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## Puerto Rico left without power for several months in the wake of Hurricane Maria

BY KATHERINE COBLE

News Editor

The American territory of Puerto Rico is struggling to respond to the major damage done by category-four storm Hurricane Maria last week. Wind and rain devastated the small island nation, home to nearly 3.5 million American citizens. According to NBC News, Maria is the largest hurricane to strike the island since the early 1900s. The death toll so far is 13, though Puerto Rican government officials say the toll could rise in the coming days as more information comes in from isolated areas.

One of the biggest concerns facing Puerto Rico is their lack of electricity. Hurricane Maria has left the nation's power grid in pieces. The mayor of San Juan, the territory's largest and capital city, said in an interview



Photo courtesy of earth.com

This satellite image shows Hurricane Maria hovering over the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, which anticipates being without electricity for 6 months in its wake.

with MSNBC that power could be out across the island for a stunning four to six months. Prior to the storm, Puerto Rico was struggling with a relatively

poor infrastructure with low staffing. Now that Maria has struck the island, the electric grid is in serious disrepair. Although cell phone communication was

re-established on the afternoon of Thursday, September 21, the residents of Puerto Rico are still grappling with their lack of power, an issue which does not appear to be leaving them any time soon.

Hurricane Maria was so powerful that it broke two National Weather Service radars. Flooding blocked major highways and roads for days, making travel difficult in some parts of the island and impossible in others. Several feet of rain had fallen onto the island by Thursday evening, with weather reports calling for an additional eight inches of rain through Saturday the 22nd. A federal state of emergency has been declared on the island and the governor Governor Rosselló announced a nighttime curfew on the island to last until the

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## British PM Theresa May delivers speech in Florence on Brexit plans, UK's future

BY BORIS ZYUMBYULEV

Staff Writer

Last Friday, the 22nd, Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the UK, went to the "Renaissance heart" of Europe to deliver a speech aimed at shedding light on the ongoing Brexit negotiations.

The speech's intent was to break the impasse between the EU Brexit negotiating team led by Michel Bernier and their UK counterpart led by David Davis. During their third round of talks that ended towards the end of August, both parties raised criticism to the other for the unsuccessful so far negotiations. However, their interests diverged towards different issues. Davis pointed out EU's unwillingness to discuss the post-Brexit relationship between the UK and the EU, and the future of already in-effect trade deals made with other countries. Bernier, on the other hand, found the UK's team had

come without a clear idea of what they wanted, and avoided any discussion of the "Divorce Bill" the UK is expected to pay. The small progress made concerned the state of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland: the agreement was that there will not be a physical border between the two states.

In addition to the stalemate of the Brexit negotiations, May's speech follows Jean-Claude Juncker's, State of the Union Speech last week, where he addressed the European Union and the nations in it. As acting President of the European Commission, Juncker outlined a general direction he wants to take the Union to. In his speech he called for a more unified Union, which included a call for one speed, one currency, one president. These, respectively, mean he aims at integrating Eastern Europe and bring them on par with West and then develop from there; bring all nations under the umbrella of the

euro currency, possibly with a new European Finance or Economics Minister to monitor the process and the economic well being of the different members; and the merge of the presidencies of the European Council and the European Commission.

In light of Europe entering a new age of development, while the negotiations continued to deteriorate between the two unions, May addressed Florence with a 5000-word speech. In her own words, "for many, this is an exciting time, full of promise; for others it is a worrying one."

As she began, May reaffirmed the conviction that the UK wants a good, special relationship with the Union. That is, both have faced and still do face the same challenges, and in the spirit of Liberalism, now is not the time to ruin that relationship. Here she mentioned immigration and terrorism, the global threat of North Korea's

nuclear weapons proliferation, and climate change affecting us all. Thus, May claimed that the British people's decision to leave the EU was not a "repudiation of" the UK's commitment to work with the rest of Europe to face those challenges. The decision aims only to bring back sovereignty to the UK. In the EU's "pooling of sovereignty ... countries [are] in the minority [they] must sometimes accept decisions they do not want ... [which] can be very hard to change." May thus explained Brexit as a way for the British to again hold their own politicians accountable for their British-ly produced policies. That is, without having to deal with Brussels.

On the negotiations, the Prime Minister echoed some aspects of David Davis's position that the teams should focus not only on

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CRIME WATCH

**Friday, Sept. 15, 10:26am** - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a report of criminal mischief in Ware College House.

**Friday, Sept. 15, 4:30pm** - DPS responded to a drug violation in Ware College House.

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:41am** - DPS responded to a vehicle accident in the Williamson lot.

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:26pm** - DPS performed an alcohol-related medical assist for a student in Bonchek College House.

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:45pm** - DPS received a noise complaint on the 400 block of West James St.

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:53pm** - DPS performed an alcohol-related medical assist on College Ave.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 12:40am** - DPS received a call for a disturbance in College Row.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 12:43am** - DPS received a loud noise complaint at 526 N Charlotte St.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:53am** - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint in N Schnader Hall.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:58am** - DPS performed an alcohol-related medical assist in New College House.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:00pm** - DPS assisted a student stuck in elevator at the Herman Arts Center.

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 3:23pm** - DPS received a report of criminal mischief in Shadek-Fackenthal Library.

**Monday, Sept. 18, 7:59pm** - DPS responded to a vehicle accident behind Iron Hill Brewery.

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 3:08pm** - DPS received a report of theft in Thomas Hall.

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10:39pm** - DPS received a loud noise complaint in the first building of College Row.

**Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2:33pm** - DPS received a report of theft in Thomas.

**Thursday, Sept. 21, 2:47pm** - DPS received a report of criminal mischief in Bonchek College House.

Brexit: International communities begin to plan for UK’s exit from the European Union

**continued from page 1**

the divorce bill, but also on the future economic and social relationship between the UK and the EU. But even so, May assured that the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland will not be an issue and there will not be a physical border, effectively promising to respect the Good Friday Agreement. In addition, she also stressed that no EU citizen currently living in the UK is under any threat from removal or losing their rights. By the time the UK has officially left the EU, the rights of the non-British citizens will be codified into law, and are thus can continue living without worry.

Having covered the most pressing social issues that were generated by the Brexit referendum, May moved onto discussing the possible economic and trading partnership between the two unions. In order to highlight her point, she described the two other possible trading models the UK could adopt post-Brexit: one being the European Economic Area and the other the traditional Free Trade Agreement (the most recent being with Canada). However, May feels “We can do so much better than this” stemming from the fact that in the EEA, the UK will not have a voice when trade is negotiated or regulated, while a

FTA is essentially a deal devised from scratch and it takes a long time to complete. Both will not do justice to the good relationship the UK and the EU have had while the former was a member. So May wants to “...let us be creative as well as practical in designing an ambitious economic partnership which respects the freedoms and principles of the EU, and the wishes of the British people.”

To clarify, she denounced the need to impose tariffs where there are none now; underlined how both unions share the same fundamental beliefs of “free trade, rigorous and fair competition, strong consumer rights, and that trying to beat other countries’ industries by unfairly subsidising one’s own is a serious mistake,” and stressed that the British will hold goods and services to the same high regulatory standard as the European Union. In order to avoid “shoddy” trading, May also proposed the conception of a new “dispute resolution mechanism” that is not controlled by either party’s courts, to avoid “shoddy” trading and friction at the border.

After her position on the economic partnership, May introduced also her take on security and how will the EU and UK work together towards defending Europe. The Prime Minister proposed that a new treaty be

Maria: Recovery efforts begin on the island of Puerto Rico following hurricane

**continued from page 1**

end of last week. According to The New York Times, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo of New York state is expected to visit the island and assist with recovery efforts. President Trump has also announced his intention to visit but has not provided details on when he anticipates the trip happening.

Residents of Puerto Rico are concerned about the long-term impact Hurricane Maria will have on their home. The territory was already coping with the impact of Hurricane Irma, which did not affect Puerto Rico as badly as other Caribbean nations but still left most of the country without power. There remain issues with maintaining steady communications around the island and with the mainland United States. Furthermore, residents worry that they will be

neglected in recovery efforts due to the multiple major hurricanes that have already hit the United States and its territories in the past month. Puerto Rico’s tourism-based economy is now in serious peril in addition to countless numbers of residents being left without proper shelter or food. The coming months will be incredibly testing for an island nation which already struggled with a bankruptcy crisis, the Irma recovery efforts, and the island’s physical isolation from the federal government in the mainland United States. Only time will tell how Puerto Rico - and every community impacted by natural disasters in the past month - recovers from the devastation.

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signed that will be unprecedented in “its breadth, taking in cooperation on diplomacy, defence and security, and development, and its depth, in terms of the degree of engagement that we would aim to deliver.” The “bold” proposal will preserve the mature bilateral relations between the UK and the remaining member states of the EU, and defend the shared values of freedom and human rights under the new partnership, which will be “sufficiently versatile and dynamic to respond to the ever-evolving threats” that the continent faces. However, May did not mention anything more specific as to how that treaty will be signed and how exactly will the partnership look like.

However, May did give a relative answer to when the British and the Europeans can expect this to be finalized. In March 2019, the UK will officially leave the European Union. Even so, May believes that the best process of implementing the future relationship she envisions is through a limited-timed grace period, where people and businesses will have the time to adjust to the new reality, and treaties can be adopted through the appropriate legal channels. During that time, roughly estimated by May to two years, the UK will continue functioning as a EU member, without participating in the the governing bodies of the European Union, while focusing on establishing the future she outlined in her speech. In addition to that, May assured that the EU budget will be maintained whole; in other words, the UK will honour its commitments made throughout its membership and will continue to pay its dues

during the grace period. And after an extended conclusion on how the partnership will be a good thing if the negotiations go well, May ends with the an image of a bright future: “A partnership of interests, a partnership of values; a partnership of ambition for a shared future: the UK and the EU side by side delivering prosperity and opportunity for all our people.”

The international community was quick to react to her speech. One of the key political players in the Brexit campaign, Nigel Farage, thinks May wants Brexit “only in name.” The British party Labour’s leader Jeremy Corbyn, May’s main opponent in Parliament, said “She’s had fifteen months to think about that, and she goes all the way to Florence - and we didn’t even get a chance to see Florence in the background - to tell us what we already know.” Ireland’s Prime Minister, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, shrugged off the speech as “no game changer,” echoing Corbyn’s position. Michel Bernier, the Chief Negotiator of Brexit for the European Union, saw “willingness to move forward” in May’s speech, but expects the UK’s “negotiators [to explain] the concrete implication of Prime Minister Theresa May’s speech.”

Finally, the European Commission itself tweeted out their response, where they praised “PM Theresa May [expressing] constructive spirit which is also the spirit of the EU during this unique negotiation.”

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# GOP Congressmen begin second fight to repeal Obamacare in the age of Trump

BY NINA KEGELMAN  
Contributing Writer

For seven years, the Republican party’s platform has prioritized the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare), which currently covers 70 million people, an initiative deemed too expensive and disastrous by conservatives. After nine months of the Trump presidency and a majority in the House and Senate, Republicans still haven’t been able to accomplish that goal.

Most recently, a form of the repeal and replace bill known as the “skinny repeal” failed to secure the votes of key Republicans who were concerned with its Medicaid cutbacks and overall lack on the “replace” side of the plan. A surprise no vote from Senator McCain (AZ), who was dissatisfied that the bill had no proper hearing though it would have major implications for Arizona, prevented the bill from passing.

Republicans now have the deadline of September 30, when their allotted time to repeal and replace ACA will expire. The revised form of the bill that has been introduced is called Graham-Cassidy, after the Republican senators Bill Cassidy (LA) and Lindsey Graham (SC) who crafted it. Like with the “skinny-repeal” in July, three Republicans must vote no for this bill not to pass. Democrats are looking to the same three Republicans who opposed it earlier— Susan Collins (ME), Lisa Murkowski (AK), and John McCain (AZ), none of whom have officially endorsed the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would essentially repeal major provisions of the Affordable Care Act by disbanding certain programs that created through it, eliminating certain regulations, and relegating



Photo courtesy of mainepublic.org

**Republican senator Susan Collins of Main is one of three GOP congressmen the Democrats aim to sway against the Graham-Cassidy bill by the end of the month.**

the money from these programs to the states. The money would be distributed through a block grant program, however, the share of money given to each state will likely be dependent on the state’s history with Medicaid expansion. Critics are concerned that blue states that have expanded Medicaid programs would be slighted, while the red states that did not expand Medicaid would be rewarded with more funding.

Proponents, on the other hand, advertise the “flexibility” that would come from the passing of this bill. With this system, states would be enabled to enact their own health care systems. They also argue that the rearrangement of funds would address a current imbalance in which only four states receive a third of federal money for their health care systems.

While this bill could potentially create some medicare-for-all victories through single-payer experimentation in progressive states like California, which has had a plans for such an initiative, there could be major drawbacks in

access to affordable health care in states willing to privatize options. States would have the power to deny coverage to Americans by waiving the requirements for large employers to provide healthcare to employees and guarantee care for those with pre-existing conditions (health problems formed before the date the new coverage starts). Insurers would even be allowed to charge higher premiums to groups in need of maternity care, mental health care, or treatment for addiction.

Democrats demand a full analysis from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities before the vote, but according to the CBP, this could take several weeks. The Republicans, seeking to pass Graham-Cassidy by the end of the week, aren’t going to comply. So far, the CBP has estimated that Graham-Cassidy could cause 32 million people to lose coverage in the next ten years, and 400 billion dollars would be cut from the federal funding of health care. Medicaid would get the worst of the deal, leaving about 15 million people without access.

Republicans have come under attack for being unable to clearly defend Graham-Cassidy or explain how it would improve access to health care for average Americans. However, this is no surprise as many Republicans were willing to go forward with a “skinny repeal” with no plan for replacement in store.

Graham-Cassidy is facing strong criticism from major physician organizations, as well. The American Medical Association, Psychiatric Association, Public Health Association, and the National Institute for Reproductive Health have all released statements against the bill’s implementation. Doctors agree it would be a step backward for health in America; Securing health care for all is vital for creating a generally productive and able society.

The guaranteed access to affordable medical care for anyone who needs it is at stake. Democrats are counting on their republican colleagues, specifically Sen. McCain, to vote against Graham-Cassidy and prevent millions of Americans from losing their coverage. Senators Graham and Cassidy however, feel confident that their bill is gaining momentum, and the Republicans will finally come through in dismantling the Affordable Care Act. And they have reason to think so. For Sen. McCain to vote no, he would have to vote against a bill proposed by his longtime friend and collaborator in the senate, Lindsey Graham. The pressure is on in Washington now, but with a win for Graham-Cassidy, fifty states, and millions of Americans, would feel that pressure for years to come.

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# Annual United Nations General Assembly meeting begins in New York City

BY RUBY VAN DYK  
Contributing Writer

This week, the 193 Members of The United Nations General Assembly met in order to begin their annual session. The UN General Assembly is the only organ of the United Nations that has equal representation for each of it’s members, and is the main policy making organ of the UN. It meets from September - December or until all issues are addressed, each year.

When the General Assembly votes on important issues, a two-thirds majority of those who vote is required. These issues might include admission or expulsion of members, the budget or recommendations having to do with peace and security. Each member country has one single vote, and all

other questions need to be decided by a majority vote.

In the beginning of the annual session world leaders address the General Assembly, speaking about their own countries goals along with their global goals.

This year is the 72nd year of the convening of the UN, and President Donald Trump’s first meeting addressing the UN General Assembly since he was elected. On September 19th, President Trump gave his first major address to the UN General Assembly. Trump welcomed the delegates and leaders to the meeting, As he discussed the state of the world, he noted some of the issues the globe faces today including terrorism and conflict. He also threatened North Korea, saying “the U.S. has great strength and patience but if it is forced

to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea.”

Although President Trump’s comments seemed to create the most news, many other leaders spoke including those from Brazil, France, Japan, Iran and many more. Along with these speeches, many meetings are being held to discuss global issues amongst various countries. These aspects of the General Assembly and meeting of the UN can often be forgotten, but many important ideas are solidified behind closed doors.

On the 22nd, nuclear weapons became the main focus of the main leaders discussions. Many leaders from around the world added their signatures to a treaty that bans nuclear weapons. Although many countries have agreed to the treaty, the nine nuclear-armed countries

declined to sign it. This continues the debate on nuclear weapons, and the amount of control and limitation that should be placed on them.

The General Debate of the General Assembly does not end until the 25th of September, while other meetings continue until the 29th. As the General Assembly continues to meet the amount of problems that face the UN increase. From the issue of nuclear weapons to human rights atrocities to global warming, world leaders have their hands full. But, it is up to them to push past their own interests and work together in order to solve the problems our world faces.

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## Contributing Writer Commentary

## Writer shares opinion on Hurricane Maria, US should not cut funds

BY ALEX D'ANGELO

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For the last month or so hurricanes have been a constant threat on the coasts of Texas, Florida and almost all of the Caribbean. The first major hurricane of this year was Hurricane Harvey which tore through Texas, in particular Corpus Christi, leaving a path of destruction that will cost millions of dollars to repair. Hurricane Irma immediately followed with its path hitting Caribbean islands such as Puerto Rico and The Bahamas before crashing straight into Florida starting at The Keys and making its way north to-

wards South Carolina. The media, however, enhanced the strength of Hurricane Irma because it weakened greatly by the time it reached Florida. Hurricane Maria is the Hurricane that is currently damaging areas in the Caribbean not even a week after Irma hit.

Hurricane Maria is no laughing matter. The hurricane already raged through Puerto Rico, Dominica, Guadalupe, and many other small islands in the Caribbean. The current death toll from the storm is 20 but many say that that number will only rise due to lingering flash floods and storm surges in these areas. The hurricane is now a Category 3 storm

and expected not to hit the United States but rather to go out to sea.

Hurricane Maria is just one of the latest casualties from this year and more hurricanes are to be expected in the Atlantic until mid-late October. Climate change is a big reason why these storms are becoming more destructive. With climate change comes a rise in sea water which makes the storm surges much larger and comparable to many tsunamis.

The most unfortunate part about all of this is that the Trump Administration is considering a drastic cut in Federal Relief Funds which is what we desperately need more of in this

day in age. Included in this budget cut would be a loss \$667 million for FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, which coordinates with state government to provide help and aid in disaster-stricken areas. The National Flood Insurance Program would lose about \$190 million and the National Weather Service would lose \$62 million. This may already seem like a lot but there are at least a dozen other organizations that would lose millions due to this budget cut.

It's a shame that we are headed in such an opposite direction with this issue. We've seen the damages that these storms have caused so this proposed budget cut shouldn't even be up for debate. For those who still haven't seen the capabilities of these storms, Hurricane Maria should be a wakeup. Considering that the majority of Puerto Rico is without power right now, we need to be creating more funds not lessening them. If the Federal Relief Funds get cut then we will be struggling to protect ourselves during these storms and helping our neighbors down south will no longer be an option.

With all of these storms happening one after another we need to find a way to come together to be able to provide support for those dealing with the aftermath. We can only do this by continuing to raise these funds.

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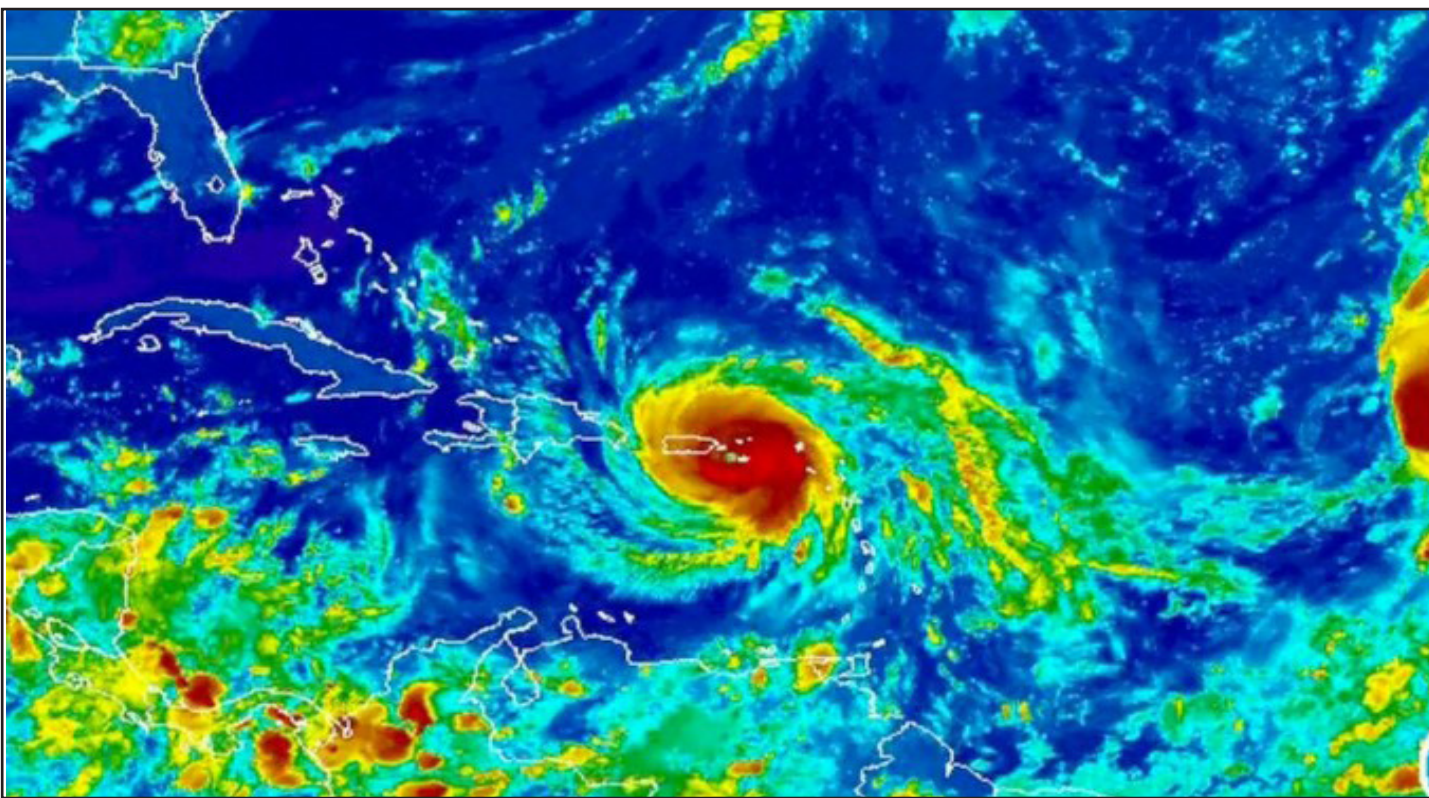


Photo courtesy of theepochtimes.com

Hurricane Maria has caused massive damage to the affected areas. The government needs to provide ample funds to fix the destruction and to help the people. Ignoring the issue and cutting funding will only make for a longer recovery process.

## Contributing writer discusses education, news in “Post-Truth Era” Reflection

BY CAYLIE PRIVITERE

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We are navigating a landscape devoid of truth. Science is a sphere of influence constantly evolving; there is not, nor has there ever been, definitive and concrete facts. And yet, we proceed as if there are. William Ebenstein, a professor of political science at the University of Santa Barbara, theorized: “history is full of opinions held by one age to be the ultimate truth and considered by subsequent ages to be false and absurd.” This advancement towards complexity, or continual development of ideas, impels our growth as a society.

And yet, we are unknowingly hindering our civilization's ability to evolve. Not so long ago, in an age with strikingly little semblance to today, Rene Descartes wrote his Meditations, a series of parts that was concerned with the infallibility of known knowledge. Descartes devoted himself

to reevaluating the basis of truth and unwinding the coils of opinion and fact while rebuilding the foundations of his beliefs. This is an exercise in humility we are not in practice with today. Our existence in the “post truth era” is devoted to stocking up arsenals of slanted facts with the purpose of disproving differing opinions, opposed to an attitude of under-

**“We’ve reached a point where we depend on the modification of information to fit a narrative, stacking up building blocks of ‘facts’ to reinforce the opinions we already hold.”**

— Caylie Privitere ‘21  
Contributing Writer

standing and growth. We have devolved to actively resist, we no longer promote the exchange of ideas or opinions and have instead embarked on a quest to prove each other wrong. A mentality of absolute truth is detrimental to any society, and it's a path the United States has begun to tread.

Our education system is reflec-

tive of this regressive mentality in a distressing way, as generally students' beliefs are no longer challenged in the classroom but, rather, reinforced. As the world witnessed on the Middlebury campus last Spring, herds of students violently revolted against a conservative speaker brought to campus. And while the students

defended themselves with sentiments of resisting and devoicing ‘hate,’ a violent reaction to a key note speaker reeks of dogmatic tendencies and the repression of ideas that fall in the minority.

We've reached a point where we depend on the modification of information to fit a narrative, stacking up building blocks of

“facts” to reinforce the opinions we already hold. The politically obsessed climate of the United States exacerbates our infatuation with static knowledge. We operate under the assumption there is an ultimate truth, and the road to uncovering it is fiery confrontations of ‘alternative facts.’ The actual nature of truth is not one sided. The United States has fallen victim to a democracy that forces citizens to choose between two juxtaposed viewpoints that radically express two specific ideologies. However, the only path to true progress will open once both ideologies converge in the middle. During the pinnacle of the Information Age, this country is in dire need of a drastic knowledge reform. We risk permanent stagnation, an outcome disastrous for us all, if we fail to compromise.

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# Campus Life

## University of Connecticut professor Michael Lynch talks knowledge polarization

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ  
*Campus Life Editor*

Michael Patrick Lynch, professor of philosophy and Director of the Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut, gave this past Thursday’s Common Hour talk, titled “Common Reality and Our Digital Lives.” In addition to lecturing widely, Lynch is also author and editor of several books, as well as a frequent contributor to the New York Times’ “The Stone” weblog. This Common Hour was proposed by Bonnie Powers and Scott Vine and is co-sponsored by Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies, American Studies, the Faculty Center and the Miller-Humanities Fund.

At the start of his talk, Lynch had the audience imagine a world in which their phone is directly hooked up to their brain. It would be “as easy and as intimate as thinking,” he said. Even if this were true, it does not mean the information itself is more accurate. In fact, Lynch stated, the more data you take in, the harder it is to evaluate. Even though our phones are not that invasive, we do have a wealth of information right in our pockets. This often makes it difficult to distinguish between what is real and what is fake. Lynch said, “It’s as if we know more, but understand less.”

According to Lynch, we often use technology in a way that isolates our information bubbles. In America today, we are not only polarized over values, said Lynch, but also over the facts. The Internet gives us the information we want because we tailor our internet usage to our preferences,

which is how the different platforms are made to work. Lynch noted, “every click, every like, every comment leaves a data trail.”

Our personalized online life makes “what we want reflect what we already think,” Lynch said. He continued by defining the concept of knowledge polarization, which means that we cannot agree on what we know; we can’t agree on the real, objective truth. One solution to this problem is to redesign our platforms, which some are already trying to do. However, this alone is not enough for Lynch because the problem is essentially human. To solve this problem, he suggests turning to people who deal with humans, including political scientists, historians, psychologists, philosophers, and more.

Lynch outlined three ideas of his own for addressing the issue of knowledge polarization: believing in truth, daring to know, and having humility. The first concept, believing in truth, is a response to the philosophical argument that we cannot step out of our own perspective. Saying that there is no objective truth is dangerous to Lynch because it rationalizes biases. Of course, Lynch admits, it is hard to know anything for certain. But we do agree on a lot of things in this world, such as the fact that a bullet can kill you. He acknowledges that it is easier for us to live in our own reality. However, with the term “fake news” has been appropriated, in Lynch’s eyes, to now mean anything one disagrees with. He claimed that we must believe in one truth to reduce knowledge polarization.

Secondly, Lynch introduced the



Photo courtesy of fandm.edu

Michael Lynch, Director of the Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut and professor of philosophy spoke at Common Hour on reaching a common reality.

Latin idea from Kant: “sapere aude,” or “dare to know.” By this, he means that people must search for the truth, even if it goes against one’s preconceived biases. Daring to know includes performing longer ways of knowing that aren’t as personalized Lynch noted that there is a difference between downloading a set of facts from Google and understanding those facts. He suggested that people instead try to work through the proof by getting out and actually talking to people. He clarified that he is not saying we should stop “Google – knowing,” but rather we should not overvalue it. The point is, we should be careful about treating Google as the all-knowing “oracle in our pockets.” Daring to know involves risking the possibility that we could be wrong.

Lastly, Lynch spoke about having what he called epistemic humility,

which recognizes that we don’t know it all keeps our worldview open to improvement from the evidence and experience of others. This last part includes being willing to expand our knowledge from what other bring to the table. Lynch alluded to certain national figures in the U.S. that are not so good at epistemic humility, though he did not name names. However, epistemic humility is also difficult for people in general because we confuse arrogance with real confidence, Lynch stated.

At the end of his Common Hour talk, Lynch maintained that democracies cannot function without believing in truth and seeking out understanding from a diversity of perspectives.

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## CEC hosts annual Fall Fest on Hartman Green



On Saturday, September 23, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m, F&M students enjoyed free food and music on Hartman Green, courtesy of the College Entertainment Committee. Fall Fest is an annual event to welcome the autumn season with food and fun. Students could also play lawn games and collect CEC giveaways. Music was provided by Kap Slap, Hardwork Movement, and Adam Fine. The event was supported by Weis College House, Ware College House, New College House, Brooks College House.





# Arts & Leisure

## Dunkirk, a film by Christopher Nolan, depicts chaos and humanity found in war

BY SHAWN KIM  
Contributing Writer

I had just finished watching *Dunkirk* with two of my friends, Sam and Alex, and we were talking about the movie as we walked out of the movie theatre. *Dunkirk*, a film directed by Christopher Nolan depicts the historical battle of Dunkirk during World War II, where allied soldiers were surrounded and attacked by German troops, thus being forced to evacuate.

“I didn’t like that movie... It was too loud and chaotic”, Sam had said, which had started the discussion about the movie, subsequently allowing Alex to start explaining why he also hadn’t enjoyed the movie. I remained silent as I was still lost in my thoughts and disappointment. Having loved *The Prestige*, *Inception*, *Interstellar*, and the trilogy of the *Dark Knight* movies, I was excited to see what Nolan would explore next. Though I was initially surprised to find out that Christopher Nolan was directing a war movie as his next film, I knew that Nolan wasn’t contained to one genre and was interested to see how Nolan would deliver to his audience.

But the movie was incredibly hectic. The cinematography was stellar, the scenes were intense, but the movie was chaotic... too chaotic, and I feared that Nolan had lost control of his medium. But as I spent more time thinking about the movie, I came to realize this: *Dunkirk* is less about painting war to be a glorifying and patriotic endeavor; rather, it exposes the reality of war as one that is gruesome, chaotic, and traumatic, and Nolan achieves this through several methods.



Photo courtesy [www.i.ytimg.com](http://www.i.ytimg.com)

Tommy, portrayed by Fionn Whitehead, a young British private watches the wreck of the Naval Army from the beaches of Dunkirk.

One such method is *Dunkirk*’s lack of dialogue. Contrary to his past films where dialogue was used to explain a concept (i.e. *Inception*) or successfully advance a narrative (i.e. *the Prestige*), *Dunkirk* does not have much dialogue. Yet *Dunkirk* is still incredibly loud, but purposefully so. The action scenes involving the fighter jets, torpedos, bombings, and guns constantly barrage the viewer’s ears. This juxtaposition between the raucous environment and silent characters conveys a poignant message: soldiers in war don’t have time to react, let alone talk; the chaos of their environment drowns out their voices enforcing passivity upon them. Thus, because they have been stripped of their ability to react, a common human ability, they lose aspects of their humanity.

Another method is *Dunkirk*’s three-plot structure. The movie is divided into three storylines, the first following three young soldiers at the heart of the battle, the second following a civilian father, his son, and his son’s friend on their private boat going out to Dunkirk to help evacuate the soldiers, and the third following a British pilot in a fighter jet. With

the storyline of the civilian father and his son, the audience is placed into a more relatable perspective. Thus creating a contrast between the storylines; from the beginning, the three of them have just set out on their voyage to Dunkirk to rescue the soldiers- he pace of their actions is slow, and the son and his friend spend most of their time on their voyage admiring the calm of the sea and the behemoth battleships. At the same time in the other storyline, soldiers their age are being swept up in the intensity of the battle, rapidly moving on even after seeing their comrades die, and being in constant terror of death by bombing. There is one scene where the soldiers move to an Ally ship, and finally seem to get rest while talking and eating, only to have a torpedo sink the ship leaving all the soldiers to swim desperately for the sake of their lives. The contrast conveys the same message that the lack of dialogue does: the inability to react in war. However, as the civilians in their boat reach the battle scenes, they too become prone to the emotionally debilitating aspects of war. In one scene, the son’s friend falls down the stairs as a result of

a physical altercation, and ends up dying. Even so, the ship continues in its passage towards Dunkirk, and the attitude to keep moving (the “so it goes” attitude) is adopted by the civilians as well.

But *Dunkirk* doesn’t only display the loss of humanity through war. Near the end, the fear of the soldiers reaches its peak in knowing that they will be mercilessly massacred by the continuous bombings of the German jets. But just as they start to lose hope, a sea full of civilian boats appears to rescue the stranded soldiers. The soldiers are moved to cheers as they see their fellow countrymen coming to save them, and afterwards they are all escorted to safety.

Through *Dunkirk*, Nolan depicts the reality of war- he offers an unfiltered perspective that displays the loss of humanity. However, Nolan conveys that amidst this loss of humanity, the actions of others out of compassion and love display the good in humanity to restore it.

First- Year Shawn Kim is a contributing writer. His email is [skim2@fandm.edu](mailto:skim2@fandm.edu).

## Bachelor in Paradise, the dramatic escape from the first year in college

BY SAMANTHA MILOWITZ  
Contributing Writer

Everyone has guilty pleasure; for some people it’s chocolate, for others it’s *In Touch* Magazine. For me, and so many others, the *Bachelor* franchise has become the ultimate guilty pleasure: the equivalent to the *Kardashians* dipped in chocolate with a side of *Desperate Housewives*. Stranded on a desert island with nothing to do but get drunk and hook up, *Bachelor in Paradise* always leaves you wanting more and is so bad you can’t look away.

The idea is to take contestants from past *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* seasons and put them together to see if any of them are compatible. Each week, the

guys or the girls have the power to hand out roses, the emblem of Bachelor Nation, to those they want to keep around and possibly pursue a relationship with. Those that don’t receive a rose are kicked off the island and sent home in a black van conveniently parked outside. Before the rose ceremonies, contestants get the opportunity to go on exotic dates and see if they have the potential to make it all the way.

For the past couple of weeks, every *Bachelor in Paradise* fan has looked forward to those Monday and Tuesday nights packed with drama, and now it’s over. This past week we watched as three couples left, “hand in hand,” with only two couples making it out alive: Raven and

Adam and Taylor and Derek. While Chris Harrison hopes that watching the *Bachelor* will give us all hope to find love, what it really does is give us hope that we won’t end up like the *Bachelor in Paradise* contestants resorting to finding love in “paradise.” I have found that many find the show addicting, not because they envy the glamorous traveling and dates, but because it makes them appreciate their own lives.

As a college freshman, *Bachelor in Paradise* has become helpful in many ways. Talking about *Bachelor in Paradise*, or playing it in the common rooms, automatically attracts attention and is a perfect conversation starter. Debates and conversations automatically start like who’s there

for the “right reasons,” whether or not Robby is trustworthy with such pretty hair, and the irritably close resemblance the twins show to the *Shining* twins.

It might sounds bizarre but the *Bachelor in Paradise* world shares a lot of similarities to the craziness that some freshmen in college are now experiencing; isolated in a new atmosphere meeting a lot of people in a short amount of time. *Bachelor in Paradise* gives us reassurance that no matter the type of weirdness we might be experiencing here, those people are experiencing something way more weird.

First- Year Samantha Milowitz is a contributing writer. Her email is [smilowit@fandm.edu](mailto:smilowit@fandm.edu).



Arts & Leisure

Fifteen Songs to Get You Through the Week: Week One

BY BETTE SCHER  
Contributing Writer

Before we knew it, school has started again. We are back to a routine of Easy Mac, all nighters, and the looming knowledge that every year passing in college is a year closer to the rest of our lives. The world around us demands so much, whether that be our professors who assign hours of readings to prepare for class or our friends who push us to go out every weekend.

Keeping up with social media is exhausting too. Snapchat reminds us that our lives aren't nearly as interesting as those who we befriend. Instagram reminds us the need to keep up the aesthetic. We have become so speculative of our news, we don't even know what is true anymore. There are few sources of reliable news, that fact in itself is inherently exhausting.

In the midst of this overstim-



Photo courtesy of www. aliawhyte.com

ulation of the senses, I challenge the students of Franklin and Marshall to take a step back. Whether that be for five minutes or five seconds, step back and decompress from our lives that demand so much of us. If decompressing means meditation for some, great. If it means hiding under a blanket and watching netflix for others, that's great too.

Music, though, has the power not only to relieve stress but to inspire us to work harder and be

better versions of ourselves. In this aspiration, I have attached 15 songs to get you through the week. I hope this will become a weekly column, though I make no promises. My life, like yours, demands a lot from me too. Here, there is "Mr. Brightside" to make us sing obnoxiously in public, which can be completely cathartic. There is A Tribe Called Quest to make us appreciate beats and groove. There is Anderson .Paak, because who doesn't love him? I hope this will

help you deal with the demands of your week, maybe even finding some cool music along the way.

Stay classy, stay relaxed, and have fun at Fall Fest!

First-Year Bette Scher is a contributing writer. Her email is bscher@fandm.edu.

Week 1: 9/25-10/2

By Bette Scher

15 SONGS

PLAY ON SPOTIFY

The Onion Dip:  
The College Reporter's satirical column

Student worker makes the most of stagnant summer internship with online dating apps

BY KT THOMAS  
Satirical Columnist

During an interview about student involvement on campus over the summer, rising junior, Laura Johnson, was asked about her job in the Advancement office. As a Business major, Johnson wanted to take this opportunity to learn more about the Gift Giving Development process, satisfy

her nagging parents, as well as get her foot in the door for her dream career, asking for money and getting it. However, due to the 25 other Case Interns hired by the same office, little work come Johnson's way, so she's taken up a new path.

When asked about her responsibilities, Johnson responded, "I usually get in around 8:30am, check to see if there's anything I

can do, and when there's not, I sit in my cubicle and start swiping. Tinder's alright, but Bumble is totally the way to go." In the past 2 months, Laura has clocked in a total of 205 hours at the office, which translates to approximately \$1,435 and 445 matches. "My official title is 'Case Intern', but my real title should be '3rd Base Intern.' I mean, I'm basically getting paid to date," said Laura.

"Laura's one of the best interns we've got", said her boss with a smile, "I've run into her quite a few times downtown after work and she's always so kind to introduce me to her brothers... she comes from a huge family, you know!"

Senior Kt Thomas is a satirical columnist. Her email is kthomas@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of www.images.huffingtonpost.com



F&M Men's Soccer demonstrates resiliance and battles through tough matches. Read more below...



The MLB playoff race is in full swing and competitive as ever. Read more below...

# Franklin & Marshall Sports

## F&M Men's Soccer battles through season rut, shows resiliance

BY GABBY GOODWIN  
Sports Editor

While everyday is a great day to be a Dip, some days it's not so easy to be one. The F&M Men's Soccer team has learned this lesson lately as they've continued to face tough opponents time and time again. Cal Lutheran, Washington and Lee, Rowan--teams that don't just show up for a match to play, but teams that show up for a match to battle.

In last year's game against Rowan, the No. 6 Dips fell 2-1 to No. 8 Rowan in a home match. With a goal in the 27th-minute from F&M's Ugo Okolie, the Profs fought back with goals in the 39th and 61st minutes of the game.

This past Wednesday, the Dips, squaring off against Rowan again, lost the match 3-0 despite the opportunities they had. While the shot and corner count favored the Profs 16-11 and 5-4, the Dips applied pressure and battled hard, despite their ability to capitalize on their opportunities.

This past Saturday, the Dips faced off against Haverford, falling to the No. 23 team 3-2 in a heartbreaking loss. The Dips' Jason Tonelli scored the first goal of

the game in the 18th minute off a free kick by F&M's Ben Draheim. Tonelli fought through an army of defenders in the middle and capitalized on the opportunity, giving the Dips a 1-0 lead. However, Haverford responded promptly just four minutes later to even the score 1-1. Stalemate continued until the 59th minute of the match when the Ford's Nick Janelli scored on a header off a cross by the Ford's William Edwards to notch the 2-1 lead.

Nevertheless, with just four minutes left in the match, F&M rallied to even the 2-1 contest off a cross by F&M's Ben Draheim which was finished off by F&M's Ryan Corr, making the score 2-2.

Despite the Diplomat's resiliance and hard fought battle though, they came up just one goal short when the Fords scored in the 90th minute of the match, giving them the upper hand, 3-2.

Many F&M college students learn early on that "in order to succeed, you must first be willing to fail." While thus far in their season, the F&M Men's Soccer team has experienced defeat, their true test of character is within their ability to put up a fight each and every game. Success isn't lin-

ear, and with the hard work and irrepressible effort the Dips have been displaying, success amidst their tough schedule this season will come.

The F&M Men's Soccer team faces off against CC-rival Dick-

inson this Wednesday at 7:00 PM for a home match that will be sure not to disappoint.

*Sophomore Gabby Goodwin is the sports editor. Her email is ggoodwin@fandm.edu.*



Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

Amidst a tough schedule this season, the F&M Men's Soccer team has continued to put in work and battle each and every game. Bouncing back from a loss on Saturday, the Diplomats face off against CC-rival Dickinson this Wednesday at home.

## The MLB playoff race is heating up, coming down to wire as season ends

BY JOE GIORDANO  
Managing Editor

The hunt for October is now in full swing and playoff races all across the MLB landscape are heating up. With many playoff spots still available and the top teams remaining dominant, the playoff race is among the most competitive it's been in years.

With the Dodgers, Indians, Nationals, and Astros leading as the favorites to win the World Series this year, many of the other races for the remaining spots have taken up most of the media coverage. The race between the bitter rivals Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees for AL East supremacy will come down to the wire. Boston has been trying to hold off the surging Yankees for months and currently hold a three game lead over their division rivals. However, with the Yankees pitching staff and bullpen coming together with the additions of Sonny Gray, David Robertson, and Tommy Kahnle and the stellar addition of third basemen Todd Frazier, they looked primed and ready for a deep postseason run. The Red Sox will remain reliant on stars

Mookie Betts and Dustin Pedroia and rookie sensation Andrew Benintendi and ace Chris Sale to fend off the Yankees and make a run of their own.

In the National League, the defending World Series champion Chicago Cubs are looking to begin their title defense by first securing the NL Central title.

The Cubs with returning stars Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant looked like the easy pick to take the division. However, the Milwaukee Brewers are right on their tails and trying to secure their own place in the playoffs this year. While they are still right in the thick of things in the Wild Card race, the Brewers would like nothing more than to take the division and send a statement to the rest of the league.

However, while all of these races are tight, it may seem as though it is a four team race for the World Series. With the Dodgers, Indians, Astros, and Nationals all notching over 90 wins this season, it would come as a surprise to no one if one of these four took the title. With the Indians looking to avenge their World Series loss from last year and

the Dodgers looking to win their first World Series since 1988, a matchup between the two would make for an ideal ending to the baseball season for most fans.

Don't count out the Nationals and Astros though. With stars like Bryce Harper and Jose Altuve on their teams respectively, you can never count out either team to make a run in October. Their solid team chemistry could come into play and lead either to a championship when

all is said and done.

The MLB postseason is upon us and looks primed to be a great time for baseball fans.

With such a wide open field and so many great teams, who knows what could happen? We'll all just have to wait and find out as baseball crowns its newest world champion.

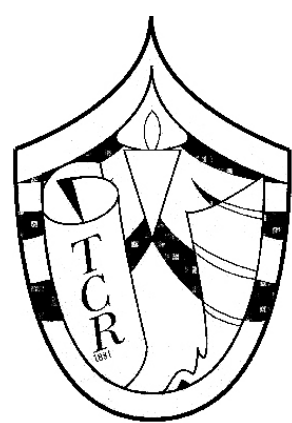
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Photo courtesy of totalprosports.com

As the 2016 World Series Champions, the Chicago Cubs seek to defend their title by fending off their rivals and other teams around the league. They face an uphill battle as game competitors such as the Dodgers, Indians, and others come for the championship.





# The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

## THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE



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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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## Full Staff Opinion

The beginning of the official NFL season has reminded us of the importance of freedom of speech. This past season many players took a knee for the National Anthem, using their platform to bring attention to race relations and tensions in America. Colin Kaepernick began the protest by kneeling during the Anthem and sparking debate throughout the country as to whether or not his actions were unpatriotic for kneeling during the Anthem or patriotic because dissent is apart of our history. Kaepernick wanted to bring attention to the countless murders of black men and women in the country that went unrecognized. This season many players have followed Kaepernick's stance and took a knee during the Anthem. This protest caused President Trump to remark at a rally "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a b\*\*\*\* off the field right now.'" You know, some owner is going to do that. He's going to say, 'That guy that disrespects our flag, he's fired.'"

We reject this sentiment. We believe that true patriotism stems from the deeply held American right to freedom of expression. The NFL players that chose to kneel during the Anthem have the right to do so because of our constitutional right to freedom of speech and it is important to honor this. We encourage everyone to utilize their constitutional rights and hope that the NFL continues to allow its players to do the same.



Colin Kaepernick, pictured above, kneeling while others rise to sing the National Anthem. Kaepernick has recieved criticism for this utilizatoin of his freedom of speech by President Trump and others, who view the act as unpatriotic.

Photo courtesy of shawsports.net