn't right, we will refund your donation". For more information about fraud, and how to avoid it, see the scams section below.

### Animal Relief

If your concern is more aligned with the animals who have been affected and orphaned by Hurricane Irma, organizations accepting donations include The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Best Friends Animal Society and The South Florida Wildlife Center.

### Local Non-Profit Organizations

If donating to organizations and companies remotely isn't your thing, try looking locally. Across the state of Massachusetts, there are many small crowd-funding campaigns being developed in response to Irma. Some of them are closer than you think! All Hands Volunteers is a non-profit organization, created in Mattapoissett, that addresses immediate and long-term problems and needs of communities impacted by natural disasters. Through the aid of selfless volunteers, they help respond to, recover, and renew communities in need. For more information on All Hands, visit <https://www.hands.org>.

### Offer Safe Shelter

For those of you who have an empty room in your house, you might want to consider opening your home to the victims of Irma and Maria. Although the US is far away from the island's, many who have fled the country to seek shelter don't have homes they can return to. Luckily, there is a way to

help. Through the program "Airbnb", potential hosts in the impacted and surrounding areas are automatically contacted, and asked if they have any extra space to share with those affected by disaster. Hosts who respond choose to list their spaces free of charge, and Airbnb waives all booking fees. This kind act of hospitality could make a world of difference to a family in need.

### Give Blood

When natural disasters hit, the need for blood becomes imperative. With the vast variety of injuries that victims are suffering, there is definitely a shortage of blood— especially in islands. For those of you interested in donating, you must be at least 17 years old, in good health and weigh at least 110 lbs to donate. In Massachusetts 16 year olds can also donate blood with parental consent and a signed permission slip from a parent of legal guardian. For more information in regards to donation, check out the Red Cross Website to find out more.

### What to avoid

#### Red Cross

Although the Red Cross may be a great outlet for blood donation, when donating funds, it is better to avoid the Red Cross and go through a non-profit organization. Because the Red-Cross is a Corporation and business first, they take 20% of donations that are intended for disaster relief, for profit. If you're looking to make sure every penny you donate is spent helping save lives, it is better to go through another organization that does not aim for profit.

#### Scams\*

If good people can come together during a tragedy like Hurricane Irma and Maria, that means that bad people can as well. Unfortunately, a big problem that arises around crowd-funding campaigns are scams. To ensure that the money you're sending is going towards disaster relief, check that the charities have been rated or approved by organizations like the Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator, or Charity Watch. If you're concerned with the integrity of a smaller organizations, the Federal Trade Commission has countless tips on how to choose a charity.

### FIND OUT MORE AT :

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/hurricane-irma-relief-fund/>

## BULLDOG TV COMING SOON

BY WARREN LEAVENS

Old Rochester Regional is planning to create a television program called Bulldog TV, a television program that will be easily accessible to students who want a better way to get their school information. The show will be visual based, avoiding large paragraphs of text, that kids tend to shy away from. While the newspaper does feature interesting topics and articles, Paw Prints is virtually unknown, driving kids to shut down, and retreat away from information. Reading is considered more beneficial than watching because reading actually trains the mind, or exercises it.

Last year, there was a relatively unknown television/internet program known as the "Dog-Pound Rundown", a web based youtube channel that would update the tri-town's current events. While it was an interesting idea, Bulldog TV will now reach out to people in school, who don't necessarily watch the public channel or follow the youtube channel. Bulldog TV will now reach to students in school, so now they'll always be around the latest news, about not only the town, but their school as well. The program will also inform the town by broadcasting on the public channel.

The main goal of this television program is to produce enjoyable and entertaining news that the students would grow accustomed to.

Bulldog TV is planning to show Mondays during the Bulldog Block Planning day. Teachers will present to program in class after planning their weeks. So instead of waiting for the class to end, the students would now view their fellow classmates expressing their amazing talents. Students don't believe the planning day is really needed in the Bulldog Block system, but with this newscast, Mondays could now be considered the most important day. The segments on this show would include: sports coverage, interviews, Principal Devoll's announcements, some comedy skits, and much more.

Bulldog TV is the future of information in this school. It uses state of the art, and current filming equipment, to make sure the audience gets to best visual possible. The editing will be sharp and clean, with audio matching the perfect level. It will show a more of a community of a school. The kids will be closer and the staff will be happier. The program will produce weekly information on the school's clubs and organizations. School sports will be shown in a professional manner.

Bulldog TV is the future of giving information to students about their school's academic and social lives here at ORR.





## NEWS

# NORTH KOREA : A BREAKDOWN

BY ETHAN MORT

A lot of our readers may be wondering whether or not we'll meet our untimely demise due to a North Korean ICBM gracefully gliding and detonating over Boston. Some readers may be wondering where North Korea is and what have they been doing to warrant appearing in so many headlines as of late. Throughout the last few weeks we've seen headlines detailing numerous North Korean missile tests, threats made to United States territory, and President Trump nicknaming the tyrannical North Korean dictator, Kim Jong Un after the famous Elton John song, "Rocket Man". I'm here to assure everyone who's concerned about the recent disturbance in the Korean Peninsula that conflict isn't likely and if it happens to break out, the East Coast would most likely remain unscathed, keyword most likely. The splitting of the Korean Peninsula, the splitting of two peoples with the same culture, history and language into two distinctly different countries brings about a complex scenario that we're seeing unfold right now and needs context to understand.

For those that need a crash course on North Korea, the communist autocratic cult state was established at the end of World War II. Agreed upon at the Yalta conference, in return for the annexation of the Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands from Japan, Stalin would eventually declare war on Japan two to three months after the German Reich's defeat. Fearing the complete Soviet domination of the Peninsula, the United States hastily sent two representatives to spontaneously declare the infamous 38th parallel as the end of Soviet occupation and the beginning of American occupation, efficiently splitting the country in half.

Surprised by the instantaneous Soviet approval, the United States army moved in to establish a strong border and to establish a democratic republic in the Southern half of Korea. Ten years later, in a military move that would even surprise the Soviet Union, North Korean troops rushed across the border into South Korea in an attempt to unify the peninsula under their banner. Thus prompted the Korean War that ended as it began with no changes between the borders of both sides of the peninsula.

North Korea is often seen as a failed state. Famine, sickness, and millions of unskilled workers plague the country and the fault often lies within the Kim family. This will seem like an oxymoron but bear with me, Kim is a terrible leader for the people, but an amazing dictator. Despite leading a country where millions are impoverished and there is very little wealth and social rights spread across the country, Kim Jong Un is still loved among his people and the Kim family is as wealthy as ever. This is because the Kim regime has illustrated the image to their people that they're lucky the government gives them any food at all and it's far worse in other places of the world. The Kim family has a full stranglehold on the media of the country so therefore they get to paint their own image to be whatever they want, this



alongside with massive military protests lead the North Koreans to be ultra-nationalistic. It's a popular conception that Kim Jong Un is a baffling buffoon who is insane and an egotistical maniac. In foreign affairs too, Kim knows what the cards in his hands are and he plans to fully utilize them. Kim has seen dictators rise and fall, Gaddafi and Hussein being the most notable ones. Both dictators will a cult of personality similar to Kim who fell after what Kim sees "complying with the west". Gaddafi was killed by his own people in the Arab Spring in what Kim believes was NATO-backed protests right after Gaddafi promised to the West to rollback his nuclear weapons. Hussein being another example of this. The North Korean dictator's biggest fear is ending up like Gaddafi and Hussein and due to this he refuses to follow in his footsteps. Kim refuses to compromise with the United States and he will most likely never rollback the North Korean nuclear program on his own whim.

Does Korea Want War? The answer is hard to believe but it's a no. Kim's game plan is not to go into full scale war with the United States as both the US and North Korea knows that the Kim regime would quickly be put to an end. Instead Kim's entire strategy is to prod the United States and continuously poke Uncle Sam to strike fear in the people of the United States and to try to achieve some sort of compromise with the Western World based off that fear. Kim will most likely never go past the line in the sand, starting another war with South Korea and the United States as that will mean the utter destruction of the Kim Regime. In a hypothetical scenario where war does break out in the Peninsula for the second time in modern history, the war will be bloody. Early estimates from the Pentagon has up to 60,000 South Koreans living in their capital city, Seoul, will be killed instantly by North Korean artillery in range of Seoul. Then once it comes to the actual invasion of North Korea, it will be as bad as World War I French-German frontlines.

North Korea's infrastructure is in a fit of disarray, barely enough for a civilian population, the military would have a brutal time trespassing the country combined with the North being filled to the brim with hills and

small mountains, the Kims could easily establish a last stronghold in the north of North Korea. However the real conflicts would come after the Second Korean War with geopolitical conflicts with China. The last thing China wants is a reunified Korea backed by the US military on their border. China's fear of a Unified Korea is well warranted, as put out by the World Bank, South Korea's economy is booming and has the 11th highest GDP in the world coming in at 1.4 trillion dollars. If South Korea had North Korea's land it would have access to \$6-10 trillion dollars worth of untapped mineral resources that North Korea does not have the technology to extract. If North Korea is defeated, there will be millions upon millions of refugees trying to flee from "the American devils" as they've been taught by "their glorious leader" and trying to cross into the Chinese border. I wrote earlier that there is nothing China wants less than a Unified US-backed Korea on their border, well that was a lie. I can say with full certainty that China does not want millions of unskilled refugees flooding into their country. The conflict that will supersede the war will have far more of an impact on Asia than the conflict itself.

So you may be wondering, "what now?". North Korea has threatened to shoot missiles at the U.S. territory of Guam, has fired two missiles over the Japanese Island of Hokkaido, has threatened to shoot down any U.S. planes anywhere near North Korean airspace, and North Korea's foreign minister Ri Yong Ho has stated that the US has "already declared war on North Korea". After taking a deep breath to read about that you still may be going back to the original question; Is the United States at threat from North Korea? Again the answer is a resounding no. However, this is a pivotal point right now for Asian geopolitics for decades to come and it will be interesting to see whether the United States will accept North Korea as a nuclear power or if the collapse of the Kim Regime who has had an iron fist on the Northern half of the Peninsula since the 40's. To quote Vladimir Lenin on the recent surge of highly influential news events about North Korea and other parts of the world coming day after day, "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen."



## SPORTS

## 2017 VARSITY FOOTBALL RULES THE FIELD

BY JARED ACHORN

This season the ORR Bulldogs football team started with a huge target on their back. Star fullback, Harry Smith looking to tear up the field this year, is 3 touchdowns away from the school touchdown record.

Another huge part of the team is speed demon Will Garcia. Although, those two players are standing out, when the whole team comes together they execute very well. They are looking to have another spectacular season.

As the season has progressed, the team seems to get better every week focusing on their opponent, which has worked out seeing that they have a record of 4-0. When they come together they're at their best. Football is a sport where one player can't control the team's winnings. Team captain Zach Kelly stated "It's a brotherhood, nobody is playing for themselves, everyone is playing for each other. That's how we're successful." Kelly plays for the team, not himself. Zach Kelly, Emo Schiappa, and Harry Smith lead the rest of the team to be selfless well.



The players like to take advantage of the fact they are noticed for their success by other teams. "We know we have a huge target on our back, and that kind of gives us an edge. That is a

big reason why our defense has been playing as good as it is," Kelly said. Speaking on their offense, Kelly had a lot to say especially about their offensive line referencing their huge right side of their line including two senior captains, Zach Kelly and Emo Schiappa. "Our offense is very diverse and has multiple weap-

ons, including our big offensive line that allows Harry and Will to run free."

The Bulldogs so far have had a perfect season with a 4-0 record. They look to take the SCC Large title after playing Somerset Berkley. The Bulldogs have pushed themselves to beat their season from last year and claiming the SCC title.

## ORR GIRLS SOCCER TEAM DOMINATES THE FIELD

BY PATRICK O'NEIL

MATTAPOISETT- The Old Rochester girls soccer team has started off the season in a dominant fashion. They look to add on to their undefeated season behind coach Lombard.

The highpoint of the girls season so far has been their attack. Old Rochester's goal scoring ability has made them impossible to beat. Against Bourne, they scored 8 goals and let up none. It's not only that they're beating their opponents, but they are dominating in all aspects of the field.

The Bulldogs have had many returning players including Meg Hughes who has been one of the biggest stars this season. She has scored a majority of the Bulldog's goals and she is only a Sophomore. Players like Jill Kutash have also been able to create chances and score goals as well.

Coaches from other teams around the conference are taking note of Old Rochester's dominance, Coach Robin Ireland told southcoasttoday.com "They've got some really fast players, well coached, well organized. It took us a little longer to adjust to what they were doing than I was expecting. They're definitely a team to beat in the conference."

People around the league have even started to talk about an undefeated season for the Bulldogs. "It always happens and unfortunately with their ages it makes it easy for them to think too far ahead," said Lombard when asked by SouthCoastToday.com about the ramblings of an undefeated season. He wants his players to be focused and to take it game by game. He doesn't want them looking too far ahead and losing focus of what is going on right now.

The Bulldogs are solid all the way around. From their goalie to their attack and all the way in between they are fluid and are ready to make a deep run in the playoffs. Old Rochester will host Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech Monday at 6. A win here would solidify their place as one of the most dominant programs around.





## SPORTS

### IS TURF THE BEST ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON ORR SAFTEY?

BY AMANDA WHEELER



One thing I specifically remember from the first day I stepped onto the field was the condition of the grass. It was brown and dead, and large dirt patches were visible everywhere. One group, Tri-Town Unified Recreational Facilities (T.U.R.F), is pushing to make a difference in the lives of the students that participate in the athletic program, like me and my field hockey team, and rebuild the athletic complex. The multi-million dollar project hopes to add two turf fields and redo the track at ORR, along with many more improvements, which could change ORR's teams' performances for the better.

Some athletes feel ORR's fields are in decline, and fear they are becoming unsafe. "The grass is uneven and the dirt underneath is not solid, making running difficult and dangerous," agreed my fellow teammate Abby Forcier. It's hard for athletes to give 100% when the fields aren't giving the same. The dirt on the fields is loose and dry, the grass brown and dead. These are far from ideal playing conditions. Football and soccer games are played on an uneven field, with bumps and 'potholes' everywhere. "[having turf] would make playing much safer and much more fun" mentioned a freshman football player, Aaron Pereira.

With field conditions indecent everywhere, it makes it an issue for school and community teams. This could lead to much larger problems, like injuries and the shutting down of fields. For example, the track is not qualified to host state track tournaments because of it's outdated condition, as the specifications are that the running surface must have an 8 lane straight-away and seating for spectators. In addition, rubber tracks have a lifespan of 15 years. The last time the track was upgraded was when it was built 17 years ago. The track team deserves the upgrade, the girls' team having won the state championship this past spring. Improvements proposed by T.U.R.F would be extremely beneficial to the already successful track and field team. With the community also heavily using the surface, it would benefit them greatly too.

### THE CHRONICLES OF LONZO AND LAVAR BALL

BY RYAN QUINLAN

There has been a lot of media attention toward this year's NBA entry draft. Even though, this class is one of the the most talented in recent history according to draft experts. The main reason for the extra media attention is Lavar Ball who isn't even a player, but the father of second overall pick, Lonzo Ball. Before the draft even started Lavar Ball told 31 teams to not bother drafting his son Lonzo. Lonzo Ball is ex college basketball player just about to enter the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers.. Besides the nonsense from his father, the real question still remains, will he be a bust? This will be interesting to see when the NBA season starts.

During a successful year at UCLA Lavar, Lonzo's father, has attracted a lot of media attention. One reason is that he said that his son is already a better player than Stephen Curry. Curry has won two MVP awards and two NBA championships. Lonzo is yet to play in a NBA game. Also, Lavar has challenged two ex-NBA legends, Charles Barkley and Michael Jordan. He proclaims that can beat them in a 1 on 1 matchup. This truly just an opportunity for attention to be attracted towards his family and his very own company called the Big Baller Brand. The Big Baller Brand is the shoe line formed by Lonzo and his two brother, LiAngelo and LaMelo. With the Big Baller Brand, Lonzo is the first player ever to come out of college and have his own shoe, an interesting marketing choice being it isn't supported by any major brands, meaning Adidas, Reebok, Nike, etc.. All in all, Lavar Ball has gained attention to his family and basketball, almost everyone in the basketball community, has heard of the Ball family.

There is still the big question, can Lonzo Ball live up to what he is expected to be? I believe Lonzo will be a very good regular season player, but not in the playoffs. Here's why, even though Lonzo had a great year at UCLA, he did struggle in the spotlight. For example in the Sweet 16 when UCLA played Kentucky, Kentucky easily won that game and shut Lonzo down as he did not live up to the expectations. Thus, Lonzo did lead his team to be a contender for the national championship and an impressive regular season record (31-5). All in all, I think it will be interesting to see Lonzo and how he plays this year.





# HALLOWEEN

## HALLOWEEN HOROSCOPES

BY ALICE BEDNARCZYK



### Aries: A Ghost! (March 21- April 19)

Your personal motto is “Nice tricks, sweet flips” and you consider yourself a hipster of the cool skater variety, although if anyone were to ever ask you about that, you would nonchalantly shrug your shoulders and say that there isn’t a point to labels, you’re just you. You can’t get enough of your skateboard. Up and down ramps, across railings, spun around in the air, you two are just meant for aerodynamic greatness. Which means that you would never let any sort of weather or holiday prevent you from finding your sickest trick flip. But what is a casual skater supposed to do on Halloween, the gnarliest holiday of them all? Easy; throw a sheet over your head, cut a couple of eyeholes in it for yourself, and skate the streets as the coolest ghost any trick-or-treater will spy.



### Taurus: A Dinosaur (April 20-May 20)

Many things intrigue you, as you are easily awestruck by facts about this planet from things that lived before we got a chance to glimpse them. Now, we only have fossils and estimated diagrams of some of the most fantastic beasts that ever walked Earth. You would give anything to be able to witness these creatures, but unfortunately you can’t. So you live vicariously through making connections from life to prehistoric beasts as often as possible. You see your friends as Theropods, Sauropods, Thyreophorans and Sauropods. But yourself? You see yourself as a velociraptor, traveling in packs, teeth and nails sharp as knives, and a wit sharper than that. Not to mention, an appetite that can’t be calmed.



### Gemini: Sport Your Favorite Cryptid (May 21-June 20)

‘What is a cryptid?’ you may ask; well, the answer is the best thing you’ll ever learn about in your life. A cryptid is a creature that exists only in the shadows of gossip and folklore, and popular examples include The Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, Mothman, and Mr. Howie. Slip into the forest (or any other mysterious location such as the desert, the ocean, or under your bed) and become one with the creatures that live there. Adopt their mannerisms, eat what they eat, and wear their clothes. Slyly sneak into their lives, becoming the one you want to be for Halloween. See a cryptid? Smell a cryptid? Eat a cryptid? Become a cryptid.



### Cancer: A Shark! (June 21-July 22)

You try your best to keep your face stoic at all times, to keep your heart off your sleeve and in your chest. But, when one tear pushes pushes the dam, it breaks and all your emotions flood down your face in uncontrollable rivulets, making you feel soft, like a hermit crab before it finds the shell that is its perfect fit. You don’t want to be soft anymore, you’re tired. Pull a new layer of skin over your bones that is smooth to one hand but cuts like sandpaper with the other. Gnash several rows of teeth together in excitement. You have always wanted to be effortlessly tough, inside and out. Become a shark.



### Leo: The Solar System (July 23-August 22)

Now, I don’t want to imply that you think that everything is about you, (although you are a Leo) but more so that you think that everything in this universe has a place, and it is all significant in its own way. You value the importance of the big and small things in life, you want everyone to feel appreciated, mostly in part because you want people to feel that way about you, too. You feel like you deserve attention, all the lights on you, everyone unable to avoid thinking of your existence. This is why you embody the sun perfectly, blindingly and ever-present. But, fitting in with your philosophy, you believe that it is unfair for you to exclude the other planets, so it’s in your best interest to dress up as all of them. Rings circle your body with colorful foam core spheres orbiting you, you are the center, you are all, you are forever. You are the sun. You are the solar system.



### Virgo: A Dragon(August 23- September 22)

Someone has slipped something into your drink. You know this because you saw a gloved hand pass over your glass out of the corner of your eye but due to your naive optimistic view on humanity, you assumed it meant nothing. You know this because it smells burnt, more intense, it is heavy with purpose. You know this because half an hour after consuming the last drop, you are kneeling over a toilet dry heaving. You know this because your stomach feels caramelized sugar-hot, your skin is hardening and cracking, creating sounds like shifting tectonic plates. You know this because when you stagger to the mirror, your iron talons have burst out of your shoes and clack on the tile. You know this because a roar of anguish burnt the entire establishment down with hardly any effort and results in you being the only one standing amongst burning rubble. Be a dragon for Halloween, you won’t even have to pretend.



### Libra: A Sheriff (September 23- October 22)

Law is important to you. You believe that order must be held to its highest degree, where all who break the law will be prosecuted to the degree that they deserve. You also believe in style. If you’re not looking good while slapping handcuffs on a perp, then what is the point? Obviously, the happy medium is being a sheriff. Nothing else belongs on your feet besides cowboy boots with toes sharpened to a point and spurs meant to intimidate. A cowboy hat will be jauntily tilted on your head, with a lasso hooked around your shoulder, with your hands rested atop your over-sized shiny metal belt buckle. With a quick hack of a loogie into the nearest vase, you’ll be completely reading to bag some baddies and show your citizens what it truly means to uphold the law.



### Scorpio: The Thing The Lives Under Your Bed (October 23- November 21)

Falling asleep at night is tough for you. You stare into the black that surrounds you, looking at what would be the ceiling if you could see it, for what feels like years. Your sheets keep falling off your body every time you roll over. But, wait...you didn’t switch sides. You haven’t moved since you turned off the light, your body feels like lead and it is just too late to do much more than worry. There is something on your leg. Before you thought it was your foot but you can feel the fingers tighten their grip around your ankle with every thought you give them. As the thoughts drain from your mind leaving behind white noise, razor-sharp nails dig into your skin and thousands of hands cover your mouth to prevent you from screaming as they drag you beneath your bed. Who were you before this? You weren’t ever anyone. Memory is obsolete. You have only ever been what has been lurking in the shadows of your bed.



### Sagittarius: A Squirrel (November 22- December 21)

Adventure defines you. Roller coasters, sky dives, cliff jumps, spontaneous car drives, running down the middle of the road, exploring the woods, it all makes your heart race and your head become light with love. Heights don’t scare you too much, and you love the exhilaration you feel when you encounter a near-death-accident. In this way, you are very much alike to a squirrel, feeling no fear as you climb trees and store nuts for the winter. You also have a secret talent: singing. Not just any type of singing, everyone knows that squirrels are the best beat boxers, throwing down some sick beats like nobody’s biz. With your extensive background in successfully completely dangerous activities, you’re completely cut out to be a squirrel: dodging cars, foraging, and sleeping for half the year.



### Capricorn: IMDB (December 22- January 19)

Many call you a know-it-all, which is something you’re used to. People rely on you for fun facts, answers to plans, and strong opinions, of which you have many. Something that you’re (overly) enthusiastic about is movies. You know way too much about the movie making process, the Oscars, which movies were most popular when, special effects and their growth, useless facts about your favorite movies, the director’s commentary for your favorite movies, and the birthdays of any actor you value integral to the movie making industry. At this point, people avoid you because you compare their complaints to famous scenes in Quentin Tarantino movies and every time the sun’s glare blinds you, you say “Oh this is so the new Star Trek movies”. You are essentially IMDB, a movie database that you are already so obsessed with that your skin is starting to turn golden yellow. You can’t help yourself anymore. You no longer love IMDB, you are IMDB.



### Aquarius: A Lizard Person! (January 20- February 18)

Okay, we all see right through your disguise, dude. We get it, you’re trying to avoid the FBI by blending in, but it’s not fooling anyone. Did you seriously try and hook up Netflix through the microwave? Was it you who broke the fridge by trying to crawl inside of it thinking that it was a portal to the North Pole? I know it was you crying when you realized that movies were fake and that Will Smith really wasn’t trying to protect you or anyone of your species. Listen, that’s a tough break and I understand, I would cry, too. But seriously, you need to clean your room more often. All the human skin-color concealer thrown about and animal carcasses are huge giveaways. As your friends, we just want what’s best for you. Seriously, this Halloween, just shed your human skin and walk around as yourself. You’ll feel better, trust me.



### Pisces: A Narwhal! (February 19- March 20)

You have an affinity for water. But saying it like that is an understatement. Rain makes you sing, fog makes you dance, thunderstorms invigorate you and hurricanes fill you with so much power that you are ready to burst. For so long you have been searching for the right form to take, something to easily slip into when you finally touch the ocean, breaching its surface and joining the rest of your family beneath the waves. They have already chosen their forms, what will you pick as yours? What is bubbly and lighthearted & fast & fun? What can defend itself? Pick a narwhal, it is the best for you.





# HALLOWEEN

## 2017 "IT" STAYS AFLOAT WITH AUDIENCES

BY ALYSSA PERRY

The heat of summer falls over the small town of Derry, Maine where everyone is ready to get out of school. Most kids would have a plan to relax or spend their time having fun, but Bill decides instead to hunt for his missing little brother, Georgie. He brings his group of friends along with him. This leads them to find more troubling truths about the town they live in and the course of all the torment. A red nosed, white faced, sharp toothed clown.

Stephen King's 1986 novel, follows the story of a group of bullied kids who are faced with not only home troubles, but determining the whereabouts of missing children as well. The new 2017 version of, "It" gets reimagined by director, Andrés Muschietti. Since the movie's release on September 8th critics and consumers are thoroughly enjoying the mixture of refreshing horror elements as well as character development between the kids throughout the story. This of course is due to the jaws of the antagonist, Pennywise, a murderous child-eating clown. Due to the long run of the movie, it allowed time to more accurately encompass the 1,138 pages of King's novel. While also adding more detail, new scares, and better connections between characters compared to the 1990 miniseries with the same name.

"It" had a mixture of both well done psychological scares and jump scares. With some scares being laughable while others were wonderfully executed. There were times that I felt disturbed while other times I saw things coming. There were even parts in the film that randomly became cheesy and you wonder if the screenwriters were playing a joke or not. The \$35 million funding for a feature film seemed low, this caused some of the CGI, computer generated imagery, moments to be disappointing. Five minutes in we are shown the iconic storm drain scene where you see the clown's teeth for the first time. I was on the edge of my seat for this iconic moment where you see Pennywise's jaws attack poor Georgie. When the scene finally came it was terrifying to see him actually bite down on Georgie's arm, but his teeth did not look up to par, which was a let down. Here the underfunding truly showed through.

Pennywise, the movie's most mysterious character, who is the fear driven and nightmare inducing clown that fills you with immense terror in every scene, isn't actually a clown. He instead is an alien entity who comes to Derry and feeds off of fear. Hence, with Pennywise being seen in multiple forms throughout the movie. To compare the performances between Bill Skarsgård and Tim Curry is difficult, since they portrayed the character differently and both very well. Tim Curry, from the 1990 rendition, is a riot in every scene he was in. While Skarsgård, in the recent film, gave a fresh, new, and definitely scary take on Pennywise. For the part that Skarsgård played fit very well with the tone, look, and scares.

"It" is a wild rollercoaster of a ride with jokes, scares, and a wonderfully entertaining story. One that is for sure worth watching whether you've read the book, seen the 90's miniseries or have never heard of the film before. No matter your knowledge of the story you are in for a terrifying yet comical treat like no other.



## WHO WORE "IT" BEST?

BY NOAH PAKNIS

Tim Curry, who originally portrayed Pennywise The Dancing Clown in the It TV miniseries from 1990, still holds strong. Not only as an incredible performance on its own, but an event when an iconic and devious character was brought to life. Comparing him to Skarsgård's 2017 Pennywise, Tim Curry brought a far more comedic, "traditional clown" aspect to the monster. Curry's Pennywise was more of a talker, though still very animated in his gestures and motions. The scares were not derived from some animalistic fear, but rather a direct yet nebulous (Pennywise could be anywhere at anytime) feeling of unease that continues throughout the movie. One scene in the original comes to mind Ben Hanscom, a kid who had lost his dad in the Korean War, is walking through the woods and comes upon a swampy pond. Across the pond is a large entrance to the town sewer system, where Pennywise lives. Ben sees his father standing in the middle of the swamp, waving eerily, telling him "That's my home now son, you'll like it down there." Slowly throughout this scene, Mr. Hanscom shows more and more signs of being a manifestation of the clown, his voice starts to change and orange pom poms appear on his aviator's uniform. Eventually, his dad begins holding balloons. "We all float. And you'll float too. You'll never have to grow up." Chuckles ensue from the clown after this.

Curry's Pennywise uses more subtle fear, fear that encroaches, as opposed to Skarsgård's monstrous and physical fear to subdue the audience and terrify the kids in the movie. Both are excellent portrayals of a belovedly horrifying character. If you are going to see the new It, and are a lover of horror, you are in for a real treat. But do not forget that this film stands on the shoulders of a giant, that Tim Curry's Pennywise is a classic amongst the horror monsters. If you have not seen It (1990) consider giving it a go and try not to be alarmed by the cheesy special effects. If you have seen it, give it a second try. I have seen the original multiple times, and I can say without question that the reason to keep watching is for Tim Curry's spectacle of a performance.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PSYCHIC?

BY EMILY WILSON

The human race will never completely understand the universe, though we have tried. Religion, philosophy, and pure guesswork have helped people find peace within the unknown for thousands of years, but still, the main questions of life remain unanswered: who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going? These questions can make even the most confident people question their strongest convictions. We may never be able to answer the biggest questions, but there are people who can offer believers insight into life and death, possibly making the human experience a little easier. They are known as psychics. Curious and intrigued about this community, I set out to discover what it means to be psychic and debunk any misconceptions.

The idea of psychic powers may seem abstract and foreign, but that is not the case. In fact, there are students here at ORR who identify as psychics or have had experiences with the supernatural. Bella Rodrigues (Sr.) and Alice Bednarczyk (Sr.) have experience with divination, (or the practice of seeking knowledge about the unknown by supernatural means), in several forms. Bednarczyk does not identify as a psychic, but she reads tarot cards and studies astrology. Rodrigues does identify as a psychic. Regarding her psychic ability, Rodrigues had this to say: "My grandma and my mom both read tarot and they both believe that they're psychic, so by default I also believe I have



some sort of psychic ability." This brings up more questions; can the psychic ability be inherited? Rodrigues went on to describe the power of dreams and their correlation to life. Often times, she says, her dreams will come true. Rodrigues's mother experiences the same thing. "On more than one occasion we've had the exact

same dream." According to Rodrigues, being psychic is more than an ability alone. When asked what it means to be psychic, Rodrigues replied "It's not a religion, it's a way of being. All I know is that there is more than I know."

According to Alice Bednarczyk, psychic ability is not necessary for an enlightening tarot experience. "I feel that tarot represents the energies of the people in the room or in the building and your aura." An aura is a supposed colorful energetic emanation surrounding a living creature. She has seen tarot cards do incredible things during her readings. "When I'm doing readings, sometimes they'll look through the cards first and they'll say 'hey I like this card', and then

I do a reading for them and even though I shuffle the cards, it will show up at the top," an occurrence too perfect to be mere coincidence, according to Bednarczyk. Rodrigues agrees, claiming "Over time, you change and the cards change with you."

(Continued on page 8)



# HALLOWEEN

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PSYCHIC? (Continued)

BY EMILY WILSON

Tarot cards are just one of many forms of divination, including communication with animals and mediumship (communication with the dead). Jessica C., a Braintree based psychic-medium, does all three. Jessica has been working at Open Doors as a psychic for ten years, but she discovered her spiritual abilities long before then. "I started having dreams that came true when I was 16. That was a little weird, I didn't do anything with it for a long time. The other unfortunate thing is, when I was 8 I told my dad if he didn't quit smoking he would die by the time he was 50. He died at 47." Jessica started reading tarot in college and learned animal communication shortly after, along with energy healing. "Everybody's born with the ability to (be psychic), but whether or not they are relaxed enough to open up ... and trained to recognize what it is and translate it is the key."

Jessica believes both her education and natural abilities have helped her get where she is today. Jessica also feels she possesses the ability to communicate with animals and spirits. "To me, it's all soul to soul communication, so it doesn't matter if the soul is living, deceased, human, not human." During her readings, she has the chance to read many different types of people. She has read children in the past, the youngest being only eleven. "Children are usually more open, it's different in that I've got to be careful what I say." In her line of work, Jessica will encounter the occasional skeptic. "There are some of us that are scam artists but most of us aren't. Most of us are trying to help any way we can, and if you don't want us, then we can't." In fact, Jessica makes it her priority to help people by empowerment of the human spirit. "I get a lot of people who have been stuck in an abusive relationship," says Jessica, "I'm working on doing what's more empowerment and manifestation stuff at this point ... it's, in general, wanting to work more on getting people unstuck and helping them move forward." Jessica also believes helping people is part of being psychic. When asked what it means to be psychic, she replied "I guess that would be being able to connect with the collective consciousness to get answers for people and help them, guide them through their life."

I have been read by psychics before. The first time was in Provincetown, Massachusetts in a small booth in the center of town. The second time, I was read by Jessica C. at Open Doors. The two psychics told me the same thing, that I was creative and could pursue a creative career but fear of instability was holding me back. I was astonished by the similarities between the two sessions. This made me evaluate my life and helped me work through my fears to hopefully fulfill my potential. Psychics helped me acknowledge my subconscious thoughts. I believe somehow I already knew what they were telling me, I just needed help sorting through my troubles. In that way, one does not pay a psychic to tell them who they are, but to help them discover what already existed within.

In my opinion, anyone can benefit from visiting a legitimate psychic. Psychics help us clarify our lives, minimize bad situations, or find out who we are. Even after this investigation, I know there is no single answer to the question "what does it mean to be psychic?" It can be the ability to connect with the energy of people or the universe to read a person's subconscious, or being inexplicably connected to the world in a mysterious way. Because there's no right answer, the only one who can tell you if you're psychic is you. In this way, you truly are what you feel. I would recommend meeting with a psychic to anyone who wants to learn more about themselves, even if you are skeptical. After that, perhaps you will discover for yourself what it means to be psychic.

## THAT'S NEAT! FALL EDITION

BY EMILY BOCK

Fall is finally in full swing and that means sweaters, warm drinks, pretty leaves, and Halloween. Sure, it might also mean that you're weekly Sunday routine of going through the five stages of grief over having to go to school tomorrow has also picked back up, but we are looking on the bright side here! Besides, there are too many neat Fall activities to be mourning summer for too long!

The top five general Autumn activities are:

1. Apple picking
2. Pumpkin picking
3. Making pies
4. Wearing sweaters
5. Just sitting outside looking at the leaves

But wait... Fall is great, of course there's more!

So, every year the same thing happens; you go to a haunted house with some friends, everybody cries because it's too scary for them, and then it ends and you spend the next week talking about how you "weren't scared at all." Haunted houses are great, but they're not for everyone. Whether you find them too scary or too fake, our local historical societies have the answer: places that are \*actually\* haunted!

### The Fearing Tavern Museum, Wareham

The original portion of this house was built in 1690, but the main tavern section was built three quarters of a century later in 1765 and another wing was added during the 1820's. The entire building has been kept in pristine condition, filled with fascinating exhibits, the spookiest being an entire room filled with old dolls and other toys. A door inside an upstairs closet leads down a secret flight of stairs to hidden apartment used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. This is a neat place to go even if you're only looking at it from a historical perspective.

Tours of the Museum are available by appointment only and the Wareham Historical Society site did not include any information on pricing, but if you're interested in the historical paranormal, this place is worth a trip!

### The Lizzie Borden House, Fall River

So everybody knows the whole Lizzie Borden story and that you can spend the night in the house that has been converted into a nifty themed bed and breakfast, but you can also just go on a house tour! The tours run daily every hour between 11 and 3, cost \$20, and last around 50 minutes. You need special permission to video the tours, but pictures are fine if you're willing to run the risk of finding orbs in your photos.

Hiking in the Fall is great; it's not too hot or too cold and the trees are gorgeous! And, it can really get you into the Fall spirit regardless of whether or not you think the "Fall spirit" should involve actual spirits.

### The Blue Hills Reservation, Milton

There are dozens of trails here, but the most popular is the Skyline Trail Loop. The halfway point brings hikers to an observation tower where the city of Boston can be seen against the colors of Fall. The loop is only 12.7 miles and the entire area is dog friendly, which more than makes up for the travel distance! Especially if you are looking to change it up a little and explore one of the less frequented trails, I would recommend getting a map at the Reservation Headquarters- getting lost here is not neat (been there, done that)!

### The Freetown State Forest, Freetown

If you're looking for some local hiking with some spooky vibes, look no further than the infamous Freetown State Forest. It includes 25 miles of hiking, horse, and dirt bike trails, and it's also dog friendly! The Freetown trail will take you to both Profile Rock and The Ledge, but the average rating of the trail itself is only 3.5 out of 5 stars. One of the main stories surrounding the ledge is that a young couple would meet there in secret because their families did not approve. Things turned very Romeo and Juliet when her boyfriend didn't show up one night, the young woman threw herself off the ledge. Some say you can see her wandering the ledge, waiting in vain for her boyfriend to return, and when she realizes that he isn't coming she repeats her final jump. It should be noted that one of the Alltrails reviewers (who had a really bad time overall because his car got towed and he had to walk 21 miles to go get it) found "a bunch of punks out there," on the ledge. So... maybe just watch out for those punks if that's something you worry about?

No momentous event, including the changing of the seasons, is complete without a suitable playlist. This year especially, your Halloween playlist needs Zombie Zoo by Tom Petty. It's part memorial, part a neat song for a Halloween playlist, but all great song!





## OPINION

# MY EXPERIENCE WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

BY CHRISTIAN HOTTE

Virtual Reality is fun, but it will never replace standard monitors as a core part of mainstream gaming. As one of the first few owners of the HTC Vive (a top-of-the-line virtual reality headset/physical controller combo built to simulate environments where you may walk around freely within a designated area), my feelings towards ownership of the apparatus came in phases:

### Phase #1: The Honeymoon Period

Putting on a VR headset for the first time is a truly euphoric experience. Everything is exactly how you picture it. You are introduced to the marvellous capabilities of the headset by (in the case of the Vive) a Portal core (Valve has clearly poured a lot of soul into this project and it might explain why they haven't been releasing any sodding games in the past few years), and your hands suddenly become laser blasters or lightsabers, making the mere act of popping virtual balloons entertaining for hours on end. The Vive and Oculus both come with their own suites of games and programs to demonstrate the capabilities of the hardware, and these will prove to be more than enough to keep you craving more for days or even weeks (not to mention useful for efficiently blowing the minds of people you show it to).

### Phase #2: Expanding Horizons

Once the novelty of the tech demos wears off however, VR owners must regrettably begin to deal with the unsavoury prospect of finding new, more interesting games. At first you might find some level of enjoyment in a few of the free titles that people develop for the platform, however these will quickly disappoint, as they have neither the graphical fidelity nor the mechanical depth to make them lasting or memorable gaming experiences. An essential issue with developing games exclusively for a \$600-\$800 piece of hardware is that such a small fraction of the gaming population owns one that the budget of the project must either be absurdly low or the final cost of the title to the consumer must be extortionately high. This results in games made just for VR being incredibly simplistic, often lacking in graphical fidelity, and very expensive.

On a somewhat cheerier side however, many games that have been ported to the virtual platform are tremendously improved by the transition. If a game has already been designed for standard gaming and has proved to be successful, having sufficient budgets to merit meaningful depth and gameplay due to their wider audiences (take examples like Fallout 4, Elite Dangerous, and Superhot), it might have much to gain from the immersion value of picking up VR compatibility. A general rule of thumb, for example, is that titles with vehicle-based gameplay work flawlessly as VR games while requiring very little to be changed about them in order to fit the platform (Elite Dangerous demonstrates this perfectly, being a first-person space-sim). Other titles may require a bit more tweaking to accommodate known issues with VR such as motion sickness and lack of physical feedback (such as Superhot and Fallout 4), but through clever game design they too can be successfully adapted to headset/motion controller format. It is in games such as these where I spent the majority of my time in the Vive.

### Phase #3: Desensitisation

VR does not have the potential to ever become a core platform. Despite the amazing benefits it provides in terms of immersion and emergent gameplay, it crucially lacks in the key aspects that make the more standard forms of gaming successful. After a few months of being amazed by the scope of having an infinite universe at your fingertips, I began to grow used to the wonderment of this newfound world, and its charm inevitably dribbled away. The real killer for VR is that it simply isn't very convenient to set up or use. My home gaming PC is set up such that it minimises the time between when I decide I want to start a gaming session and when that session begins, and everything from the RAM upgrades to the ergonomic keyboard to the topography of the room itself is arranged such that said time is as minimal as possible. This, however, is simply not possible given the nature of present-day VR headsets. The prospect of taking out, plugging in, putting on, and calibrating the device presents quite the deterrence to ever using the device. The task becomes even more daunting when one considers the sheer amount of space they must keep clear in order to properly use the Vive's full capabilities, and I've personally found it increasingly difficult to justify dedicating half of my entire room to this VR zone which hardly ever sees use anymore.

Suffice to say, virtual reality in any format is certainly an incredible experience, and I have no doubts that future advancements in the technology will make it more accessible both economically and technically, however the fact cannot be ignored that in its present state it is thoroughly devoid of utility to core gamers as anything beyond a novelty or occasionally a surefire way to impress friends and relatives.



## IS THE IPHONE X REALLY WORTH IT?

BY BRYAN QUERIM

As many know, the new iPhone X has been released by apple, they skipped over 9 which was kind of stupid because 7 ate 9. There are people who are very excited about it but they won't be excited for long because this new device is coming in at a whopping \$999. It's competitor, the lower model iPhone 8 is \$699. With \$999 dollars as their starting price for the basic model, it's not worth it, it's a powerhouse phone but compared to its competitors the price is just too high.

The iPhone X is 5.8 inches long for screen size compared to the iPhone 7 plus which has a 5.5 in. display. This phone has a 12mp camera just like the 7 and 7 plus, so there is no difference there. The front-facing camera sets it apart. Instead of touch-ID, they have added facial recognition using the front-facing camera. Some have concerns about using

the new face id feature in low light situations. With it's biometric camera system it's a game changer, it can scan your face to unlock your phone in any light situations.

Another admirable feature about the front-facing camera is it has a Snapchat like emoji theme to it with different funny faces and emoticons. This phone is looking great so far and I can't wait to see it come out. On October 27th the preorders for the iPhone X begin, and they will start shipping November 3rd. So far this phone seems great, but is it worth the full \$999 price tag?. Compared to its competitors with Samsung and

it's S8 model for \$735 price tag it may not be the best on the market at the time. Many phones have been coming out this summer so is it really worth it. The iphone X right now is just not worth it in my eyes, the price is just too high.





## OPINION

# SCHOOLGY VS. GOOGLE CLASSROOM

BY ALLISON KVILHAUG

Once upon a time, I was helping someone do their homework on schoology, and just before they submitted the assignment, they had to leave for a sports team practice. I told them that was fine and I'd proof-read and submit it for them. All I had to do was turn in the assignment (electronically of course). That's when it happened. I was staring at a screen with symbols and codes I didn't understand. All I could think was "how the heck do I use this". That was the first time I had to turn in an assignment on schoology. From then on I've been stuck wondering why we don't just use google classroom. There must be something spectacular about schoology that teachers prefer for them to use instead of the more user friendly Google Classroom. Now I'm left to ask: Why do some people prefer Schoology over Google Classroom (and vice versa)?

The decision between Schoology and Google Classroom is inevitably up to the teacher, so it's important to understand why they choose one website over the other. I talked to five teachers, there were 3 for Schoology and 2 for Classroom. Let's start with those for schoology because frankly, they had a lot to say. Mr. Allain, Mr. Linane, and Ms. Graser were all pro Schoology, so unsurprisingly they all had similar reasons for liking schoology. Ms. Graser is a big fan of the folders. "I thought it was more organized and I like the folders because I could tell someone at the end of the year to review cellular respiration and it'll be right there in a folder instead of them having to scroll through a million things."

As someone who has spent many hours scrolling through social media to find the perfect meme for whatever conversation I'm having, I sympathize with her statement. I interviewed Mr. Allain via email. He finds schoology easier to use when it comes to reference sheets. It's an easier platform when it comes to discussions and communicating to absent students. "I fell in love with the fact that students could get a good idea of what they had missed in class during an absence before they even spoke with me." What teacher wouldn't love having a class that has had an equivalent amount of instruction instead of worrying if John Doe knows about the new assignment. Mr. Linane said the same thing about having class discussions via Schoology. Although Mr. Linane talked more about teacher accessibility and how there's more communication through Schoology than Classroom, both teachers had very similar opinions. They both used the term "Teacher-centric" when describing Google Classroom. Linane had more to say on the "more personalized learning that you can't get with google classroom". What kind of learning do you get with Google Classroom?

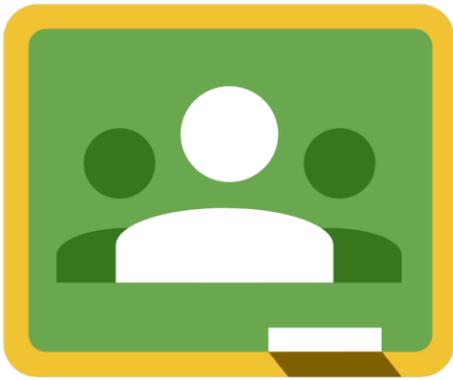
What really matters is how useful the learning management system is. With how little I've used Schoology in my high school career, I would have expected to find more google classroom advocates, yet Ms. Hall and Ms. Morrell were willing to talk to me about Classroom. Ms. Morrell had an interesting view point, being as she switched from Schoology to Google Classroom. Ms. Hall has been a google user since 2009. Schoology and Google Classroom both do a lot of the same things, but Ms. Morrell found that Classroom was easier to use and easier to apply to the chromebooks. When asked why she originally switched over, Ms. Morrell said "I switched

to Google because everyone in my department was, and the students liked google classroom". Most papers and essays written in the school are typed on google docs, so the ability to pass in assignments through a Learning Management System is very important. Ms. Hall commented on the integration of google docs for both websites, and said "The major difference is google classroom integrates with docs better and it's more straightforward for students to use". From what I understand, these teachers is that they talk about what the students like, and directly bring up student opinions.

I took a poll in my study to get a sense of what a random group of students preferred, google classroom or Schoology. I could not find one student who preferred Schoology. From what I've gathered, students find Schoology difficult to use, and are mainly focusing on how it's harder to turn in documents. Christian Hotte (computer wizard) brought up one of the same points Ms. Hall mentioned, "Classroom, being developed as a piece of Google's suite of tools, is inherently more effective when dealing with Google Drive and Documents, both of which our school uses as its sole platform for digital writing. Schoology, being developed independently, does not have the privilege of being designed by Google and therefore some of its features are occasionally undermined by vexing incompatibility bugs." He's not the only one to experience this problem. Mike Fisher, another student, felt the same way when he said "Google Classroom links directly to Google Drive and has everything in one place where as schoology I run into the issues of finding what's

relevant.". Students just want to pass in the assignment, but when there are constantly issues with uploading a document. Julia Winsper, another ORR student, said "I understand teachers will choose which is best for them, but in our society where we're advancing in technology every second of every day, I would hope teachers are willing to work with the option that most benefits their students rather than what seems like themselves." After Julia wrote a whole paragraph on how she found Schoology tedious. She liked being able to simply set up notifications on Classroom.

I personally think Google Classroom is easier to use, and that Google Classroom has a much simpler format making it easier to understand. I've never had a teacher who used schoology to interact with students, they mainly just use it to post homework. Schoology just feels like another password to remember and quite frankly the teachers I've had kept doing things on Schoology that can be done on Google Classroom. It's true in the sense that the folders are directly on the Schoology page, but google does have the ability to make team folders that can organize notes and information just as easily, it's just in their drive. Teachers can comment on other people's work and have discussions in Classroom. Also teachers can turn back assignments with grades and comments on Classroom, and when it comes to interacting with teachers I find email is the most effective. In the end Google Classroom has the support of the students, making it the winner.



## THE SEARCH FOR COLLEGES

BY AYANA HARTLEY

A student is in the corner of the library, frantically completing their third college essay. The first essay has a red line through the first sentence that reads, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.". The second one is heavily marked in red pen with the comment on the top: 'DON'T WRITE ABOUT YOUR BROKEN LEG.' The student is swiftly writing the third attempt which is a rambling piece that basically sums up the sentiment of, "please accept me, I'm desperate."

As this goes on, another student is balancing on their chair while laughing muttering that they'll get started on their college essays this coming weekend. Yeah, sure they will.



These are two very different students, but their end goal is the same: fill out some applications, write a stellar essay, and go off to college, or well, something like that. It is the time of year for students to get their butts in gear and actually become serious about applying to colleges. The process is stressful, but some students have managed to finesse and make the process as simple as possible.

It is interesting to watch the teenagers of ORR handle their "next step" in different ways. I have met freshmen who already know where they want to go. I have talked to sophomores who have already gone on college visits. Here I am, with only two college visits done, but having two essays done and an early decision application in the wraps.

I've thought of no thing else these past few weeks except the everlasting, unrelenting doom of the Common app. I feel my whole life I should have been preparing for my application. Did I do enough sports? Do I have enough clubs on my resume and where are my seven years of community service? Also who knew my POC status would get me discounts one day? It all gives off the vibe of a creepy dystopian novel where my value is strictly based on what my SAT scores. In all honesty, advertising yourself like a piece of meat for colleges just to keep you in debt for decades seems stupid.

Just remember when you get down about college, it's going to be okay. You are not defined by the College Board or even the American Education system. The system we are in only works for a certain kind of kid and if you feel upset because you don't fit that system, you aren't alone. Uniqueness defies college and grades and no matter what you still



## LIFESTYLE

## Gender Politics Club : All Are Welcome

BY ISABELLA RODRIGUES & KATIE MACLEAN

The word, “feminism” has a sort of negative connotation these days. Many people associate feminism with “man-hating” and “feminazis.” It’s a harsh turn from the actual definition which is “The belief that men and women are equal,” in that sense, we should all be feminists. ORR’s new Gender Politics Club looks to remedy this issue, through discussion and activism with participating students

Recently, Old Rochester’s new World History teacher, Andrew Apperson pointed out that the school didn’t have an outlet to discuss high school gender issues. A few female students, like ORR Sophomore Kelly Bruce immediately took up the idea. ORR needed a “Gender Politics Club” to combat sexism and form an inclusive feminist community. “Our main goal is to get young men, at an early age to understand gender issues. Feminism is not just for women,” Apperson said.

The history teacher was very firm about the idea of intersectional feminism which preaches that every plight against women should be recognized by feminists. Intersectional Feminism teaches about being active in all gender issues around the world, not just those that affect a different group of people. The goal of the club would be to engage all

students in acting against gender discrimination not only in the local high school environment, but globally as well.

Everyone at the first meeting seemed to be excited about the club’s potential and what they could learn from it. First, the club leaders went around the room and asked the students what they would like to discuss over the course of the year. Then, the club leaders touched upon many topics like gender discrimination in careers and jobs, dress codes, toxic masculinity, gender roles in high school, and went over a Forbes article titled “9 Ways Women Give Away Their Power.” The meeting had many students express their opinions, whatever they may be. By the second meeting, we had an even number of male and female students.

Mr. Apperson’s proposals for the club include making Ted Talks in which students get the chance to express their opinions and experiences. The club will also be assigning certain literature, and if possible a course in self-defense. In any event, The Gender Politics Club looks to be an active group of feminists from all genders, where all are welcome.



## RACIAL SLURS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA STARS

BY MARISA BRAGA

Chances are, if you’ve ever been on the site Youtube, even if it was just once, then you’ve heard the name Pewdiepie. Whether it was thrown around in some random video you stumbled upon, or you’ve seen his videos in your recommended somehow, the name still seems to be familiar. Now, there’s a huge chance you’ve seen the name in recent news articles. For most of Pewdiepie’s, or Felix Kjellberg’s, career, he posted gaming videos. That’s actually what he’s known for and if you don’t know him very well, that’s probably what you

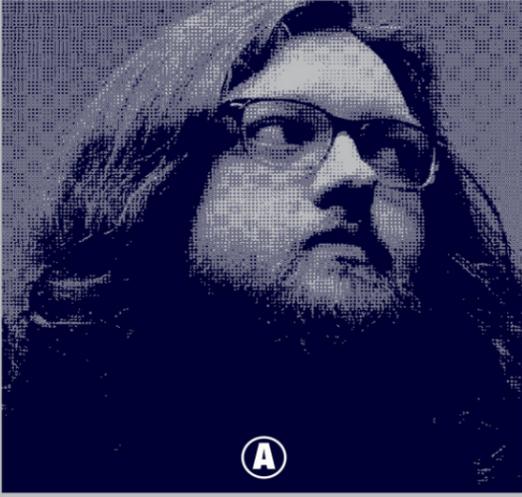
correlate him with. Since early 2016, though, he’s started to post a wider range of things. Initially, I actually liked this. His videos were entertaining enough and being an old fan of his, I thought they were pretty funny. It seemed like he was becoming more comfortable with the videos he was posting, wanting to post, and his audience. But this was becoming a bad thing.

Recently, Kjellberg, has started live streaming. Which makes an argument that he wanted to make money quickly due to the recent downfall in YouTube’s advertisements, but that’s another story for a different time. In one of his more recent live streams, Kjellberg let the n-word slip. Now, when you’re somewhat famous, it’s expected to mess up and everyone does make mistakes, but those mistakes are just showcased when you’re famous. But to keep making those mistakes, over and over and over again, it shows that they’re not really mistakes. It shows who you really are, what you really think, and what you really do when there’s not a camera on you. The n-word is not something that can just be thrown around, especially in the times that we’re in (especially if you’re white). But, yet again, he had found the time to come up with another excuse. In his more recent video titled “My Response”, he explained that he did not mean to say the n-word, and when he’s angry, or in the “gaming zone,” he says things he doesn’t mean.

Since the beginning of Kjellberg’s fame, there have always been controversies surrounding him. To people who have genuine, hard-working jobs, Pewdiepie’s simple job of making videos almost seems completely stupid, especially since he’s made millions off of it and there are people out there who don’t even know where their next meal is coming from. To me, and many other people, making YouTube videos is nothing compared to what other people have done, and becoming “famous” off of it is pure luck.

In one of his older videos, that he actually ended up deleting because of the later backlash, he had paid two young boys over the internet to dance around with a sign that said “death to all jews”. That is absolutely ridiculous. Of course, there have always been offensive jokes that people find humorous, and nothing can stop that. But, something like this is taking it to a whole new level. People will always ironically make jokes like this and I can’t stop that but, paying two people to dance around with a sign that says such things? That’s extremely offensive, and shouldn’t have even happened in the first place. Slowly, after a few weeks of deserved backlash, the whole situation started to clear up. He made a few apology videos, and came up with the excuse that it was just an ill attempt at a joke that he admitted he shouldn’t have done. I don’t think that this should be excused in any way, but, still, people forgave him, and things went back to how they used to be.

And now, there’s only one huge thing left to ask; will this clear up? Already, maybe one or two weeks after, people are starting to forget about it. People are back to defending him for saying the n-word, and saying that it was a mistake and he shouldn’t be held accountable for so many of these mistakes. But, really, are they mistakes? Because he keeps making them again and again, and if you keep doing that, then there’s going to reach a point where you have to face your actions, face the consequences, and stop making excuses.



## RAPPER JONWAYNE'S BRILLIANT NEW RELEASE

BY TUCKER NUGENT

Jonwayne, a California based rapper published his 7th album in February 2017, Rap Album Two, which is in every way a masterful piece of art. He produced the album almost entirely by himself and it shows. His skill as a producer and rapper are both equally astounding. For example rather than a Drake-esque, pop style hook or a melody with two or three verses, he relentlessly bodies the track the entire time with no sense of repetition. There aren't many hooks or melodic breaks, as his samples and features break up the bars refreshingly. For example, on his single Jump Shot he says "Write a track without a hook and it's ready to blow" and after most verses he a friend jump

The samples he plays with are often of 70's and 80's R&B songs which seems like an odd match for a modern rapper, but he uses them brilliantly. They give the songs a chill, funky vibe while the high hat and snare beat keeps the track moving. He uses the wood block fill beat from Al Green's I'm Still In Love With You as the driving force behind his most popular song

on Spotify, Afraid of Us Feat. Zeroh. The sample brings the right amount of vintage sound and a perfect tempo, that way he can get his words out quickly but easily heard and defined, which brings on an easygoing balance between the production and bars. The same is true with a single he released, aptly named The Single, where he samples the opening of Sylvan Morris's Reggie in Harmony. The samples of old beats and songs that he brings to the table like these are smart and timeless.

If you heard him talk, you wouldn't think that his voice would be a good fit for fast rap, because of its raspiness and roundness. Comparing his voice to other artists of the same genre, their tones and cadences appear to be much sharper and quicker. This plays to his advantage as his voice carries so much emotion, power, and pain that it fills out the soul and R&B production of his melodies perfectly. Wayne's lyricism and production of Rap Album Two is the work of a genius, and refreshing in every way.

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