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Anti-corruption symbols feature significantly in citizen protests in Moscow, Russia

BY BENJAMIN GROVE
Layout Assistant

In the past week, thousands of Russians have taken to the streets of Moscow, Russia's capital and largest city, to rally against the corruption within the Russian government. Russia's official news agency estimated that over eight thousand citizens were protesting the weekend of March 25 in over 100 cities across Russia. The agency also reported that the protests were declared "illegal" by Russian officials.

The goal of the protests was to confront the Russian government about the corruption of its elites. "They steal our money using their power," said a concerned citizen in a CNN.com video. Another citizen stated that he is "against Putin" and "against his corruption." CNN also mentioned how the protests are a response to a video that Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny posted on YouTube. The video, which centers around the corruption of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, has almost 16 million views. Navalny is the founder of Russia's Anti-Corruption Foundation.



Photo courtesy of twitter.com

Sneakers have been used as symbols of citizens disapproval in the anti-corruption protests in Moscow, Russia. Over 8,000 citizens protested the weekend of March 25 in over a hundred Russian cities. Russian officials have declared these protests "illegal."

There are multiple symbols being used in the protests to show angry citizens' disapproval. Many rioters have been carrying around rubber ducks, which relates to the claim that Prime Minister Medvedev has a duck house at one of his luxurious properties. The Anti-Corruption Founda-

tion's YouTube report mentions how Medvedev's estate, known as Milowka, was previously said to be on two hectares (about 5 acres) of land by Medvedev's account. However, the report shows that the estate occupies 80 hectares (about 198 acres). The estate evidently includes its own

marina, multiple helipads, a ski slope, numerous houses, a hotel "and other buildings," the facilities often associated with parks, and of course, the spark-igniting duck house. What would all this cost? The Anti-Corruption Foun-

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American-led coalition of military forces fighting ISIS confirm airstrike investigation

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

The American-led coalition of military forces fighting ISIS has confirmed that they are investigating an airstrike in the city of Mosul in northern Iraq. The exact date of the airstrike is not known, but it occurred sometime around March 17, 2017. As many as 200 civilians may have been killed, making it potentially "the largest civilian death toll in decades

from a U.S. airstrike," according to the Los Angeles Times.

While American officers remain ambiguous about the reasons for the attack and what exactly happened, Iraqi officers say the airstrike was called on three snipers located on the roofs of homes in one neighborhood of Mosul. These Iraqi generals insist that they were unaware the homes' basements were filled with civilians, although ISIS is known for its use of civilians as human shields and coalition

soldiers had been fighting in the area in the days before the attack.

The number of civilians killed in the airstrike have caused some to wonder if America's policy towards airstrikes has dramatically shifted in the age of Donald Trump's presidency. American officials dispute this, but admit the aggression towards ISIS has ramped up since Trump became the leader of the free world on January 20, 2017. Iraqi soldiers have told news organizations like

the New York Times that it has, in fact, become much easier to request airstrikes since Obama left office. In particular, it is now easier for American commanders to call in airstrikes than it was when Obama was president.

Throughout his presidential campaign, Trump repeated his commitment to defeating ISIS as quickly as possible. Sometimes he boasted he would do so within thirty days of ascending to office.

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CRIME WATCH

Friday, March 24, 2:35 p.m. - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to reports of skateboarders yelling and spitting at students. They had fled in a vehicle before DPS arrived to the scene.

Friday, March 24, 11:38 p.m. - DPS received a noise loud complaint at 446 W James St.

Saturday, March 25, 12:35 a.m. - DPS cited a student for underage drinking at 534 W James St.

Saturday, March 25, 12:54 p.m. - DPS responded to a louse noise complaint on 605 College Ave.

Monday, March 27, 6:05 a.m. - DPS received reports of banging on doors inside a residence.

Wednesday, March 29, 1:27 a.m. - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint in Ware College House.

Thursday, March 30, 1:09 a.m. - DPS received a report of harassment in the Steinman College Center.

Thursday, March 30, 9:19 p.m. - DPS and Lancaster Fire Department were dispatched to 409 W James St after a towel caught fire in a student residence.

Russia: Officials have declared the anti-corruption protests “illegal”

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dation estimates that the property would cost anywhere from \$386 to \$463 million. These numbers shocked Russians, who wondered how the Prime Minister acquired the money to purchase the area. The report suggests that the money came from a foundation called Dar, using the money of shareholders in the company Novatek. Evidently, Medvedov’s wife has close ties with the foundation.

Another symbol making its way into the protest is sneakers. Medvedov has been known to show up to public events in top-of-the-line sneakers. His expensive taste has enraged Russian citizens wondering where their tax payments are going; many are questioning why the elite are living so lavishly without helping the economy or giving back to those suffering from Russia’s stagnation. Thus, some people have been bringing their old sneakers to the protests and hanging them on trees for all to see.

Transparency International, a global, non-governmental organization that advocates for transparency in the face of corruption, gave Russia a score of 29/100 on

its 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). According to Transparency International’s website, the lower-scoring countries are those with “untrustworthy and badly functioning public institutions like the police and judiciary.” Russia’s recent arrests of over 500 people—as claimed by Russian authorities; other trusted sources claim up to 1,000 in Moscow alone—at the peaceful protests around the country seem to reflect the country’s CPI score.

After almost a week of silence since the protests began, Russian President Vladimir Putin finally gave his acknowledgement and opinion of the protests. According to the New York Times, Putin accused “political forces” of using the idea of corruption, which ignites the public’s fury, “to promote their ‘self interests.’”

Whether the protests have an effect on the government or not, they are certainly something to keep an eye on as time progresses. A change may be coming to Russia.

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Airstrike: Americans speculate whether airstrike policy has shifted under Trump

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He published a presidential memorandum on January 28, 2017, promising that “within 30 days, a preliminary draft of the Plan to defeat ISIS shall be submitted to the president by the secretary of defense.” Some are concerned that this sense of urgency has led to increased recklessness or an adjustment in the rules of military engagement, though US officials insist this is not the case.

The Mosul airstrike marks the second time in less than a week that the military is investigating civilian deaths reported to be caused by American-led airstrikes. The first occurred in rural Syria on March 16, more than 200 miles away from the Mosul site. Syrian activists claim that the airstrike occurred at a local mosque, while the US military insists that the airstrike on an “Al Qaeda Meeting Site” that happened to be close to the mosque in question. 42 people are confirmed killed and more injured in the Syrian airstrike.

The civilian deaths bring concern to those that worry ISIS

will use them as anti-American propaganda. ISIS has a thriving propaganda force which often uses such airstrikes as a method of radicalizing locals and indoctrinating new members into their organization. By sparking outrage over the treatment of Iraqi civilians in a densely-populated urban center in Mosul, ISIS hopes to create and capitalize on anger towards those responsible for the airstrikes - America in particular.

Regardless of the new urgency in aggression towards ISIS, the organization has been significantly diminished in size and power since their coalition opposition began its campaign in 2014. The Pentagon claimed in August 2016 that the organization’s forces had been reduced to just 15,000 in Iraq and Syria. At the time, Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland said that “The enemy is retreating on all fronts.”

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College ratings do not translate to quality of higher education

BY ALEX PINSK
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We rank schools. We discuss Harvard like it is the best of the best, as though if you end up there, you will become the most successful human being. We portray Ivy League education as the highest and most ideal route; but being accepted at one seems to be our society’s skewed version of success. Why do we have these notions? Why do we assume that those who attend a school with a lower acceptance rate are automatically higher-achieving people?

From a young age, we hear about Ivy League schools because those are the schools that, most often, show up in books, movies, and TV shows. I know I personally watched *Gilmore Girls* growing up, and throughout the series we hear about the main character’s aspirations to attend Harvard. After being accepted at Princeton, Yale, and Harvard, she ultimately picks Yale. Thus, I grew up knowing the names of those three schools before I knew the names of any others. Naturally, with such a competitive society, most people do hear about and epitomize Ivy Leagues from a young age. More often than not, these opinions come from the schools’ acceptance rates. The idea is that the lower the acceptance rate, the better the school. Because, naturally if a school accepts fewer people because there are thousands of applications, than those whom it accepts must

all be the smartest of smartest. The lower the acceptance rate, the better the school. At least, that is what people think.

The truth is that comparing a university like Harvard to a liberal arts college like Franklin & Marshall is like comparing apples and oranges. People decide to go to an Ivy League university for one set of reasons and a liberal arts school for completely different set of reasons. In other words, the ranking of the school says nothing of the education that one might receive there. Liberal arts schools are known for their interdisciplinary learning and their small class sizes. They are known for strong student-professor relationships as well as a smaller sized student body. Universities are known for their research op-

portunities, their large size, and the fact that they have graduate students on campus.

Why are we enamored by schools in which many first and second-year classes are taught by teaching assistants rather than professors? Why do we admire, to such a high degree, universities that only allow graduate students to do research? The answer is in the name. If someone has heard of the school, then they probably just assume it is better. Likely, most people have not heard of some of the schools in the country with the most dedicated students and passionate professors, solely due to the size of the institution and the historic reputation of the school perpetuated without depth by culture and society.

F&M is a fantastic school. If

you are here, you know that. The truth is that no matter the size of the school, the type of school, or the location of the school, it is really the quality of the education you receive there that makes or breaks the experience. Be it a small liberal arts college, a large state university, or an Ivy League institution, if you work hard and seek out the resources, you will succeed.

However, small class sizes, dedicated professors, and undergraduate research opportunities are just a few of the elements that distinguish liberal arts colleges and most namely, Franklin & Marshall.

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Photo courtesy of harvard.edu



The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to The Student Weekly, which was formed in 1915 by the union of The F&M Weekly, founded 1891, and The College Student, founded 1881. The crest of The College Reporter was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

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Campus Life

Peggy Orenstein talks *Girls & Sex*, book on hook-up culture, women’s sexuality

BY KATHY HIRSCH
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, March 30, F&M students gathered for this week’s Common Hour presented by The *New York Times Magazine* writer Peggy Orenstein on her latest novel, *Girls and Sex*. Orenstein is also the author of *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*, *Waiting for Daisy*, *Flux*, and *Schoolgirls*. Her talk delved into the concept of feminism and the feelings of young women today about sex. As Orenstein said, this book is about “what happens after ‘yes’”.

For *Girls and Sex*, Orenstein interviewed 70 young women between the ages of 15 and 20, who were all college bound. With this demographic, she found she could gather information on a wide variety of stories and experiences that could apply to many young women.

Orenstein first spoke about the increasing pressures to be “effortlessly perfect”. Girls in these times, she said, have more opportunities than in previous generations to have positions of power and to study whatever they choose. However, a dangerous factor is that young women believe that to be successful they must be intel-

ligent and strong while not showing any physical flaws. In a sense, they strive to be perfect without showing any weakness.

Not only are girls affected by the concept of being “effortlessly perfect” but the rest of society is also raised to expect that as well. At high school and college parties, Orenstein found that the young women she interviews are expected to go looking sexy for men in order to satisfy. And that need to satisfy then applies to sexual interactions.

In her interviews with the young women, Orenstein found that involvement with oral sex begins at a younger age. It also only tends to go one way. Women are found to say, more so than men, that they qualify satisfaction for a sexual encounter as one without pain and where their partner is satisfied, not necessarily themselves. So Orenstein explains that even in an age where women are raised to have the independence and power to speak up, not many young women do so in sex.

In high school health classes, Orenstein explains how the majority of the curriculum is about the dangers of sex: harassment, abuse, and unwanted pregnancies. She continues that those are all



Photo courtesy of about-face.org
Peggy Orenstein presented at Common Hour this past Thursday on the sexual experiences of young women, society’s expectations and lack of proper sex education.

valid concerns. However, Orenstein shared a story from an interaction with a Dutch family on how they educate their children about sex. The family responded first that they teach their teens about the responsibility of balance and caring in sex followed by the importance of being protected and possible consequences.

Could a difference in sexual education change the high school and college sex culture? Maybe, but Orenstein concludes that it should be an acceptable norm for young women to ask for equal satisfaction in sex. In an analo-

gy about a glass of water she explained to her interviewees, “How would you like it if, when he asked, you always got him a glass of water? Then when you asked, he said, ‘You want me to get you a glass of water?’” Young women should feel comfortable to ask for equal satisfaction in sex. If, Orenstein closes, women are to have true equality outside of sex, the stigmas within sex must catch up to the times.

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Author Eric Puchner discusses “Wakefield effect” at Writer’s House craft talk

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ
Campus Life Editor

Eric Puchner, author and this year’s judge of the Jerome Irving Bank Memorial Prize, gave a craft talk at the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House Reading Room on Thursday, March 30. He is the author of the story collection *Music Through the Floor* and the novel *Model Home*. He also has a new collection of stories, *Last Day on Earth*, which will be published in February 2017. In addition to writing, Puchner is also an assistant professor in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Later that night, Puchner gave a reading of his own work, followed by a question and answer period. The event also recognized this year’s Jerome Irving Bank Memorial Prize winner, Clarissa Grunwald ’17, and the runner ups Shristi Uprety ’17 and Teresa Norman ’19.

He introduced his craft talk with the concept of “creating astonishment in fiction.” These moments in stories, Puchner said, make the “hairs on the back of your neck start to stand up.” The main goal of his writing is to create this sense for readers. He said uncanniness is “built into the DNA of short stories,” such as *Young Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Puchner has pinpointed this uncanny feeling from stories to be a shift in perspective within the character or the story’s plot. Specifically, the shift in perspective away from the character’s point of view in the story to create a posthumous moment he calls the “Wakefield effect.”

This term was inspired by Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “Wakefield”. In this story, a man is tempted to leave his family for a night, and stays only a block away. However, he decides to stay away longer, and stays away from his family for 20 years, to the point where they think he is dead. To Puchner, this character “steps outside of his life,” like a ghost. He later returns home and sees his family without him through the window. This realization of what the world would look like if one was dead or if one was removed from it creates this uncanny feeling that Puchner admires as part of great storytelling. More modern stories tend to have more realism, but still have this quality of uncanniness.

He gave multiple other examples of stories that have this effect, including “Labor Day Dinner” by Alice Munro, “Emergency” by Denis Johnson, “Gusev” by Anton Chekhov, and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Puchner noted that this type of mo-



Photo courtesy of ericpuchner.com
Eric Puchner was this year’s judge for the Jerome Irving Bank Memorial Prize. He is author of two story collections and the novel *Model Home*. He gave a craft talk Thursday.

ment in a story, if done well, causes a de-familiarization, allowing the character as well as the reader to see the world afresh. To Puchner, the posthumous moment usually occurs at the end or at the climax, and is tied to the character’s desire and lack of achieving that desire.

Puchner said it is hard to teach astonishment in one’s writing. He pushed his own work towards the uncanny, saying some stories were more successful than others. Sometimes there is no reason for a character to be doing what they are doing, and, to Puchner, it is good to have characters take inscrutable actions. Often as indi-

viduals, we do not always know why we do what we do.

In response to a question from a student, Puchner stated that the Wakefield effect is astonishing to us because “we’re accustomed to being the center of the world,” and it allows for the possibility to increase our empathy. However, he does not feel pressure to have a moral to any of his stories. According to Puchner, a story has no obligation to teach, just to ask questions.

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Interfaith Profile on Buddhism with sophomore Lin Phyu Sin “Betty”

BY JULIA RAMSEY
Staff Writer

This semester, Interfaith Student Council is focusing on a different religion each week, with the goal of increasing religious literacy and highlighting the role faith plays in students’ lives. Through this project, the ISC hopes to expand students’ understanding of the religious diversity at Franklin & Marshall and provide an opportunity for students to learn about the backgrounds and practices of their fellow peers.

This week, the ISC is focusing on Buddhism and will be distributing flyers around campus with interesting facts about the religion! My student profile is Lin Phyu Sin (Betty), who is a sophomore here at F&M.

JR: How would you describe Buddhism to someone who’s never heard of it before?

LS: Buddhism is one of the main religions in Southeast Asia and said to have its origins in India. Buddhism has two major branches—Mahayana

Buddhism and Theravada Buddhism. I practice the latter—Theravada Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism, as I perceive, is built up on non-violence, consideration, compassion and push for righteous manners, words and thoughts. Nirvana is the highest state a Buddhist can attain, and thus an ideal goal of Buddhists should set.

JR: What do you think is commonly misunderstood about your religion?

LS: I will not necessarily go into technical details such as Buddhism not having God—Buddha is not necessarily God—even though this might be one of misunderstandings about Buddhism. The core concept of Buddhism, which several Buddhists might find hard to acknowledge, is self-reliance. It is not Buddha but you who can steer your life. The particular aspect of Buddhism and potential misunderstandings I would to highlight is related to current religious conflicts particularly prevalent and controversial in my home country Myanmar (Burma). The reasons behind these conflicts might not be purely religion—as some political scientists have pointed

out, politics is likely to be behind them. Anyhow, what is on the stage is some Buddhists committing violent actions on Islamic groups. Such actions of certain Buddhists somehow disgrace Buddhism and raise questions about “non-violence” of Buddhism. What I would like to clarify is that, while I do acknowledge that there are certain so-called Buddhists committing violence, they are a handful of people. Even though they use religious narratives as their motives, such violent actions do not align—in fact, even contradict—with core principles of Buddhism which favors and even emphasizes on nonviolence and tolerance. Thus, actions of a handful of so-called Buddhists or any other religion—be the actions good or bad—do not necessarily represent the whole religious community.

JR: What does being Buddhist mean to you?

LS: When I was young, I was a pretty religious person in terms of religious rituals—going to the monasteries, pagodas, paying homage to monks etc. Nonetheless, as I grow up, I am not as

religious in the ritual aspect. Arguably, I become more selective in my commitment. Now, I appreciate more of theoretical aspects of Buddhism and adhere to particular Buddhist theories that, in my opinion, not only limit to the religion itself but speak to larger moral and ethical principles that contribute to public welfare. Religion is not necessarily the first thing that comes in my mind as I think about my identity—that, of course, depends on the time and circumstances of a situation. In any case, being a Buddhist thus means to me, as I have already mentioned, adhering to certain principles which, among others, include non-violence, empathy and consideration for others, and good—i.e. at least not being harmful to others—conduct in manners, words and thoughts. It might be hard to attribute all these values to religion because for me, my ethical/moral standards and religious standards do overlap occasionally.

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Aldon Morris speaks on W. E. B. Du Bois’ contributions to the field of sociology

BY SARAH FRAZER
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 29, Aldon Morris, who is currently a Sociology and African American Studies Professor at Northwestern University, gave an informative talk on W. E. B. Du Bois. More specifically, Morris focused on Du Bois’ tremendous, yet largely unacknowledged, contribution to the study of sociology. Morris’ book, *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of American Sociology*, describes the ways in which Du Bois founded the field of scientific sociology. As Morris explained, the discipline of sociology, prior to Du Bois’ input, was essentially pseudoscience based on racist stereotypes.

According to Professor Morris, the existent narrative that the study of sociology was solely founded by white men is false, as this narrative fails to take into account DuBois’ founding role of the field. While the first school of sociology was founded at the University of Chicago, the first school of scientific sociology was founded by black sociologists at Atlanta University. This distinction is crucial to understanding the development of the practice of sociology.

The field, which crystallized in America in the early 1900s, was not scientific at first. sociologists did not use data. They did not conduct empirical studies. They did not test their theories, Morris explained. Instead, what passed as sociological study and theories was mere social philosophy. DuBois deemed this form of sociology “Car Window Sociology,” since it was based on rumors and loosely formed opinions. Even worse, Morris argued, early sociology was racist.

At the time sociology first became a

study, the United States was still deeply troubled and fundamentally challenged by the ugliness of legal racism. This problem was especially apparent in the Jim Crow South, where black people were denied basic rights and were being lynched and attacked openly. Black Americans were treated as subhuman, Morris explained asking rhetorically, “How could America justify to itself and to the world that racism was congruent with democracy?” The answer: black people were racially inferior, according to the new ideology that was consensus among early white sociologists.

This perception allowed white America to justify the oppression of African Americans; after all, if black people were naturally inferior to whites, as ordained by God, then their oppression and poor living conditions seemed acceptable. While white sociologists wholly agreed that the science backed up the notion of white superiority, they had not, in fact, examined the science and the facts. The theory of white supremacy was not only insidious for the leeway it afforded white Americans, to allow them to continue to ignore the problem of racism; this theory had negative effects on black Americans as well. When black people internalized the theory of their own inferiority, Morris said, they were less likely to speak out and fight for equality.

Yet, “DuBois’ own achievements were jarringly inconsistent with the theory of black inferiority,” according to Morris. For instance, at age 27, DuBois became the first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard, making him one of the most educated people in the world. He pushed for the study of sociology to be more critical, and not riddled with bias and preju-

diced myths. DuBois aimed to induct science into sociology by conducting his own studies. As Morris asserted, “the world was thinking wrong about race because it did not know it.”

DuBois began his work by enumerating the errors made by previous sociologists. He argued that they failed to look at history or use data, nor did these sociologists become closely acquainted with their subjects or conduct empirical studies. Rather, they advanced racist beliefs as sociological truth. In contrast, DuBois embraced the scientific method. He proposed a radical idea that to understand people, you must get to know and understand them in the context in which they live. As Morris said, “[DuBois] boldly confronted scientific racism” by pointing out that the sociologists of the time never left their offices to conduct research. DuBois often resided in the communities of the people he was studying and interviewed them extensively.

DuBois postulated that modernity was largely a product of the African slave trade. Moreover, he asserted that racial oppression caused inequality, rather than the perceived racial inferiority of black people. DuBois long predicted the movement for equality, one that would be led by black religious leaders, since the church was an integral part of black communities. No other sociologists of the time predicted the Civil Rights Movement; DuBois did because, unlike the other sociologists, he recognized the agency of African Americans. He “theorized the agency of the oppressed,” as Professor Morris put it.

W. E. B. DuBois was a scholar, founder of sociology as a science, and an activist. He started his work as a sociologist and activist in the 1890s and

continued to promote racial equality until his death, on the eve of the historic March on Washington, at which Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. In this way, Morris articulated, DuBois could be viewed as having passed the torch on to the next generation of civil rights activists.

Indeed, MLK highly regarded DuBois and credited him with inspiring many African Americans to take up the fight for civil rights. MLK was acutely aware of the devastating effects of internalized inferiority and cited DuBois’ “crucial scholarship that [he] provided for the movement,” according to Morris. DuBois provided the blueprint that made the Civil Rights Movement possible.

As Morris said, “DuBois demonstrated how scholarship and activism can [cause] profound social change,” a statement which challenges the false dichotomy of scholarship and social activism as being mutually exclusive. DuBois encouraged students to get involved in social activism and protests, arguing that they should, “unless we are willing to train our children like cowards, to run like dogs when they’re kicked.” According to Morris, DuBois would have the same message to students, and everyone else today who cares about racial equality and civil rights; that we should all protest the mass incarceration system that holds an unfair double standard for black people still today. Morris ended his talk by quoting civil rights activist Ella Baker who said, “We who believe in freedom cannot rest.”

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Arts & Leisure

Drake’s new playlist *More Life* finally drops after a year of anticipation

BY JESIKA ISLAM
Arts & Leisure Editor

Admittedly, I am one of the few that truly enjoyed Drake’s album *Views* when it dropped in 2016, with hits like “One Dance,” “Hotline Bling” and “Pop Style” featuring The Throne, comprised of Kanye West and Jay-Z. I thought that the album stayed true to Drake’s pop, R&B, rap roots that has made him so famous. So when “Fake Love” surfaced in October of 2016 I was really excited because the style was different and it felt more heartfelt while still retaining the catchiness that Drake brings to his music.

Fast-forward to March of 2017, after multiple false dates for release, Drake finally drops *More Life*. It was released by OVO Sound, Young Money Entertainment, Cash Money Records and Republic Records. The first thing to know about this collection of music is that it is not an album nor is it a mixtape. According to several reports, Drake did not want it to be as serious as an album, but wanted to satiate his fans between any major drops. So *More Life* is a

playlist: a collection of new music that has a similar vibe. It is an interesting concept and regardless of technical term, *More Life* broke and surpassed all records. The playlist debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 charts. It also broke all streaming records on Apple Music and Spotify. Clearly, all of Drake’s fans were excited for his playlist.

More Life features Giggs, Black Coffee, Jorja Smith, Sampha, Quavo, Travis Scott, 2Chainz, Young Thug, PartyNextDoor, and Kanye West. Kanye’s feature on *Glow* was actually foreshadowed earlier with a tweet of a picture of North West in a bathtub with glow sticks and the caption “Glow.” Needless to say, this was a highly anticipated drop.

With all that preface I found the playlist to be highly disappointing. Drake made some bold artistic decisions that I was not happy with. The whole playlist was whiny and saddening, every song about a lost love and his anger or disappointment related to it. There were some good one-liners discussing his past relationships with Jennifer Lopez, an ill-fated rebound after his relationship with Rihanna,



Photo courtesy www.wennermedia.com

The rapper Drake has won over 100 music awards, including three Grammy Awards, four American Music Awards, and ten BET Hip Hop Awards.

and other lines about his obvious global fame. But overall, I only found two songs that made it to my own playlist, “Passionfruit” and “Glow.”

Perhaps I am too hasty and harsh in my decision about *More Life*, but part of me also believes those who praised *More Life* praised it because it was a

Drake creation. As of right now, *More Life* is not the best playlist to come out of the industry this year.

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M. Night Shyamalan directs movie *Split*, sparking discussion about mental health disorders

BY ALICE LU
Staff Writer

At the start of the year, renowned director M. Night Shyamalan released his thriller-horror film, *Split*. The film centers around a character with Dissociative Identity Disorder. This is not the first time DID has caught the interest of directors and screenwriters. *Primal Fear* and *Fight Club*, which both depict contentions with DID, helped Edward Norton gain countless awards and an immense amount of fame. *The Crowded Room*, a film that’s been “in development” for the past few years is said to revolve around the infamous Billy Milligan, a man who was acquitted on numerous criminal charges due to a successful insanity defense. Milligan and his 24 different personalities that granted him acquittal, will possibly be portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Crowded Room*.

The movie *Split* depicts a character with 24 different personalities on the big screen. The main plot is about a man named Kevin “Wendell” Crumb (James McAvoy), who had been abused by his mother throughout his childhood. Kevin shows evidence that he struggles



Photo courtesy www.fandango.com

James McAvoy plays Kevin “Wendell” Crumb, a man suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder, or DID, in which he contends with 24 different personalities in director M. Night Shyamalan’s latest film *Split*.

with DID and has 23 different personalities to his therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher (Betty Buckley). One of his personalities kidnapped 3 teenage girls, led by Casey Cook (Anya Taylor-Joy), who had also been through the traumatizing experience of being tortured by her uncle. The Monster, Kevin’s not yet triggered 24th personality, starts to materialize throughout the film and becomes more dominant and controlling than any of the other 23 personalities.

While McAvoy’s performance achieved praises from audiences, it seems that M. Night Shyamalan’s reputation was not helped much by the success of *Split*. Shyamalan earned the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Director in 2011 and again in 2014.

I personally still like this movie because it’s hard to not be captivated by the DID-disorder theme. In the film, the therapist, Dr. Fletcher, perfectly explains why the topic about DID is so fascinating for both

artists and the audience: “Have these individuals, through their suffering unlocked the potential of the brains? Is this the ultimate doorway to all things we called unknown? Is this where our sense of the supernatural comes from?” The film makes us ponder about the capabilities of the human being and the wiring of the human brain.

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Arts & Leisure

Villeneuve's *Arrival* creates conversation about grief through unique film techniques

BY VANESSA CHEN

Staff Writer

As people living in a culture saturated with moving images, we have all acquired a degree of fluency in the language of film. Part of what got people buzzing about the film *Arrival* is how it subverts our knowledge of the way films are supposed to “work.”

Arrival is a 2016 film directed by Denis Villeneuve and stars Amy Adams as Professor Louise Banks--a linguist who is tasked with making first contact with the aliens and deciphering their language. The film starts with a montage of Louise Banks narrating over the birth, life, and death of her daughter. Within the first 30 seconds or so we have already formed a lot of assumptions. We assume that she is the protagonist since she appears first. We assume that she is the one doing the voiceover (which further solidifies her as the protagonist). And we assume that she was a mother whose daughter had passed away.

We also base the film's timeline on the first montage. We know that a montage compresses time, so we understand it as fragments of events happening in order, instead of our protagonist interacting with a baby, then a little girl, then a teenager. As an audience we are exposed to flashbacks much more than



Photo courtesy www.metroweekly.com

Actor Amy Adams, acting as Louise Banks, in 2016 film *Arrival*. *Arrival*, directed by Denis Villeneuve, was nominated for eight Oscars and won Best Sound Editing.

flashforwards, so we are prone to assume that what happened in the montage happened in the past, and the rest of the movie will happen in the present. Based on the information provided by the montage, and our knowledge of the sci-fi genre, we subconsciously map out how the movie will progress and end--a mother will resolve a crisis with aliens while moving on from the death of her daughter.

All of these cues packed into 30 seconds!

Without explicit confirmation, our brains piece together so much information. And we don't start doubting the timeline we have set up in our minds until the movie challenges it more than half way through. The movie provides a hint in the starting montage where Louise says: “But now I'm not sure I believe in beginnings and endings.” However, we are

so habitual in our recognition of cues that most audiences, including me, ignore the hint completely.

In fact, films nowadays seldom challenges our assumptions. Many film are so predictable that we are routinely proven right and then bored. Even if a film produces a plot twist, it is not usually done in a “new” way. Information is often withheld through storytelling--such as “the butler is the murderer” or “the police come out of nowhere to help just as the hero is about to die.”

But the plot twist of *Arrival* is truly unique and gratifying because it engages the audience with the film media in a way that few commercial films ever do. When we realize that our preconceived notions are wrong, we recognize how the film has set us up for it.

To explain what I mean let's

first look to the short story from which the movie adapted-- Ted Chiang's *The Story of Your Life*. Chiang does something interesting in writing--he mixes tenses so a sentence can have past, present, and/or future tenses at the same time. There is no plot twist like in the movie. The English language cannot escape the bondage of grammar but the language of visual communication can transcend this limitation.

Arrival is an exploration of the film media as a unique storytelling device different from words. In the age of Hollywood movie making, the mechanics of filmmaking is always hidden. Hollywood values continuity, clarity, and visual stimulation. It wants to create a viewing experience so engulfing that the audience almost forget they are watching a movie. The result is that most audiences think of the film as a mere visual illustration of spoken/written words.

But *Arrival* examines the language of the film, much like how Louise Banks examines the alien language. *Arrival* engages the mass audience to rethink how they perceive a film and it encourages them to see the potential of film as a unique media and art form.

Sophomore Vanessa Chen is a staff writer. Her email is wchen1@fandm.edu.

The Onion Dip: The College Reporter's Satirical Column

In light of academic studies, financial benefits, llamas will soon replace public safety officers

BY KYLE HUNTZBERRY

Satirical Columnist

LANCASTER—Franklin & Marshall College, who is at the forefront of the need-based aid trend, caused a stir in the academic world on Tuesday with the announcement of its decision to replace its public safety officers with guard llamas beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year. Adam Jones, a dean at the College, said, “We kept reading about these guard llamas in academic journals and how they are able to develop close-knit bonds with their patrons and protect them from coyotes, foxes, you name it. That's when it hit us. We can keep the students safe, while also not paying the llamas any wages.”

In order to keep increasing financial aid, Franklin & Marshall has had to make many cuts to the budget, and

public safety officers are the latest to be axed. The announcement has created a buzz amongst other workers on campus, with many fearing that llamas could also take their jobs.

Reports have it that the Facilities & Operations Grounds Crew has become quite worried that the llamas will not only be effective public safety officers, but also landscapers: “Have you ever seen a llama graze? It's majestic. Plus, with the price of gas these days, our lawn mower can't compete with that.” It is also being reported that Shadek-Fackenthal Library is considering replacing its stress dogs with stress llamas.

When asked to comment on the story, student Tyler Johnson replied, “Dude, I f--- with llamas. They're dope.” A faculty committee has planned a forum surrounding the issue for next Thursday. The hope is that the

two sides will be equally represented.

Stuart Williams, a History professor and staunch supporter of no llamas on campus, said, “NAFTA has taken our jobs, robots have taken our jobs. Who would've f---in' thought llamas would take our jobs?”

Columnist's Note: Effective Saturday, Stuart Williams has been suspended indefinitely for his comments.

Senior Kyle Huntzberry is a satirical columnist. His email is khuntzbe@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy modernfarmer.com

The F&M Women's Lacrosse team has had a strong start to the season. Read more below...



photo courtesy of logos.wikia.com

Gonzaga and North Carolina will clash for the NCAA Championship. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

F&M Women's Lacrosse team starts strong, looks for continued success

BY GABBY GOODWIN
Assistant Sports Editor

“It’s a great day to be a Dip!”—a phrase F&M Women’s Lacrosse has been using more and more frequently in the recent weeks. Starting off their 2017 spring season with a 9-3 loss to Washington and Lee, F&M Women’s Lacrosse vowed to make their first loss their last. Nine games in, F&M Women’s Lacrosse has capitalized on an eight-game winning streak, crushing strong opponents like the No. 5 Middlebury and the No. 2 Cortland State.

This past Saturday, F&M upset the 6-5 Haverford, crushing them 14-3 in their second Centennial Conference game of the season. After just the first three minutes of play, the Fords struck first to take the upper hand with a 1-0 lead. The early goal by their opponents, however, gave the Dips a wakeup call, one which they responded promptly to. Down 1-0, with an assist by Gabby Frank, F&M’s Maddie Hughes tied the game 1-1 with 23 minutes left on the clock. Shortly to follow, F&M’s Caroline Kolva scored an unassisted goal with 14 minutes

left to give the Dips a 2-1 edge over the Fords.

Dominating the remainder of the half, the Dips extended their lead to 5-1 in the remaining minutes. Three consecutive goals by Frank brought the Dips into the next half with a four-point lead and a 15-7 advantage in shots.

Into the second, the Dips took complete control when F&M’s Natalie Delinsky scored an unassisted goal and Hughes had her second for the day to extend the lead to 7-1. Attempting to make a comeback, Haverford scored to extend their lead to 7-2. The Dips, however, didn’t feel sorry for their opponents, and responded with a six-goal onrush over the next seven minutes to confirm the Fords’ defeat. Two goals each from F&M’s Paige Moriarty and F&M’s Grace Norley increased a Diplomat lead 11-2, while Franks and F&M’s Hannah Serling added to the rally to make the score 13-2.

The Fords managed to gain one more, upping the score 13-3, but the Dips had the last laugh when F&M’s Siobhan Burke crashed in a feed from Eileen Cuneo with 25 ticks remaining, finishing out the

game with an end score of 14-3 F&M.

F&M’s Danielle Harrington (8-1) earned the win for F&M, with four saves in 57 minutes of action, while F&M’s Maggie Hanzsche and Rachel Consoli both recorded a pair of turnovers to lead the defense.

During the game halftime break, F&M honored its 2007 team on their 10th-year anniversary of the season that won the

Diplomats their first national and Centennial Conference titles.

Come out and support the Diplomats this upcoming Wednesday when face off against the No. 1 Gettysburg for the showdown of the century to see which dominating force can take the upper hand.

First-year Gabby Goodwin is the assistant sports editor. Her email is ggoodwin@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

The F&M Women’s Lacrosse team is off to a very hot start this year, going 8-1 over their first 9 games. The team is looking to keep this trend going throughout this year.

Gonzaga, North Carolina clash for championship after memorable tournament

BY JOE GIORDANO
Sports Editor

In what has been an incredible few weeks of tournament action, college basketball will finally crown its new champion this Monday. Returning after losing last year’s championship game in devastating fashion, the North Carolina Tar Heels will look to take home the crown as they take on the Gonzaga Bulldogs, who are appearing in their first National Championship game. This will undoubtedly be a great contest between two of college basketball’s best teams to decide who truly is the best team in the country.

While many complained that the tournament lacked first round upsets, the following rounds were filled with utter chaos and turmoil and many peoples’ brackets were left in shambles. Fans watched in horror as Villanova was upset by Wisconsin. Then, Duke fell to South Carolina and Louisville fell to Michigan. Bracket busted.

The following rounds continued to provide plenty of excitement as South Carolina continued their Cinderella run, winning the East region

of the tournament and heading to the Final Four. In the South region, top seed Gonzaga toppled 11 seed Xavier to win the region, while 3 seed Oregon toppled a heavily favored Kansas to take home the Midwest. Finally, 1 seed North Carolina scratched out a hard fought victory over 2 seed Kentucky, in what was an instant classic. With all the chaos and excitement, four teams were left standing: South Carolina, Gonzaga, Oregon, and North Carolina.

South Carolina took on Gonzaga in the first game of the Final Four and the clock eventually struck midnight on South Carolina’s run. South Carolina gave Gonzaga all they could handle in a 77-73 thriller that sent the Zags to their first ever National Championship. In the other game, North Carolina held on to defeat Oregon by a score of 77-76, setting up a matchup of two top seeded teams.

Although they were both number 1 seeds in their respective regions, Gonzaga has to be considered the underdog coming into this game when going against powerhouse North Carolina. Gonzaga, prior to this season, has never won a National Championship, North Carolina has won 5 including being last year’s runner up. Gonzaga has never made it a Final Four before this season, North Carolina has appeared in 20 Final Fours. Gonzaga plays in the small West Coast Conference while North Carolina plays in the powerhouse Atlantic Coast Conference. The teams could not be more different, but they do share one thing: they both know how to win.

North Carolina and Gonzaga both amassed over 30 wins this season and both look to win one more big one Monday night. Both teams

are fundamentally sound, have senior leaders, and are ready to make finish off what they started this season. Joel Berry and Justin Jackson will lead the Tar Heels while Nigel Williams-Goss and Przemek Karnowski will lead the Zags as they go to battle for the right to call themselves champions. This game should be must see and will provide a perfect cap to what has been an incredible March Madness.

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Photo courtesy of defpen.com

North Carolina led by Justin Jackson (shown left) faces Gonzaga led by Nigel Williams-Goss (shown right) for the National Championship. Both players are great leaders for their teams.