Summer/Fall 2017 Registration is Here!

By Paula Schultz | Editor-in-Chief

It’s that time of the year again folks; registration season. March 27th and beyond is the grand day for some to start off a new semester right, or to continue pushing forward. For others, this is a time full of annoyance, constant bickering, and confusion. For me, it’s a little bit of both. Wherever you are on this scale, it’s important to check off everything that is necessary to have a semester that is as organized as possible. From schedule making, to making sure your on track, it can get a little confusing on what to do and who to go to. Here are some tips to check off and keep in mind when registering for the next two upcoming semesters:

If you feel lost, go see an advisor immediately. Stop. Putting. This. Off. This is important, especially if you haven’t been to an advisor in a while. Advisors are not only there for making your schedule, but to guide you in the right direction. They really do know their stuff and can help you lessen your confusion on anything from school, to your future. Just remember, if you are a General Studies major, go see an advisor upstairs in the Ammerman Building. If you are a declared major, see an advisor in the department of your major.

Make sure you are on track to graduate/transfer. Sometimes, we get so caught up in our lives and wanting to take cool classes, that we forget to take a look at the classes we really need. Maybe you thought you completed a class you needed your first semester, but you did poorly on it and you didn’t receive the credit. There are countless reasons why one may be off track. Make sure you are doing everything you need to do to graduate or transfer successfully. You can do this by going to see an advisor.

Consider taking summer classes if you have a lot of classes ahead of you. I know, I know. You don’t want to bother with school during your vacation. But it might not be a bad idea to at least consider summer classes. The school does not offer every class in the summer, but some of the most popular/important classes are. If you have a goal time set on when you want to graduate, but have a lot of classes that you need to complete, consider taking a couple classes in the summer. If you are busy with a job, or just simply don’t want to go to school, sign up for online summer classes.

Not a summer person? Double up. But can you handle it? I have witnessed a lot of people wanting to double up their fall and spring semesters to complete their major in a shorter time frame. That’s fine, if you are up for the challenge. Sometimes, students are blessed with pretty light semesters with minimal homework. But that doesn’t mean it’s going to be the same every semester. Look at how you’re doing in college now, and also take a look at how you did back in high school. Really make sure that you are ready to double your work load. If you aren’t, that’s perfectly okay. Go at your own pace; you will be much better off that way.

Thinking of transferring soon? If yes, you should go make an appointment with your advisor at this time. Because they are so busy making everyone’s schedules, you may only be able to get time with them after 3 weeks. In the meantime, secure your appointment and research potential schools/plans that you are interested in. Be ready with a set of schools and questions that you have for your advisor. Its best to know what’s ahead and what you need to do as soon as possible, rather than stressing last minute.

Try something new! Finally, try a class you’d never think to take. I know, that sounds a bit redundant. But that can allow you to discover new things out there and who knows, maybe light a spark in you. It can be something as simple as a gym class. I was always embarrassed with dance, but I went ahead and tried the Modern Jazz class this semester. I fell in love with it! It was the best gym class I ever took, and am surely taking another dance class next semester.

To end things off, I hope you all have a wonderful semester ahead of you. And to those graduating this spring, I wish you great success and happiness in your futures ahead!
Alisa Miller visits Suffolk

By Erika Peters | Contributing Writer

Alisa Miller, CEO of Public Radio International, a global non-profit media company, appeared at the Ammerman Campus on March 21, and spoke to students about many issues happening in the media world today.

Miller was named CEO of PRI in 2006, making her the youngest CEO and first woman to lead a major public radio network. She was named one of the Most Influential Women in Technology by Fast Company, and her TED Talk on media’s power to shape perception and knowledge has been viewed online over 1.7 million times.

Miller sat down with Dr. Elizabeth Cone’s Advanced Journalism class and members of the Compass newspaper for an intimate Q&A session, where students were able to personally ask her questions that they had about her work in the media field.

Students asked Miller about her recent media project funded by the Clinton Global Initiative, Across Women’s Lives, which is a push to increase news coverage and engagement around global women’s issues, and why she felt these stories, often featuring women in regions such as India and Africa, are important.

“When we step back and we think about content, we say, where are the content voids and where are the stories that we’re just not hearing at all? Because we are a global news provider, one of the lenses we use is to look at regions of the world where we are just not hearing much from at all. And there are lots of women and lots of interesting stories because things are happening much from at all. And there are lots of women and lots of interesting stories because things are happening there that impact everyone in many ways,” Miller said.

Miller stressed how these stories help improve the lack of understanding around women’s issues.

“We’re really looking for stories that can help people understand what women are facing around the world and the challenges of course — there are millions of stories we could be telling,” Miller said.

Miller spoke about how women are vastly underrepresented in the media, and when they are, it often in a stereotypical manner.

“On average, women are featured in the news, in some way — like a source in an article, an expert, a piece — 24 percent of the time, around the world. And that’s across all topics — women are involved in all kinds of things — but we’re not seeing them, even though they’re there,” Miller said. “A lot of what we see when women are portrayed are often reinforcing stereotypes.”

She urged students to use the social media world of Facebook and Twitter to combat this and create diverse sources of news for themselves.

“Just because NBC or CBS doesn’t have bureaus where two billion people live, doesn’t mean that you can’t have your own virtual bureau because you follow news sources that are regularly covering different parts of the world,” Miller said.

Miller also suggested that students try sites such as PolitEcho.com and EscapeYourBubble.com, which help users understand and consume news outside of their political viewpoint, and become a more informed news consumer.

AABLE presents

Field Day

Friday, April 21
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Brookhaven Gym

All differently-abled SCCC students are invited to compete in Basketball, Volleyball, Dance, and an Obstacle Course. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded.

Sign up at the Ammerman Info Booth, in the Offices of Campus Activities of Grant and Eastern, and the Disability Offices of all three campuses.

Guest Speaker:

Rohan Murphy

Competitive wrestler, power-lifter, Special Olympian & motivational speaker - come and be inspired!

Sponsored by Office of Campus Activities & Student Leadership Development - Ammerman
Society of Writers and SCCC Ammerman Library presents

Newspaper Blackout Poetry Contest

Submit entries at Library from April 12th-17th

Wed. April 12th, 11:10am-12:15pm
Newspaper Blackout workshop @ Library Lobby
supplies and materials will be provided

1st & 2nd place winners and prizes will be announced

@library poetry reading/workshop/ reception April 19th, 11:10am-12:15pm (Library 104)
feat. special guest poet Jesus Papoleto

Questions?
Contact Dawn Wing, Librarian
wingd@sunysuffolk.edu

Special thanks to SCCC Bookstore and the Compass Newspaper
LIKE TO WRITE?

WANT TO GO INTO JOURNALISM?

ARE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER?

The F Word, Feminism

By Paula Schultz | Editor-In-Chief

As many of you have probably noticed, feminism has been a pretty sensitive and misunderstood idea. Many men and women put down anybody who dares to say that word aloud. Reason? Probably because “feminism” has the word “female” in it. That could often lead people into thinking that feminism means “the idea that women are better/more worthy than men.” However, I hope by now that most of you reading this know the true meaning of feminism. If you don’t, please continue reading.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the two definitions under feminism is “the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes”, and “organized activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests.”

Nowhere in that definition, and countless others, does it say that feminism is the idea that women want to eradicate men. But hey, I don’t blame some people for not knowing that. I used to be on the same boat.

Growing up, I was never exposed to the word feminism. Of course, my mom and dad worked hard to show me that the world must be balanced between the two people, that is something completely different. Instead of people automatically putting down feminism because they don’t know what it means, they should research it more and then decide what they think of it. That could often lead people into thinking that feminism means “the word feminism” actually means. The definition of the word is written above; yet, people still think that feminism is something completely different. Of course, my view on relationships is my own opinion. There are millions of people out there that would gladly disagree with me. However, one cannot have his or her own opinion about what the word “feminism” actually means. The definition of the word is written above; yet, people still think that feminism is something completely different. Instead of people automatically putting down feminism because they don’t know what it means, they should research it more and then give their opinion on how they feel about it.

Next time you see or hear the word Feminism, don’t assume it is just some girl that is complaining about men. Don’t assume that girls are just trying to find an excuse for the problems in the world. It is highly encouraged for everyone to have their own opinions about all sorts of ideas and views in this world. But before you stick firmly to your opinion, make sure you know the facts and do the research.
"We learned a lesson in the darkest time of our lives – there was a spark of humanity."

Holocaust survivor, Mordechai Miller, said this as he shared about his life as a hidden Jew during World War II.

Living right outside of Warsaw, Poland, Miller, his father, mother, and brother were forced first into the ghetto and then into hiding as the war unfolded around them. Only eight-years old at the start of the war in 1939, Miller remembers not being allowed to attend school and at the time, only had up to a first-grade level of legal education. Anything he learned during the war after that was taught to him illegally by his parents or tutors. Now, he says that when he enters a school it is like “walking into a temple, a holy place.”

Later that year, he and his family were forced into a Jewish ghetto where there was very little food, many German soldiers, and rampant epidemics of lice and typhoid; yet, “the will to live [was] so strong.” This underlying pulse of determination led his mother to often risk her life by crossing over to the free side of Poland to trade clothing for food to feed her family and oftentimes others. Miller said that “whoever didn’t risk died of hunger.” Unfortunately, that was often the case, contributing to the estimated 3 million Jews killed during WWII in Poland alone – about 91% of the Jewish population there.

Miller and his family are counted among the mere 300,000 who survived the Polish holocaust – a tragic 9%. But with the help of a few compassionate individuals and their own ingenuity and resolve, the Millers survived the horrific massacre.

When the time came for their ghetto to be liquidated, the Millers hid in an attic of one of the buildings, escaping the removal to where was most likely a concentration camp.

Once the Germans left, they took off to the forest where they found a poor woman and her daughters who were willing to hide them. For a few months, they lived in the attic of the house and then spent over 14 months seeking refuge in their shed.

Miller proudly held up the wooden replica he built of the shed – not much bigger than a bird house but with a removable wall to show what the inside of their hiding place looked like. There was a trap door in the ceiling which led to the upper loft and a ladder they would draw up during the day. Here, they spent over a year, hardly moving, barely eating, but still surviving.

After hiding in another house’s attic and then the forest for a time, one day the Millers made a wrong turn on a road, coming face to face with an S.S. officer. Not identifying them as Jews, the officer offered the family jobs working in the next village for the German army. Unable to refuse for fear of raising suspicion, they accepted and were brought to the village that Miller said looked “like there was no war…normal people, a nice quiet village.” There, they were given a house to live in and Miller’s mother worked in a kitchen while his father often took care of the commander’s horse. Well-known and loved by the Germans, the Millers lived like this for a few months until the company was ordered to Hungary.

Given high letters of recommendation from the Germans, the Millers acquired jobs again with the new company that settled into the village – however, it was only for a few days.

One evening at a German party, a woman told the company’s cook that she suspected the Millers of being Jews. The next day, the German company was gone, the village was “too quiet” and the Millers “knew something was happening.” Suddenly, shots were fired through the windows of their house. Rushing to grab clothes and other necessities, Miller’s mother was shot – saved by the button on her blouse that deflected the bullet.

“Imagine! Being killed only hours before the liberation!” Miller wondered, and a cruel mockery that would have been. It was the noon of January 17, 1945, only two hours before the liberation – the day Soviet forces liberated Auschwitz, the largest concentration camp – marking the beginning of the end of World War II.

So though severely malnourished, emotionally scarred, and betrayed by their own countrymen, the Miller family persisted through the atrocity, managing to retain their dignity and a semblance of hope.

Reflecting on all that he had been through, Miller finished by saying: “We’re all beautiful, we’re all important, and we all have one life to live. We can do something for the good – don’t do bad.”
Hope Through Church in China

By Bethany Weniger | Staff Writer

Chengdu, China – He kissed me on the cheek.
As I held up my phone to take a picture, he leaned in right as I snapped the shot. The other two boys laughed and chattered rapidly in Chinese as I looked back and forth between the three eight-year-old campers. It was Day 3 of the camp our team was running in Chengdu, China. Our small group from the United States along with a church-based Chinese team were working together to run a sports camp for 60 kids in the area. From 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., we played games, sports, did arts and crafts, sang songs, and had English lessons. Running on fewer than five hours of sleep and a diet of rice and tea was difficult enough on its own, but with the rainforest-like humidity, language barrier, and constantly reigning in the children, the weeks gave new meaning to the word “challenge.” But I’d do it all over again in a heartbeat or less.
Honestly, going on a two and a half week mission trip halfway across the world hadn’t been one of my original summer plans – but I wouldn’t have traded it for anything.
Though we were in one of the largest – and most closed – countries in the world, that didn’t mean they were any less in need of God; because even with the prosperous exterior, beneath the pulse of the city lay a desperate need in every person for something greater than themselves.
I saw it in the eyes of the children who craved love and attention but lacked both. I heard it in the worn-out voices of the men who sat on the hot concrete, with only one or two limbs intact, begging. I noticed it in the way the parents treated their children, uncertain of how to engage with them, preferring to chase career success over relationships. Beneath all of this existed the innate desire and need for God. It stained the streets and was etched onto the faces of everyone there, pushing and driving and leading their hearts on wild searches to find it.
Too often, no one realizes what it is they’re looking for – only that they’re looking. So, in vain attempts to satisfy the longing inside, they try to make their lives bigger, bolder, and seemingly better. But at the end of the day, without Him, it’s all still empty.
That’s why we went – that’s why we go. It’s not for that perfect polaroid of orphans being given a crust of bread by a compassionate traveler. It’s not to collect romanticized stories of what it was like building shelters in a village ravaged by warlords. It’s not to make ourselves seem any better or holier than all the rest, but to bring all the rest to what will give them what they so desperately need and search for – God.
So, through running, dancing, singing, laughing, and a plethora of other verbs, we showed the kids God and His love.
...beneath the pulse of the city lay a desperate need in every person for something greater than themselves.

It wasn’t always easy or enjoyable – there were days where I wished I could hide in the bathroom and escape their incessant disobedience and abounding energy.
There were moments where I didn’t know what to say or do and could only stand there helplessly lost as their broken English tried to convey things to me. There were times where I had to bite my tongue or take a deep breath or pray for a few extra doses of patience.
But there were also many, many more times where they would smile at me, eyes big and brown and hopeful, asking me questions with their words mixed up or pulling my hand along to play a game. There were countless moments of laughter and polaroid-worthy shots and their enthusiasm and energy made running around beneath the hot sun bearable. The claustrophobic smog and sore muscles were not enough to deter our mission and the thought of them now does nothing to lessen my desire to go back.
Journeying to another continent and seeing new places and unfamiliar faces has a way of tangling your heartstrings into knots and tethering them to the ground. You find yourself falling in love with the people and their culture, and doing things like saying the Lord’s Prayer together in multiple languages and trekking through the Forbidden City ankle deep in rain water makes an impression. Not everyone can say they’ve climbed the Great Wall of China in a storm or taught a group of children how to do the Cupid Shuffle or left part of their heart behind in a country that’s on the other side of the globe. But by the grace of God I can say I’ve done it all.
And one trip won’t change a whole nation or convert an entire country. But by the grace of God I can say I’ve done it all.
So, though I left a bit of my heart behind, I know one day He’ll bring me back to reclaim it.
Suffolk County Community College has held a plethora of plays, mainly at Shea Theater on the Ammerman Campus in Selden. One of the plays the College showcased was "The Icarus Project." It was a play written and performed by the students back in the Spring semester of 2011. The show was about the Greek tragedy of Daedalus and his son Icarus escaping imprisonment from a tower by command of King Minos. It was an original piece written by the Professors in charge but also tweak by students in a consultant position. Instead of falling like Icarus, the play soared high above expectations.

The play was a work in progress for seven years when it finally hit the stage. It involves not only dance, but puppetry as well. Charles Wittreich co-directed the play with resident costume designer Andrew Wittkamper. In the Summer of 2010 they both brought Daniel Anemone as a narrative consultant. He was the bridge between student and teacher relations during production. With him onboard, everything was set in motion for "The Icarus Project" to become a masterpiece.

"Production was fun, but stressful at the same time, because when you are in charge, you want everything to run smooth, but you also have a fear that something wrong will happen when it's (production) finished." Dan exclaimed of his experience with the project. Between the dancing, puppets and stock images, it was very worrisome. The show was different from others because it didn't showcase like a normal play does. Instead the story was told through dance and puppetry, while some dialogue was slipped in to help the audience understand what was happening. Four to five people manned the puppets, horses, a bull, and many more.

When the curtain closed on the first night it was met with a thunderous applause from students, faculty, and families who were in attendance. The proudest people were Charles, Andrew, and Daniel. "After years of work for Charles and Andy, and half a year working with me on the play it was a great feeling just to see from feeble beginnings to the finished product, it's amazing." An excited Dan said.

The Playbill synopsis of "The Icarus Project," reads, "The great inventor Daedalus is a legend among the people throughout Greece. Having been shown favor by the goddess Athena, he has been given the gift of limitless knowledge in the form of a miraculous helmet forged in Mount Olympus. He uses this creation to fuel his selfish need for attention and self-gratification as he attempts to grant humanity the gift of flight. His one redeeming quality, the unconditional love he has for his only son Icarus, is outweighed by a boundless jealousy of his nephew Talos. He murders the young Talos, and flies Athens to avoid prosecution; his destination is Crete, where the future king and queen begin to have troubles of their own. Upon Daedalus' arrival in the palace of Knossos, Pasiphae the Queen has become cursed by a lust for the great white bull, a gift by Poseidon to Minos and Pasiphae, consummating their rule over Crete. Daedalus is forced to help the queen, and in turn she births the Minotaur. As time passes, the creature develops a lust for human flesh; in order to contain the raging abomination; Daedalus once again intervenes and constructs an almost inescapable labyrinth. After the construction is complete, Minos betrays Daedalus and imprisons him in a tower along with Icarus. There, Daedalus constructs wings for himself and his son in an effort to escape."

"The Icarus Project's," place in Suffolk County Community College’s theater history will undoubtedly be at the top. Not only those involved with its development, but current students get to see a display in the Islip Arts Building while they walk towards the theater, and it is a constant reminder of how something so little as a community college can do something spectacular on a grand scale, no matter when or where you are.

By Dylan Ramsay | Staff Writer
Humans of Suffolk: Dunya Hamdan

By Matthew Almont | Staff Writer

Everybody has a unique life and perspective that they have to offer the world. You never really know what other people can be like until you take the time to talk to them and get to know them. Dunya Hamdan is a student at Suffolk who has one of the more interesting and compelling perspectives to offer here.

Dunya is a Political Science major who is in her second year as a student at Suffolk. Dunya and her family hail from Palestine, and her heritage plays an important role in her life. Dunya was born and raised on Long Island, and when she was in 6th grade her family moved to Palestine to experience their culture, as well as visit relatives. Dunya says that her time spent living in Palestine opened her eyes, and alerted her to the harsh realities of life that the Palestinian people face every day.

Dunya lived in Palestine for five years, during which she learned Arabic and Turkish, and made numerous friends. After five years, her family moved back to Long Island so that Dunya and her siblings could get an American high school education. After graduating from Longwood High School, Dunya started her time as a Suffolk student.

One of Dunya’s many passions and talents is photography, and she originally planned to major in that. Than one day she happened to see a news story concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Those news stories contained many pictures and videos of Syrian civilians and children in extreme anguish and pain, their lives destroyed and loved ones killed. Dunya realized that she wanted to do everything that she could do to help, and the very next day, she switched her major from photography to political science.

Dunya says that her goals in life are to use her experience with her Palestinian heritage to help educate and motivate others about the struggles going on in the Middle East that too many Americans are unfortunately uneducated about, such as the Palestinian displacement and occupation. She has also expressed using her love of photography to capture pictures that can help get her personal artistic statements and political messages across.

After Suffolk, Dunya says that she has several ideas towards where she would like to study, including Georgetown, Stony Brook, and possibly studying abroad. Her ideal career is to work in the UN, and use her position to help improve the lives and help give a voice to the people in the Middle East, as well as the world. Dunya recommends that her fellow Suffolk students to take serious advantage of any opportunities offered to them, and to get in touch with their heritage. You only need to spend a little time talking to Dunya to realize that she is one of the more passionate, outspoken, talented, and optimistic students on campus, with a bright future surely ahead of her.
What Comes First?

By William Burns | Compass News Faculty Advisor

On February 22, 2017, I attended an open meeting to discuss the possibility of a Chick-fil-A location opening on the Ammerman campus. Chick-fil-A representatives Alan Dupont and Matt Sullivan, along with Aramark employees, fielded questions on numerous topics connected with Chick-fil-A and the impact the business would have on the Ammerman campus. Although, Mr. Dupont and Mr. Sullivan satisfactorily answered questions about the ingredients, menu items, prices, and health issues of their products, they did not, in my opinion, adequately address the troubling statements and associations that Dan T. Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A, has made in terms of inflammatory comments about same-sex marriage and the LGBT community as well as the donations made to groups that actively advocate denying the LGBT community their civil rights. Chick-fil-A has donated millions of dollars to anti-gay organizations such as the WinShape Foundation, the Marriage & Family Foundation, Exodus International and the Family Research Council (which was listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group). In response to these facts, Mr. Dupont and Mr. Sullivan would only say that Mr. Cathy “owned” these actions (didn’t Hitler “own” his actions too?) and that the company has a “revised giving strategy” but could not clearly express how Chick-fil-A currently vetted organizations and groups for donations from the company. Chick-fil-A’s own allies have questioned the company’s supposed policy changes as former Arkansas governor and anti-same sex marriage crusader Mike Huckabee stated that he [Huckabee] “talked … personally with Dan Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A about the new reports that Chick-fil-A had capitulated to demands of the supporters of same sex marriage. This is not true.”

Mr. Cathy has a right to his opinions, no matter how ignorant they may be, but why should SCCC, a college that prides itself on diversity, inclusion, and social justice, want to collude with a company that received a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign for Workplace Equality? Why can’t SCCC be on the right side of history rather than be looked back on as an institution that didn’t protect and advocate for the rights of all its students, faculty, and staff? History is a funny thing: With the benefit of hindsight, we can look back on the errors of the past, shake our heads, and say “What were they thinking? How could civilized people treat fellow human beings like that?” Here was our chance to say no, and in the end, isn’t our ability to dissent the real expression of freedom rather than having the ability to buy waffle fries in the Babylon Student Center? History is never on the side of the oppressors, and I didn’t want to be asked by future students why the college I am so proud of couldn’t take a stand for civil rights. Were we willing to sell our humanity for a fast food chicken sandwich? The fact that the SCCC administration, aided by faculty, students, and staff, made the right decision and denied Chick-fil-A a chance to profit from our community speaks to the courage of our college leadership and the power of activism. Perhaps it is time for Chick-fil-A to follow the example of SCCC and ask itself what should come first, the chicken or the hate?

Where’s The Money?

By Jordan Flumignan | Off Campus News Editor

According to Dr. Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. The County and the College do not agree on who owes what. The President of the College in a recently held town-hall meeting stated to members of the college administration that the county is not holding up there end of the bargain. The county, according to President McKay, owes the college 20 Million Dollars, and that the college is contemplating having to raise tuition to account for this egregious shortfall. We should as students be angry about this, but where we direct our displeasure is up to us. We should not direct it at the college. We should direct it at county officials such as County Executive Steve Bellone, Presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature DuWayne Gregory, and Minority Caucus Leader Kevin McCaffrey. The 20 Million Dollars is not even the biggest issue at play here. It is the politics that are being played with student’s futures, and that is unacceptable.

The Politics that are being played here are not out of our control, we can choose to make a positive impact. It is possible, to borrow from Mahatma Gandhi, to “be the change you wish to see in the world.” Examples of this include writing your local elected officials. Another excellent example would be to speak before a meeting of the county legislature, they are your voice in local politics. The point that we should all convey to the legislature is that they work for us, and they are not doing a good enough job of it. The county has stiffed us as students and we should be irate about it. We need the county to be more accountable for its actions. We need a county government that has had enough of people moving out of state.

The county treats the situation as if it is a forgone conclusion that the students are leaving once they receive their degrees. I feel that is a shame, and if that is the case, those who are leaders in county government, are not fit to hold that position. They really need to try harder to prevent that from happening. It seems as if there will be no one left for the county to govern. Suffolk County Community College has a great system set up to promote academic achievement, but it does little to prevent people from leaving Long Island post-graduation. I feel that there should be an extra incentive for those who choose to stay on Long Island after graduation from a baccalaureate program, or an associate’s degree program with 3 years of work experience in a career field. Maybe Suffolk County Community College students, as well as students at other Public Colleges in the area should lobby the State for a benefit in the form of a state income tax rebate for those living in the five boroughs or Long Island and Westchester. An incentive of that sort would only have an upside to it. That is how you create economic growth. Think of it as the tax cut the Middle Class can get behind.

The middle class has long been the economic scapegoat of long island. We need to stop stigmatizing job creation and earning money. We need a way to reward positive changes in Suffolk County. The best way to do that is to stop handing out money to those who make the wrong choices with it. Let’s stop rewarding companies and start rewarding the individual who went to college for a positive reason. The 20 Million Dollars the county owes Suffolk County Community College must come from somewhere, so let’s end the culture of corporate welfare, and perhaps get tuition back to a reasonable rate.
Free Speech Means Responsible Speech

By Ausma Palmer | Staff Writer

As Donald Trump rose to prominence in the 2016 presidential race, one specific group began to gain momentum. In Donald Trump, they found someone who shared their disregard for social justice and political correctness. He was the perfect symbol for their movement.

This group is, of course, the alt-right, a title that underplays their hate-filled agenda. Trump has become their poster child of sorts and now that he is president they feel validated in their views of oppression and hatred. They became even more empowered after Bannon gained a position in Trump’s cabinet, viewing this as a major step towards achieving their ultimate goals.

Finding themselves with this new power, many alt-right members decided to take their ideology on the road and booked speaking engagements with colleges to deliver their detestable messages of oppression and hatred. But college students weren’t about to let them get away with it so easily, and many protests were held against guest speakers at colleges across the nation. In February, students at UC Berkeley protested the appearance of Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor at Breitbart News who now holds the position of Trump’s assistant and chief strategist, became a leading figure of Trump’s supporters during the presidential race. In a profile with The Daily Beast this February, he stated his desire to “destroy the state ... and all of today’s establishment”, which is a facet of the anarcho-capitalism so many of the alt-right reject validated in an era like the Trump administration. We have seen a man become president despite his daily racist and misogynistic comments, and these students are trying their utmost to ensure that all of society doesn’t become as hate-filled and xenophobic as our very president is. To say that students are overreacting and being too sensitive because they are concerned about the well-being of their peers in a world where Trump targets Muslim and Mexican immigrants and views women as sexual objects is insensitive. These speakers have risen to power rapidly after expressing their hateful ideologies.

Throughout the election, publications like The New York Times ran profiles on members of the alt-right, giving them a national platform to voice their hateful beliefs. They became even more empowered after Bannon gained a position in Trump’s cabinet, viewing this as a major step towards achieving their ultimate goals. Students attempted to cancel his appearance by appealing directly to the college, but when that failed they took to the streets with a demonstration which is, of course, why we have anti-defamation laws – and hateful messages are not excused by the right to free speech. These men have the right to speak their mind (and they will continue to preach to their white supremacist followers through the void of Twitter), but such a platform should not be granted just as there was a spike in hate crimes the day after Trump was elected to office. In another incident in early March, students at Middlebury College literally turned their backs to Charles Murray, a libertarian political scientist and sociologist whose book, “The Bellcurve”, allegedly expresses racist and white supremacist views. In late March, students at Columbia University protested his appearance for the same reason.

These protests have met with much criticism from both the right and left, primarily focusing on the issue of free speech. Most critics have lambasted the protesters for obstructing the speakers’ ability to speak their minds. Others have called the students “sensitive snowflakes”, describing them as overly-sensitive millennials who don’t know how to debate, who are too concerned with political correctness, and who aren’t willing to hear other opinions. None of these arguments are even remotely acceptable since we are dealing with white supremacists in an era like the Trump administration. We have seen a man become president despite his daily racist and misogynistic comments, and these students are trying their utmost to ensure that all of society doesn’t become as hate-filled and xenophobic as our very president is. To say that students are overreacting and being too sensitive because they are concerned about the well-being of their peers in a world where Trump targets Muslim and Mexican immigrants and views women as sexual objects is insensitive. These speakers have risen to power rapidly after expressing their hateful ideologies.

This is not about students being unable to see a different point of view or discuss alternate opinions. Any attempt at “constructively debating” these men would be futile and a waste of time, as they hold no debatable beliefs – people’s humanity is not up for debate. What worth would there be in trying to convince them that not all Muslims are terrorists, that black people are humans, or that women deserve all the same rights as men? It is not the students’ responsibility to teach them human decency, so instead students have chosen the only viable option after confronting their schools directly: protest. By refusing to allow these men to spew their hatred, students are disempowering the speakers and ensuring that no harm is done to the people they target. The students are not, as so many critics have claimed, taking away the speakers’ right to free speech. With any right comes responsibility – which is, of course, why we have anti-defamation laws – and hateful messages are...

“...Everyone is fighting for their voice to be heard”

–Ausma Palmer
**Inequitable Resolutions Made by Trump**

By Abdul Sohail | Contributing Writer

Leaders and followers have changed the setting of order and prosperity. When conflicts rise, people expect the president to be decisive without disregarding equality. It’s important that protection and authority is constant, because many lives depend on the short and long term effects of a chairman. Politicians can be helpful misleading, and so far Donald Trump’s future goals have been the most controversial. Trump has made shortsighted vows without considering any fairness for the population's stability. There must be a limit to democracy, because keeping order is essential and a qualified individual is necessary to take this responsibility.

Racial issues disregard conserving equality, and is a reason that there are Trump supporters. History is restless with repetitive instances of terrorism. It is in our nature to consider a threat to be the cause of violence however, the cause of violence is not something to avoid when dealing with reality. The pressure of being in a life threatening moment is understandable, but it has led people misunderstood with fear. Terrorists claim their religious status as Islam, and that is separate from the reality of Muslim terrorism. Terrorism started from a different religion, it would be the same way. Justice is served for lawbreakers, but freedom of religion can never be taken away-it’s an inalienable right.

Trump suggests banning Muslims from the U.S. along with the shootings in California that representatives say was a terrorist attack by a Muslim couple. Developer Damac Properties Dubai Co. a company made up of Arabics with Islamic faith took notice of Trump’s assertion. The plans to build two Trump branded golf courses along with 104 mansions was canceled by Damac Properties. The business relationship that Trump had with Dubai was terminated in all plans in any present and future manner. As the outbreak continues Prince Alwaleed, a businessman and member of the Saudi royal family had opposing views of Trump. Alwaleed wrote on twitter that Trump is “a disgrace not only to the GOP but to all America. Withdraw from the race as you will never win”. It wasn’t long after Trump noticed and tweeted that the Prince is "dopey" and states that he “wants to control our U.S. with daddy’s money”. Juvenile bickering is not only unprofessional as a candidate, but for future President, the public expects better.

Moreover, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron rejected Trump’s comments on Muslims, which led to a petition signed by over 500,000 Europeans and sent to U.K. parliament banning Trump’s entrance to the country. Currently the debate is in process of determining what comes next. When the President tries to solve a conflict it should be done without causing a conflict. Power isn’t everything without the people, and ignoring the people overall proves the selfish behavior of a bigot.

Some citizens of America would choose Trump in hopes to bring honesty. However, these lies are never spoken from the same tongue, as Trump’s wife Melania plagiarized Michelle Obama’s speaking. Speaking to the public in this manner proves their only importance is to grab power. This is an enforced recourrupting theme of deceit. One might ask if everyone is on the same page, because in 1993 reports of Trump raping his ex-wife were first made from the bookLost Tycoon: The Many Lives of Donald J. Trump by Henry Hurt III. In the book Ivana Trump mentions a statement on her rape. Ivana explains that “[O]n one occasion during 1989, Mr. Trump and I had marital relations in which he behaved very differently toward me than he had during our marriage. As a woman, I felt violated, as the love and tenderness, which he normally exhibited toward me, was absent”. Trump denied that he raped her, and had no backlash after raping his own ex-wife. As a woman, Melania disregards her stance as a feminist and continues to be cohesive with Trump’s plans. Trump has a misconception of the term rape. Stating different racial groups as rapists including Mexican immigrants. Coincidentally, the former mayor of Philadephia, Michael Nutter was on a trip to Mexico when he took notice of Trump’s assertion, and publicly spoke about his opposing views. “Donald Trump’s comments are a threat to the moral security of the United States of America.” Nutter said: “It engenders a level of fear mongering that we have not seen literally since the 1930s and 1940s. He has taken a page from the playbook of Hitler, demonize a group, blame that group for a country’s problems and then seek to ban or eliminate that group as some kind of solution to a problem that does not exist. This is in fact a very dangerous form of American radicalization.” Meanwhile, Trump tries to defend his image in the political campaign by announcing that he loves Muslims and Mexicans. As a result, it’s obvious that if there’s no reasonable certainty expressed there’s no honesty in lying and demonizing people.

Nicholas M. Juszczak a professor of psychology at continued research at psychology with numerous papers in the electroencephalography and taught psychology and experimental psychology at CUNY. He was asked a series of questions such as “what are your thoughts on Donald Trump?” Professor Juszczak then states that “Donald Trump is probably one of the most dangerous presidential candidates that we’ve seen in recent American political history. He practices sheer demagoguery… trying to tap into people’s prejudices, he’s very divisive, but equally important is the fact that he just simply has no confidence what so ever he did not take seriously. Trump states that “If Trump becomes president, is it possible that his vows will come to fruition and change in foreign policy?” A: “No, well first principally he will not become president of the United States mentally convinced of that, electoral process will bear that out mark my words November 9th he’ll “make America great again” while Trump has made plans to change America, however as he tries to settle a conflict he creates a conflict by his radical behavior. Q: “If Trump becomes president, is it possible that his vows will come to fruition for change in foreign policy?” A: “No, well first principally he will not become president of the United States mentally convinced of that, electoral process will bear that out mark my words November 9th he will not be president of the United States, but let’s then look at the unlikely hypothetical that he is the kind of administration that he would set up. The people he would surround himself with, who knows it could be mixture of old characters the George W. Bush years even maybe Bush Senior. He brings a high degree of unpredictability into any administration, but I think it would just simply be disastrous, foreign policy would be a disaster.” Q: “Is the world getting politically worse and if so what options would our country have?” A: “Things are fairly politically the same, actually you might say that things are politically on world stage things are more politically complicated, because from the point of view of economics, we’re now trading with everyone. That’s a good thing it always bought barriers, but we’ve also seen a merge of new kinds of enemies those are from the radical religious right. Things were a little simpler at some point you had one big enemy the Soviet Union that’s who we called the enemy, and there was this big ideological war communism vs. capitalism stuff. Things haven’t gotten politically worse they’re about the same, just different issues.” Q: “Who are you voting for on this year’s election and why?” A: “I’m voting for Hillary Clinton, and it’s not because it’s an anti-Trump vote I more or less followed Hillary Clinton’s career path throughout the course of her life, and she is clearly probably one of the most competent candidates to run for office. She brings a tremendous amount of skill, political savvy, just experience…smarts, … and she just very clearly for all the reasons I just cited is the most suited for the job.”

Mass hysteria takes a toll for many people, politicians, professional organizations, and voters as well. In 1968 a Nazi Party Leader George Rockwell created the term white power. This term means having pride and supremacy in white race. The Ku Klux Klan and Neo Nazi groups are endorsing Trump for white power. This would be an apparent sign that racists ask for dictaturship to appease their disdain. Trump’s direct attitude is found appealing by some individuals, but he can’t be taken seriously. Trump states that he’ll “make America great again” while violent protests against Trump promoters are constant, representing a definite foreseen hint for the future. The War Powers Act of 1941 allows the president to start a war without consent of Congress. Trump having this advantage will only prove the most dangerous presidential reign. As a result, when conflicts add up exponenially it should be apparent that the con- tradictor is a bad choice.
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The Thrawn Trilogy

By Michael Fuzie | Staff Writer

Disney’s animated series Star Wars Rebels has contributed much to the Star Wars franchise. It’s had good stories, characters, villains, and it’s also added many aspects not previously found in the franchise. Yet with all its contributions the show has had its issue. Given the series track record, season 3 had a lot to live up to. It was also an opportunity to correct many of these issues and deliver us a great season. Thankfully Season 3 lives up to previous seasons and corrects issues that series have plagued the series.

The show follows the same group of rebels a few months after events of the last season. They are now building up their rebellion called the Phoenix Squadron. Their operation quickly becomes threatened when villains both old and enter the fray. The storylines in this season are much better and more mature than in previous seasons. The episodes also feel a lot more connected than previous seasons. The previous two seasons had this issue where you would recognize the episodes that existed to fill up an episode slot. Season 3 finally fixes this issue and delivers a far more unified plot.

This is partly thanks to the addition of Timothy Zahn’s original character Grand Admiral Thrawn who is voiced brilliantly by Lars Mikkelsen. Thrawn was the original villain in Zahn’s original expanded universe novels, now called The Thrawn Trilogy. These books were dubbed “Legends” after Disney’s purchase, but due to the character’s popularity he’s found his way back into the Star Wars universe.

Thrawn is the main villain of this season and his presence is very much felt throughout the show. His addition is a very great one as his characters commands a respect and fear not seen in many villains. Every scene Thrawn is in, is one where he takes the center stage. This is thanks great writing, voice work, and music presented that sets this season apart from the previous.

The music in this season is very different from the previous two. Whereas the other two had the traditional Star Wars sounding music. This season sets itself apart with many tracks being very different in style. The music that plays for Thrawn and many other characters, though different than the traditional in style, is very fitting for the tone that is set for this season. Though different the music used is very affective and fits this franchise beautifully.

The show unfortunately like everything else has it flaws. There are some episodes that feel like filler. Though thankfully these episodes, unlike the last season do contribute to the overall plot. The conclusion of the season also isn’t very satisfying compared to the last season. The finale was good up until a deus ex machina extended the shows run time.

The third season of Star Wars Rebels had a lot to live up to and thankfully it does. This season was a lot better than the previous two season. The strong writing, better storylines, great music, and the addition of one of the best villains yet made this season stand out as one of the best seasons of the show yet. The show has its flaws yet despite its shortcomings, it is very much entertaining and well worth a watch. The creator’s additions have undoubtedly payed off and the result was a great season worth watching. If you have time on your hands give this season watch. You won’t regret it.

The Americans

By Paula Schultz | Editor-in-Chief

Channel FX has stunned audiences across the nation once again with its hit show The Americans. Tuesday nights at 10pm, this brilliant 1980’s-set show brings the audience to a bizarre world of two KGB spies living in America. With the cold war brewing, and the tension between the Soviet Union and the United States intensifying, this show really magnifies the different lives and experiences during this time period.

Set in Washington D.C., Elizabeth and Philip Jennings are two Soviet Union spies who live in a deep cover together. Even though they were paired as total strangers, they had to adapt to the American culture as a married couple. To their friends, children, and coworkers, the pair are seen as a perfect and happy family that owns a popular travel agency in town. Philip and Elizabeth had to almost completely erase the life they had in the Soviet Union, and live in the United States as if they have been here all their life. Due to them perfecting their charisma and losing their native tongue, nobody would have a reason to suspect them as something other than a typical American couple.

As soon as night falls and the couple leaves work, they set off and complete missions that the KGB assigns them. No matter how big or small these assignments may be, they have become professionals in getting them done successfully. After years of working together and growing a family at the same time, the two developed a special bond that help them tremendously in completing missions and staying close a family. On top of that, they have to make sure to not appear suspicious towards their neighbor and friend Stan Beeman, who happens to be an FBI agent. Yes, you read that right. An FBI agent working in counterintelligence is living right across the street from two KGB Spies.

Throughout the series, I have been on the edge of my seat and unable to turn away. There are four completed seasons to the series, with a fifth season currently airing. In each episode, the viewer gets to experience the lives of not just the two KGB agents, but also different individuals who are involved in the plot. FBI agents, Russian Embassy employees, and individuals who are involved in a variety of missions are all put in the spotlight. This allows the audience to immerse themselves in a variety of content, rather than staying on one set of characters throughout the entire series.

Applying foreign dialog with English subtitles to small screen productions used to be a hassle in the entertainment business. Recently, TV shows have been gradually embracing other cultures and languages for the nation to absorb. Not only does this change make a more interesting and creative show, but more and more younger generations are appreciating an array of languages being applied to their lives. The Americans proudly joins that list of shows, for they have cast only native Russians for their Russian roles.

Not only does the show’s drama and suspense keep me reeled in, but the interesting storyline and thoroughly picked out characters really tie the show together. I proudly name The Americans to be my favorite show on television.
A New and Better Road for Feminism

By Ausma Palmer

A Feminist全国各地的妇女都期待着一个更美好的未来。《康普斯新闻》在2017年4月刊中发表了《迈向更好的未来：女性主义的新道路》一文，作者Ausma Palmer。文章探讨了女性主义的现状和未来发展方向。
Publicized feuds and celebrity drama is the gift that keeps on giving, and no one knows this better than Ryan Murphy; so leave it to him to make an entire television series consisting of nothing but the greatest celebrity feuds. *Feud* on the FX channel, is an anthology series that consists of dramatization of actual events that took place during reported bad blood between two or a number of famous public figures. Most of the events have taken place, while some have major speculation, as shown in the first season of *Feud* titled *Bette and Joan*.

One of the most legendary talked about feuds from the ‘Golden Era’ of Hollywood was between screen actress legends Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. While their rivalry began in the 1930s, it eventually went on until the both of these actresses had passed away, never having been resolved. The first season of *Feud* currently chronicles from the start of the conceiving of their shared comeback film, 1962’s *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, and is still currently airing Sunday nights at 10pm on FX. So far, the season tells of the alleged backstabbing, animosity, drama, and conniving techniques that not only that these two women had used towards each other, but that many people in both of the women’s professional and personal lives had used to keep the hostility alive. To allegedly quote Olivia de Havilland, “that was a story and feud of biblical proportions.” Susan Sarandon stars as Bette Davis and Jessica Lange stars as Joan Crawford.

There’s already a second season in production, with Prince Charles and Princess Diana of Wales being the next celebrity feud to be chronicled. Speaking of backstabbing animosity, what other feuds can be considered for future seasons of this anthology series? It can be guaranteed that Ryan Murphy will not be short of material at all whatsoever with this particular subject matter.

**Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine**

Piggybacking off of Hollywood feuds from the golden era, actresses, Oscar winners, and sisters Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine fit the requirements perfectly. Interesting enough, these two sisters had a sibling rivalry that had dated back to their childhood and lasted until Fontaine had passed away in 2013. The animosity between these two leading ladies had gotten so bad, that they had even refused to talk to each other at their own mother’s funeral. With stories about Oscar snubs, family drama, and professional drama between these two; if audiences enjoyed *Bette and Joan*, they would certainly enjoy this one.

**Kanye West and Taylor Swift**

Needless to say why this one is on the list, the bad blood between Taylor Swift and Kanye West could prove another hit season of *Feud*. There’s plenty of material to go on. We all know, we all saw, and we have all been following this conflict since that fateful night on the September 13th, 2009 live broadcast of the MTV Video Music Awards. Taylor Swift won an award for Best Female Video for ‘You Belong With Me’ but Kanye West clearly didn’t think that award belonged to her; and pop culture history was made. From “Imma let you finish” to “I made her famous” all the way to “National Snake Day” on Snapchat, the timeline of this vendetta is not seeing an end anytime soon. This would be an utterly captivating and juicy story.

**Jennifer Aniston, Brad Pitt, and Angelina Jolie**

Another feud that we were all there for. Another story we all pretty much know and have been following. Long story short: Brad Pitt + Jennifer Aniston = marriage. Brad Pitt + Angelina Jolie = together from 2005 to 2016. Brad left Jennifer for Angelina, then there was a whole #TeamJennifer vs #TeamAngelina debate, and the timeline continued. So much speculation, so much dirt, so much we would love to know would probably include; What really happened behind the scenes of ‘Mr and Mrs. Smith,’ how that famous W Magazine cover depicting Brangelina as a married couple came to be, what really happened at George Clooney’s wedding, and does Jennifer still think Angelina is “uncool?”

**Mariah Carey and Eminem**

This vendetta was initially based off of one main mystery; Did Mariah Carey and Eminem really date? Slim Shady says yes, while Mimi says no and tried to shake it off. Soon enough they started taking shots at each other through their own music. It wouldn’t be long before Mariah called him “Obsessed,” meanwhile Slim Shady tried to clean out her closet with “the Warning.” The list could go on and on. Famous people are always fighting and feuding, and we are all watching, whooping, and taking sides. Ryan Murphy’s creativity strikes yet again with another FX television show. ‘Feud’ could possibly join the ranks of American Horror Story, American Crime Story, Glee, and Scream Queens.

**Honorable Mentions:**

Of course with a premise this promising, the amount of material to base the show off of is by no means empty. Here are some other big time feuds we hope get covered in future seasons of ‘Feud.’
- Magic Johnson and Larry Bird
- Lil’ Kim and Nicki Minaj
- The Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur
- The Beatles and Yoko Ono
- Madonna and Elton John
- Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield
- The multiple feuds between the various hosts of the ‘Tonight Show’
- (Johnny Carson vs Joan Rivers, Jay Leno vs Conan O’Brien and David Letterman)
- The women of Desperate Housewives
- Gwyneth Paltrow and Martha Stewart
- Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding
Have you ever pondered the metaphysical question of why does evil exist in our world? Who is to be blamed for the horrible things that happen to good, innocent people? Is it just chance, accident, and coincidence or is there an intelligent, malevolent force behind the sinister machinations that plague humanity? Most importantly, is there anyone tough enough to roundhouse kick that malevolent force in the teeth? The 1983 film *The Killing of Satan* answers only one of these ontological questions but manages to stuff enough gonzo nuts scenes, craptastic special effects, and continuity errors to keep even the Pope interested.

Efern C. Pinon’s Filipino Christian horror film focuses on the epic battle between a good but simple man and Satan’s minions, minions that can shoot lasers from their hands, perform wicked wrestling moves, and abduct all the most beautiful women in the village. This of course culminates in a final karate showdown with Lucifer himself with the souls of all the villagers hanging in the balance. *The Killing of Satan* is one of those movies that shouldn’t exist but does, and just like the tragedies we all have to endure will make you a better person for having lived through it.

One of the most important movements in cinema was the Italian Neorealist movement. Stripping film (and film making) back to its rawest elements, Neorealism was just as much an aesthetic choice as it was a result of the social, economic, and political realities of post WWII Italy. Reeling from a catastrophic defeat, Italy needed to not only rebuild its infrastructure but also its culture, which was an essential platform in the Fascist agenda. Directors such as Roberto Rossellini, Luchino Visconti, and Vittorio De Sica made emotionally wrenching films on shoe string budgets that examined the horrors of struggling to exist in the rubble but also displayed a cautious optimism for the new era dawning for Italy. The subject matter of Neorealism focused on the day to day lives of the working class and poor in the slums of urban Italy, trying to survive and keep their dignity. The journalistic, verite approach to these films and their social realist themes didn’t lend themselves well to the Gothic style and supernatural concerns of the then contemporaneous horror films, but if you ever wondered what an Italian Neorealist horror movie would look like check out *El Demonio*. This 1963 film is the story of Purif, a poor young woman living in rural Southern Italy. Because of some odd behaviors and occurrences, her ignorant neighbors declare her a witch and are determined to exorcise her soul even if they must destroy her body to do it. Daliah Lavi (who also starred in Mario Bava’s Sadeian treatise *The Whip and The Body*) gives an unbelievable performance as Purif: her body, mind, and soul crushed under the weight of superstition and fear. There is even a spider walk sequence way before William Friedkin and William Peter Blatty even dreamed of contorting Linda Blair’s body. Director Brunello Rondi’s camera captures these cruelties in an objective, documentary manner using the tropes of Neorealism to highlight the fact that evil can originate in any social class. Unfortunately, there is not an English friendly version of the film so break out your Italian dictionary and experience *El Demonio*.

This obscure film was an early 80’s cable mainstay: Jeffrey Bloom’s *Blood Beach*. Co-produced by the legendary Run Run Shaw (one half of the god-like Shaw Brothers), *Blood Beach* is the locale for several missing persons (filmed at Venice Beach and Santa Monica Beach) and severed body parts. An LAPD detective soon realizes it’s not the work of a serial killer but of something that lurks under the beach. Starring two of the greatest character actors of the 70’s and 80’s (John Saxon and Paulie himself, Burt Young) with some innovative gore (a rapist is castrated by the predator that hides beneath the sand), *Blood Beach* does for beaches what *Jaws* did for the ocean. This movie had to be an influence on * Tremors*.

All three of these movies can be found on YouTube. Happy hunting!
Spring Training: Musts and Busts

By Ryan Pavich | Sports Editor

Spring training is a great precipitator to the beginning of every Major League Baseball season. Young up-and-coming talent is given a shot to win their way onto the big league rosters, veterans try to shake off the rust and get into mid-season form, and position battles are won and lost. However, for every name that impresses and sustains their success another two typically falter by the time games count. Therefore, a more in-depth look is necessary to predict who will carry over their hot March starts and who will crash and burn come April.

Must: Bryce Harper (WSH) – Harper has had an interesting divide his last two seasons. In 2015 he won NL MVP and finally showcased the dominating potential scouts have touted in him, then in 2016 he struggled after a hot start and posted a measly .243 batting average. This spring training Harper leads the league with 8 HR’s, and looks more like that MVP player he was two years ago. He may not win the award this year, but bet on him returning to the top tier of players.

Bust: Eddie Butler (CHC) – Butler is one of the surprising names of this spring, he has emerged as the win’s leader with a 5-0 record. He has only thrown 64 innings in the major leagues, split between starting and relieving for the Rays and Blue Jays.

Must: Greg Bird (NYY) – Bird’s case is similar to Harper’s in that he exceeded in his playing time in 2015 and then vanished in 2016. For Bird however, it was because of an injury he suffered in the ’16 offseason that kept him out for the entire season. Since then Bird has picked up right where he left off, which was putting up Sanchezian numbers in a short sample size. Bird is tied for 2nd in homers this spring, and in hitter friendly Yankee Stadium with the starting job firmly his, Bird can deal plenty of damage this season.

Bust: Michael Pineda (NYY) – Pineda has been wildly inconsistent throughout his career, so a strong spring brings no comfort to the Yankees. Moreover, despite some impressive stat lines that include a 5-inning no-hitter with 8 strikeouts, the level of competition has to be considered. That performance was against the bottom dweller Phillies, while his start against the contending Nationals was rougher (1.2 IP, 3R, 2 BB 1 SO). Pineda hasn’t found his stride yet, and there’s no reason to believe he’s suddenly found it when the games don’t count.

Montgomery Pleads the Fifth

By Ryan Pavich | Sports Editor

As spring training winds to a close and we await the beginning of a new season tomorrow, we enter the season with a glaring question mark in the Yankee’s rotation still. Masahiro Tanaka is New York’s unquestioned ace, but the arms behind him leave much to be desired. CC Sabathia is well beyond his prime and at best will keep games close for the offense to win, Michael Pineda is a pendulum swinging between great and terrible with consistent inconsistency, Luis Severino has shown stretches of promise and implosion, and it is still unknown who the final starter will be. While a final test remains for the candidates in play in the minor league system, the decision should already be made.

Jordan Montgomery has seized his opportunity with quiet force while the competition around him has floundered. Montgomery pitched to an excellent 14-5 record with a 2.13 ERA between AA Trenton and AAA Scranton/Wilkes-Barre last season, and his numbers actually improved, albeit in a short sample size, at the higher level. Montgomery hasn’t diminished his success at all this spring, as he has caught the eye of Joe Girardi and his staff with impressive outings against the Rays and Blue Jays.

We’ve seen several prospects come up with dominating minor league stats before however, and spring training is an inaccurate measure of players, pitchers especially. What separates Montgomery from the pack is his arsenal of pitches. Montgomery already has great command over his top three pitches, his fastball, change, and cutter. Add onto that a working curveball that he is working to improve on, and Montgomery is equipped with all of the tools to get big league hitters out right now. Not only that, but he displayed a sense of confidence on the mound, pitching in on hitters to establish himself early in the count.

In the same time as Montgomery has risen, others have lost their edge in this competition. Bryan Mitchell, who had all but secured a spot for himself last spring until injury stole most of the season from him, has not had the same dominance since returning and will likely be of service to the Yankees from the bullpen as he continues to readjust. Chad Green, another incumbent who split time at the minors and majors last season, has not had a strong enough performance to move the needle in his favor, and Luis Cessa has endured an awful spring and will start the year in AAA ball.

This decision of itself will not solve the rotations issues. That falls largely on whether Pineda and Severino can solve their individual issues and provide quality innings, and on what help can be bought on the trade market for a reasonable price. The more positions the Yankees can solve from within, the better. It is inevitable that they will expend some of their farm system riches to acquire a piece when they are ready to contend, and it is more than likely to be a pitcher they will have to bring in, but Montgomery has the tools to assist them now, and potentially for the foreseeable future.
By Mike Guido | Managing Editor

The New England Patriots walk away champions once again in the Brady-Belichick era and some argue to no surprise. With that, they were slated to have pick 32 in the NFL draft, however, the acquisition of Brandin Cooks sent said pick to New Orleans. With a full 32 picks in the first round this year, a defense heavy class will get a little more respect. The slots can always change between now and April 27th, but as of now, we predict as if the draft was tomorrow.

The Browns scratched one win out last season and will simply take the best player on the board. Myles Garrett out of Texas A&M is generationally good as a pass rusher.

The 49ers have a good chance to move from this spot if the right partner emerges quickly. They're not sold on any quarterbacks so if they stick around, Solomon Thomas from Stanford is likely the pick to rush the passer with a great defensive line.

The Bears need a lot especially in the secondary. Jamal Adams out of LSU is the best safety in the class and bring a great combination of physicality and coverage.

The Jaguars underperformed last year to say the very least. Blake Bortles played poorly, but didn’t have much to work with. He needs a running back that can change the game right out of the gate. Leonard Fournette out of LSU is drawing comparisons to Adrian Peterson so he could be the guy here.

The Titans are a growing team with Marcus Mariota solidifying himself as one of the better young quarterbacks in the game. However, they do need help in pass coverage so Malik Hooker out of Ohio State is exactly the centerfielder that they need at safety.

The Jets are just a flat out mess. They need help all over the field, but this is where the first quarterback comes off the board. They love Mitch Trubisky out of UNC so he’ll be their guy.

The Chargers have moved to Los Angeles so an exciting talent like Mike Williams fits perfect here. Philip Rivers needs a weapon and the wide receiver from Clemson is the best at his position in this class.

The Panthers could possibly move up to snag Fournette, but if they stay put, they’ll look to dip into this deep secondary class. Marshon Lattimore out of Ohio State is arguably the best cornerback in the class with his immense ball skills.

The Bengals were a shocking disappointment last season so they are going to look for a workhorse on defense. Reuben Foster was the anchoring linebacker in Alabama’s historic defense so he will be the pick here.

The Bills will round out the top ten by adding another weapon to the offense. Western Michigan’s Corey Davis has gotten a lot of love at wide receiver and should do well alongside Sammy Watkins.

The Saints get a steal with their first pick by snagging Jonathan Allen from Alabama. He is a beast on the defensive line who can play both positions very well and the Saints need all the defense they can get.

The Browns have another pick at 12 and if they are smart, they’ll refrain from getting a quarterback. O.J. Howard from Alabama is the best tight end we have seen in years and even though Ebubkar is there, adding that extra weapon will help dramatically.

The Cardinals were the most disappointing team in football last year no questions asked. The weaknesses are not too deep with this team, but Carson Palmer is getting older and who better to succeed him than the reigning national champion. DeShaun Watson from Clemson is a winner and that’s what every team should want.

The Eagles could easily go running back here, but they need drastic help at cornerback. Gareen Conley from Ohio State has proven himself to be one of this draft’s best.

The Colts are waiting for Andrew Luck to break out. The defense is far from serviceable, but when you have the chance to get a running back to grow with your quarterback, you take it. Dalvin Cook from Florida State is legitimate and will power through NFL defenses.

The Ravens were surprisingly good last year: They don’t have many weapons on offense, but the defense is slowly decimating. Derek Barnett out of Tennessee is a great pass rusher that fits their scheme perfectly.

The Redskins will decide to hang onto Kirk Cousins so offense is out of the question here. Haason Reddick from Temple is flying up draft boards and they could use another guy off the edge.

The Titans could possibly solve their secondary problems here by going with a corner, but they could also use this pick to get a legitimate weapon on for Mariota. John Ross from Washington was the fastest player we’ve seen at the combine and will blow guys away at wide receiver.

The Buccaneers are a few pieces and some developmental years away from being scary. They will use this pick to bolster the offensive line strengthening the running game and keeping Jameis Winston upright. Garrett Bush from Utah is a tackle that teams love and could go early.

The Broncos have a Superbowl defense already so going here would be counterproductive. The biggest need for this team is offensive line and Ryan Ramczyk from Wisconsin is still around. The tackle will help Paxton Lynch and the running game a ton.

The Lions will go with the best player available and they could be in the mood for some Mexican. Taco Charlton from Michigan is a physical Superbowl last season, but problems as a pass rusher.

The Dolphins are finally seeing some growth in the offense, but that secondary needs serious help. Marlon Humphrey out of Alabama is a great athlete at the cornerback position and fits this defense well.

The Giants defense was stellar last season after being abysmal the season before. However, the offense fell a bit behind. Forrest Lamp out of Western Kentucky should help the middle of that offensive line where it is desperately needed.

The Raiders are going to be a dangerous team next year if they can solidify the defense. Zach Cunningham out of Vanderbilt is a great middle linebacker that can anchor this defense at a high level.

The Texans could maybe snag Tony Romo, but if that doesn’t happen, they will look to go quarterback early. DeShone Kizer from Notre Dame has a ton of upside with his great arm strength and size.

The Seahawks need to stabilize the offense. Cam Robinson out of Alabama is a great value pick at offensive tackle. Russell Wilson was sacked quite a bit last season so keeping him vertical should be a priority in the draft.

The Chiefs have a solid roster all the way around. Adding a cornerback opposite of Marcus Peters could really help this defense. Another Washington product in Sidney Jones could be a great pick here despite the injury he suffered recently.

The Cowboys got decimated in free agency losing a lot of starters on defense. Safety or cornerback will be priority number one for this team. Connecticut product Obi Melifonwu is a risky pick at safety, but has the potential to be lockdown opposite of Byron Jones who also is a UConn product.

The Packers lost Eddie Lacy so running back for this team is thin. Christian McCaffrey from Stanford is a guy that Aaron Rodgers can work wonders with out of the backfield even though the defense could use some extra pieces as well.

The Steelers will be pretty good to go if they add a versatile piece in the secondary. Heisman candidate Jabrill Peppers from Michigan is a picture perfect fit in this defense. He can play both safety and linebacker and that’s exactly what they need.

The Falcons are still recovering from blowing a 25 point lead in the Superbowl last season, but they have the opportunity to improve even more this year. Charles Harris out of Missouri is a great pass rusher that the Falcons could use opposite of Vic Beasley.

The Saints now have this pick and can use it to double up on defense. It’ll be interesting to see if this guy falls all the way to this spot, but Quincy Wilson from Florida would be a surreal pick here. Arguably the best corner in the class and the potential to be lockdown in the NFL.
By Matt Cataruzolo | Contributing Writer

As draft day looms, there has been much speculation on where the top up and coming players in the nation will start their professional careers. One of the most interesting aspects of the NFL draft is its unpredictability. Some picks are no-brainers, while others shock fans, and even the players themselves. This draft is filled with many young, promising athletes who have excelled in their respective colleges with their electrifying talent. Let’s take a look at the projected first ten picks of the first round!

1. Cleveland Browns - Myles Garrett, DE Texas A&M. At 6-foot-4 272 pounds, Garrett has cemented his place as the first overall pick in this year’s draft. A complete and total athletic specimen, Garrett’s combine numbers speak for themselves with a 4.64 40 yard dash, a 41 inch vertical, and a 10-foot-8 broad jump. Finishing with a 1-15 record in 2016, the Browns should not pass up an opportunity to draft a player who could revitalize their defense.

2. San Francisco 49ers - Solomon Thomas, DE Stanford. Named honorable mention All-Pac-12 in 2015 with 39 tackles, 10.5 for loss and 3.5 sacks, Thomas is a consistent defensive presence that can make a big impact to a rising 49er defense.

3. Chicago Bears – Jamal Adams, S LSU. The nation’s top safety recruit, Adams is a strong, natural born leader that would strongly benefit any team’s secondary. Garnering second team all-SEC honors with 67 tackles, four interceptions, and six pass break ups, Adams would be an excellent addition to a subpar Bears secondary.

4. Jacksonville Jaguars – Leonard Fournette, RB LSU. Built like a line of defense, Fournette has achieved his elite prospect status with his newfound speed and agility. A unanimous first team All-American and All-SEC pick, Fournette led the SEC in all-purpose yards as a true freshman with 1,034 rushing yards and 22 rushing touchdowns. At 6’0 245 pounds, Fournette could be the awakening physical presence that the Jaguars backfield desperately need.

5. Tennessee Titans – Marlon Lattimore, CB Ohio State. An athletic machine, Lattimore posted a 4.36 40 yard dash, a 13.20 broad jump, and 38.5 inch vertical at this year’s combine. With his patience as well as his explosion off the snap, he exhibited his myriad of skills throughout his sophomore campaign. His electric closing burst can keep up with any receiver from snap to completion.

6. New York Jets – Jonathan Allen, DE Alabama. The nation’s top defender on the nation’s top defense, Allen was the recipient of the 2016 Chuck Bednarik and Bronco Nagurski Award. With 69 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and a team leading 10.5 sacks, Allen dominated the SEC with his outside and inside quickness off the ball. Allen is yet another finely tuned product of Alabama football. Weighing in at 286 pounds and standing at 6’3, Allen is a monstrous force to be reckoned with.

7. Los Angeles Chargers – Malik Hooker, S Ohio State. A quick, decisive and cunning defensive back, Hooker has a swift swag to match his raw aggression. Receiving first team All-American and All-Big ten accolades after making 74 tackles with 5.5 for loss, and logging seven interceptions. Hooker is always aware of incoming targets and is active and constant in his on field pursuit for a defensive strike. With his great ball skills and strong hands, Hooker can make a huge impact on any secondary he is a part of.

8. Carolina Panthers – Derek Barnett, DE Tennessee. With his strong, fast hands Barnett is a lethal and efficient pass rusher who has made his presence known through his tenure at Tennessee. An end who is not satisfied with just setting the edge, Barnett is a hungry playmaker that will use his myriad of moves and jabs to get to the edge of the blocker. The first freshman to ever start on the line for Tennessee in 2014, Barnett led the SEC with 20.5 tackles for loss, and 10 sacks. His junior year, Barnett was a first team All-SEC pick and first team All-American with 18 tackles for loss and 12 sacks.

9. Cincinnati Bengals - Reuben Foster, LB Alabama. Bama’s star linebacker has achieved his elite prospect status with his newfound speed and agility. A unanimous first team All-American and All-SEC pick, Foster won the Butkus award, given to the nation’s top linebacker and was a finalist for the Bednarik award. Foster led the tide with 115 tackles, 13 tackles for losses and 5 sacks. The SEC championship MVP, a starter as a junior and a key reserve MIKE linebacker, Foster is a ferocious defender and an outstanding athlete.

10. Buffalo Bills – Mike Williams, WR Clemson. Standing 6’4 and weighing 218 pounds, Williams is a bully to any corner who decides to cover him. Williams received third-team All-ACC recognition with 57 receptions for an impressive 1,030 yards and six touchdowns in 2014. After a neck fracture nearly ended his football career, Williams bounced back in a big way in 2016. With 84 receptions for 1,171 yards and 13 touchdowns, Williams made second-team Walter Camp All-American and first team All-ACC. Pairing Williams with Sammy Watkins could prove to be an excellent addition to a growing Bills offense.

Draft day is going to determine the futures of some of the top athletes in the nation. Where will they go? How will they do? Only time will tell, until then we just wait for April 27th!
Baseball is in an interesting position as far as professional sports go. Gone are the days of the national pastime, the unchallenged position on top of North American sports fans. The NFL has the hearts of the nation, and the NBA and NHL are a strong pair that dominate come May and June. Baseball, however, has been labeled “boring” by many of the general crowd that commissioner Rob Manfred so desperately wants to attract. The game will always be beloved by the die-hard who have played and watched all their lives, but there are some things that MLB can do to ensure its riches continue to grow in the foreseeable future.

Umpires and the Strike Zone: The issue of whether a pitch is a strike or a ball is one that is easiest in theory to clear up to the common spectator, yet in practice the league has been hampered by. It is inconceivable in an age where we have networks capable of broadcasting a live tracking of where the ball crosses that MLB cannot find a way to use that to their advantage, until you consider the umpires and their union. The considerable power that the union has been able to grab for themselves in negotiations with MLB has made them an unmovable piece of baseball, as well as the threat of alienating purists who love having them there. I’m not suggesting the outright removal of umpires, but the game cannot expect to rely solely on the eyes of men well over playing age to be the most accurate way to determine strikes and balls.

Replay: Related to the previous issue is the debate over replay. In general, expansion of replay should be beneficial to baseball, but it has seen its fair share of problems in implementation. Most notably, it takes anywhere from a reasonable period of time for toss-up calls to an inexplicable delay for obvious reversals. It amazes me how difficult replay has been for baseball, when you compare it to the amazing technology in the hands of the World Tennis Association, and even the quality use it has seen in football. It would regardless be in the better interest of the league to invest in improving the time it takes to settle these calls, instead of targeting things like the international walk to cut down on the length of games.

The International Pool: The signing process for international players has been a dicey discussion inside the league for a considerable time. In the newest Collective Bargaining Agreement the league implemented new rules to the Pool of money assigned to each team to make signings with, and teams that go over the hard cap are penalized the following year. This system is a decent stopgap to the free flow of money that was going into international signings, but ultimately the best solution to this issue is a draft. MLB was not able to come together over the last negotiating period to include an international draft, but work must continue while the CBA is active to resolve their issues and be able to implement a draft in the coming years.

The All-Star Game: With home-field advantage no longer being determined by the All-Star Game, we are back to facing the conundrum of making the game meaningful again. The game needs a solution, since the evidence of what it will be if it doesn’t have purpose is abundant. The ideas floating around range from plausible to crazy, but the simplest solution that has gotten support so far is the idea of financial incentives for the players. This is a decent solution, but not one that will entice the fans very well, so allow me to propose a potentially insane attention grabber: the winning league of the All-Star Game should have the prices of its home game tickets in the World Series half paid by MLB. This is both extremely promotable for MLB and a good incentive to the players, a prize to showcase that they can follow up by then making the Fall Classic.

Expanding Preseason Coverage: Baseball is unique in that its preseason is actually meaningful in (often confusing) ways. It may not get regular season ratings, but the diehard fans would appreciate getting to see as much baseball as they can get their hands on.

By Ryan Pavich | Sports Editor

“Baseball, however, has been labeled “boring” by many of the general crowd...”

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