

THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Empowering the voice of the urban student.

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FALL 2017

FREE

Art Will Set Us Free: Professor Said Bouftass Gives a Drawing Workshop

MARTINA NEVADO
STAFF WRITER

Although I missed the first twenty minutes of his presentation, what I witnessed in the rest of his overture fascinated me. Professor Said Bouftass, a visual artist from Morocco, is a researcher at Institute National Des Beaux Arts in Tetouan, and Doctor in Aesthetics and Art History at the Paris-VIII Saint Denis University. He is a graduate of École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris and one of the founders of the Atelier of Phenomorphology of the Human Body in France.

I could assure that everyone who attended the workshop about art and anatomy drawing he offered on September 14 had an unforgettable experience. In just two hours, Professor Bouftass delighted the attendants with his peculiar way of designing. The Smart Boards were left aside and he used a conventional blackboard as a canvas. The audience could witness the mastery of this expert on artistic anatomy drawings. His dexterity was evident. His passion and cheerfulness was contagious with the students attending the Dineen Hull Gallery, at HCCC, where this presentation took place.

To add more entertainment to the evening, he chose some students to participate in drawing on the board and then he served as a model in some funny poses, always showing his joviality. He gave the students ten to twenty seconds to draw. He indicated to them that the strokes should be made firm and fast, without worrying about what the drawing would look like. He wanted the students to take all that energy inside and transmit it in the drawing, rather than copying the model.

He provided the students with some guidelines to reach the goal in the project. He said that we must draw what we see in firm and sure strokes without hesitating. Professor Bouftass stated, as well, that drawing must be a free behavior in which we should not feel forced to succeed but feel free to draw using our whole bodies to manifest our feelings. The connection between our body with art must be expressed with energy – by dancing, jumping, moving around, and making firm strokes releasing our inner vital-

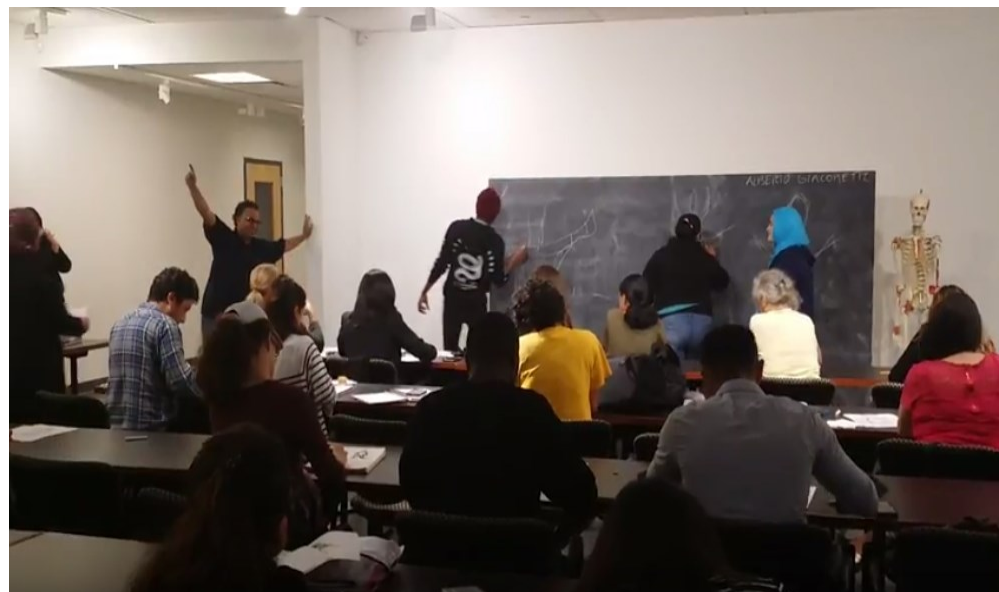


Photo credit to Martina Nevado

ity, he claimed.

This was a master class, where, in addition to demonstrating his knowledge of the human anatomy, coupled with his overwhelming passion for the art he performs, he managed to inspire the audience. Professor Bouftass explained, "I draw to feel freedom in my life, and to transmit my feelings to produce in others the same desire to express themselves. The art is in us."

HCCC Holds Instant Decision Days:

Prepare to Transfer!

MICHAEL PARDAL
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



MICHAEL PARDAL
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As one of the students who is in their final semester at HCCC, planning for the future can be pretty stressful. HCCC does its best to make sure they give students the resources to make that transition easier. For students that are planning to continue their education after HCCC, I highly recommend taking advantage of Transfer Fairs and Instant Decision Days! The college offers these opportunities for all of their students for FREE! HCCC encourages all soon-to-be graduates to attend these events in order to be better prepared. If you are not graduating this semester, that's fine: you can still attend Transfer Fairs to find out more information about the colleges present. You will never know if one of those colleges is the perfect match for what you want to do in the future.

Instant Decisions are on the spot interviews with recruitment representatives from different colleges that are partnered with HCCC. These interviews will determine if you will be accepted by the college instantly, on the spot, instead of going through the online process that would take a few weeks to get an answer. They will be held on different dates for certain colleges on both campuses.

STEM Sees the Light of Day

OMAR DWIDAR
STAFF WRITER

HCCC had a grand opening for its new building named the STEM Building. It is a major contribution to Hudson County Community College, and a big step for students who have or will have a science major in the future. Students will have legitimate and sustainable laboratory equipment all the time. Having some interesting dialogue with some of the authorized people there gave me an idea of what the school board implemented from the very start. This building will be more science-oriented and accompanied by state of the art technology from top to bottom. I had the chance to speak with Dr. Paula Pando (Senior Vice President North Hudson Campus/Student and Educational Support Services), Christopher Wahl (Dean of Instruction/Arts), Dr. John Marlin (Dean of Instruction/Science), and Paul Dillon (Associate Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality).

You cannot deny that the event was phenomenal and how the building was such an interest for the professors, students, and, of course, the media. The press was all over the scene taking photographs, and interviewing some people. The opening of the STEM broadened a new atmosphere to the college.



Photo credit to Omar Dwidar

f/HCCCEdu @HudsonCCC

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THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hello HCCC, our names are Michael Pardal and Brandon Cauley and we are happy to announce that we are the new Editors-in-Chief for The Orator. It is the first time that there are two editors leading The Orator. We would like to thank our former Editor-in-Chief, Christopher Rodgers, for recommending us and mentoring us throughout these past semesters.

We are excited to release this issue which is the first issue of Fall 2017. This issue will combine stories of the fall into one issue. Our staff this semester consists mainly of returning members and a few contributing writers that have done a great job on their stories. We are looking forward to engaging students of HCCC into joining our team through our writing.

We welcome any feedback and encourage students to find out more information about The Orator and possibly join our team of talented writers.

Meet The Orator 2017

Staff

Michael Pardal



Hi, my name is Michael Pardal and I am an English major. I joined The Orator because I enjoy writing about sports and talking about my ideas. I have loved watching and playing sports for most of my life so The Orator helps me express my feelings especially towards national sports. My dream is to one day become a professional sports journalist.

Brandon Cauley



What's up, my name is Brandon Cauley. I am a liberal arts English major, and a huge sports fan. Being apart of The Orator gives me a big platform to speak on sports and sometimes, social issues. My goal is to be a sports commentator.

Nevin Perkins



What's happening folks! I'm Nevin Perkins, a second year liberal arts major here at HCCC. I am the Vice President of The Orator. I enjoy reading and listening to great music, as well as keeping up with the current events in society. I will do my best to bring you updated news regarding, sports, current events, and social justice issues.

Omar Dwidar



Hi, I am Omar S. Dwidar currently a Liberal Arts student and planning to transfer to a 4yrs Journalism school, CIO at US Taxes and Payroll, And 5yrs Of blogging experience on different types of news stories: Sci-Tech, Gaming, Sports, Arts, Entertainment, Travel, and Health. Please follow me on: @Omarsdwidar, and tumblr.com/blog/omarsdwidar.

Martina Nevado



Hi, my name is Martina Nevado, I am a Studio Arts Major. I am very creative and I love teaching and helping others. I support the children of my community with fashion design and cooking classes. Also, I like to write poetry and about motivational topics to inspire young people to reach their life goals. Follow me on fb.com/tinakidscreations

Fatima Osman



Hi, my name is Fatima Osman, I am a Mathematics major here in HCCC, but I love to write as well. I want my writing to let people see things in a different perspective. I plan to become a high school mathematics teacher, however, I would love to write for a newspaper or perhaps write my own book someday.

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Editorial: A Message to the Hypocritical Detractors of Anthem-Protesters



BRANDON CAULEY
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Photo credit to Keith Allison via Wikipedia

It felt like yesterday when I joined the *The Orator* last September, and my very first article was about how I support Colin Kaepernick's protest. Fast forward to this October: Kaepernick is out of a job, and teams refuse to sign him due to his views. More specifically, he is out of a job because he took a knee, protesting police brutality and the racial inequalities that plague our country. Enough with this "he's not that good" nonsense. Any real football aficionado knows Kaepernick played with minimal talent in his last two seasons with the 49ers. A quarterback that threw for sixteen touchdowns and four interceptions should not still be a free agent.

As seen on many major media outlets, on September 22nd, President Donald Trump called NFL players that kneel or sit for the National Anthem "SOBs". This set off a firestorm of reactions from players, and not just from NFL players; NBA players also joined in such as LeBron James, Chris Paul, and Stephen Curry. Along with that, over 50 NFL players took a knee for the National Anthem to send a message to President Trump. While the kneeling of the anthem was initially about police brutality and inequality in America, the message of the protest was hijacked by Trump—but that is another story for another time.

Going on Twitter that Week 3 of the NFL season, the hatred that was exercised by people that are extremely against the flag was beyond frustrating to see. The names these play-

ers were being called just exposes the name-callers' unapologetic bigotry and negligence to minorities. However, shockingly, that is not the part that ticked me off the most. If I had a dollar for the amount of people that said "stand up for the Anthem, and stop disrespecting the troops," I'd have enough money to leave college today.

Constantly, protest detractors are trying to change the narrative about what exactly the Anthem protests are all about. This was never about the military, and people would know that if they actually listened to what Kaepernick said after the first time he protested the Anthem. Kaepernick said "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder". Sounds like a legitimate reason to protest, right? Well, not to certain people. What a lot of people took from Kaepernick's comments was that he is anti-law enforcement, hates America, and he is disrespecting the troops. Well, if he's such a "bad guy," let's diagnose this:

Kaepernick exercised his first amendment right to conduct a PEACEFUL protest. I capitalized "peaceful" because people are acting like he is making disparaging remarks about America, but he is simply concerned that injustices against minorities are going unanswered. People are making it seem like he is on the field being rude during the anthem, or burning the

flag. At this point, we have to really think about if people are hearing the message behind the protest, but simply do not care. I mean, how many times does it need to be repeated? These people aren't deaf or blind, but most likely brainless.

Colin Kaepernick, and the other players that kneel for the anthem, are as patriotic as they come, contrary to what others will say. It is completely understandable if people simply do not like the method, but keep this in mind: no one has come up with an alternate method. Anyone who exercises their right to free speech in a peaceful manner is the special type of patriot that this country needs. What is unpatriotic is trying to deny people the right to exercise their rights. Do people not realize that our great troops fight for our rights, not for accommodation? That is not up for debate; that is a fact. Unless they are making disparaging comments, there is no reason protesters should get this much heat. Also, there needs to be more discussion about "there's a problem, let's fix it" rather than saying "if you don't like it here, leave". Let's be real: those that tell protesters to leave have not faced oppression in any way, and that is not up for debate either.

As long as we fail to try to understand the issues in America, we will continue to be divided. As for protesters, forget the sponsors, forget Donald Trump, forget Mike Pence, and forget everyone that does not approve of you kneeling. Keep doing what you do; you are the real patriots.

BRANDON CAULEY
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Letter to Freshman

I remember when I was you: a young deer in the headlights because I was officially in the big leagues. This is college. You probably scratched and clawed your way to grab your high school diploma as the ultimate "I made it" moment in your life. Midterms have passed, and you are in either two positions: sitting pretty or badly overwhelmed. Well, I have a message for both parties; hear me out.

If you are sitting pretty, good for you. Just know, at all costs, avoid that "c" word as much as possible. That "c" word is *complacency*. Getting complacent in college is the worst thing next to procrastinating. Avoid complacency when you get a good grade on a

quiz/test. I won't lie to y'all; passing that first test of your college life is certainly an accomplishment that you want to celebrate. That is completely fine, but make sure the same measures you took to pass that first test, you do that for the next test, and the next test. As easily as you passed the first test, you can fail the next one just as easily if you begin to get complacent. Treat your grades how a team should handle winning in a sports game; you keep applying pressure, and do not let up in the slightest.

If you are overwhelmed, I understand completely. I was there before, as a guy that failed basic math (yeah, that's right) my first semester. I put myself in an early hole, and it was seemingly impossible to climb out of it. For example, I would get a 33 on a test, and laugh

it off cause I knew I was going to fail. Don't be me. Nail into your brain that you need to pass that next test, and make every stride to accomplish it. Yes, it is December, but there is no need to give up. Remember, it is not how you start, it is how you finish.

No matter what position you find yourself in, the main goal should be to succeed. Regardless, your first semester in college builds major character, and will be a testament of how the rest of your college experience goes. Success makes the world go round, and nothing makes me happier than seeing the next generation striving to have the best life possible. The ball is in your hands; run with it.

Living With Social Anxiety

BRANDON CAULEY
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What is social anxiety? According to the Social Anxiety Institute, social anxiety is the fear of situations that involve interacting with people. Normally, I would say that I am pretty carefree about people's opinions about me. However, what I do care about is leaving a good impression with people, no matter if they are cursing me out, or asking me how my day is. Sometimes, I wish I could answer that question without constantly saying "eh" or "yeah, yeah." Heck, I would love it even more if I could get through that answer without stumbling on my words.

When I discuss these things, typically I get made fun of because of my occasional stuttering. These are the types of things that make me not want to discuss this topic, or many things at all. People say it is "cute," or "it's okay" when you stutter, but there's nothing "cute" or "okay" about it. Imagine trying to have an intelligent conversation with someone, and your mind is racing faster than your mouth, and it leads to you to fumbling and stumbling over your words. Like, do you know how irritating it is when an employee tells you to enjoy your item, and you say "you too"? It

happens too much to my liking, and it is a trend that I simply can't break. It's beyond embarrassing; imagine what the person you are talking to thinks about you. Maybe I could be overthinking it, but regardless, it's such an awful look.

Social anxiety affects all aspects of life, from someone asking to FaceTime, to you raising your hand in class. You want to constantly spare yourself the inevitable embarrassment; and it feels like you are sheltering yourself, and avoiding progression. In reality, no one wants to risk embarrassment. Considering how many times I have participated, and have stumbled on my words, I avoid it for the most part. It is unfortunate, even though I feel like I have some impactful things to say. Even when on FaceTime, where you suffer a mental block, and leave people a lot left to desire. No matter how much I, or anyone else, doesn't care about what others think, it will always be in the back of our minds. Simply, it is human nature.

I won't lie, I have progressed. Truthfully, I have to; considering that I want to commentate a Super Bowl game one day, I have to get it together. All it is, is pacing myself. I already put enough

pressure on myself to raise my hand to touch on a subject I am pretty good on.

Here's a note: if I don't talk to you, say "hi" to you, or anything, please do not think negatively of me. I stumble a lot with my greetings and brief conversations; and most of the time, I would like to avoid them. When I tell you having social anxiety ruins how you approach situations, I am not joking. This sounds like it's just not that serious, but impressions are everything. What you encounter is what you will leave your mark on, and that should be significant for everyone. If you encounter someone like me, just be patient. Our intentions are usually good, just don't let our weirdness scare you off.

If you are struggling with issues related to mental health, reach out to Isalia Crespo, LCSW, the Associate Director of Advisement and Counseling, for short-term counseling. Her services are available at both JSQ and NHC, and her contact information is 201-360-4229 or counseling@hccc.edu

Editorial: How to Thank A Veteran

MARTINA NEVADO
STAFF WRITER

I came to America to embrace the culture of this country without forgetting where I come from. My children are doing their careers and next year I will graduate from college along with my youngest child. We have lived good times and we have faced many difficult moments, as well. However, we are more united than ever with family ties impossible to break. Among the traditions that impressed me, the most was when I learned about the American veterans. This country owes them its freedom. It seems to me very well that Veterans Day is celebrated with commemoration ceremonies and that the quality of medical services has been improved. However, there is still much to be done to reward their

service. They deserve to live with dignity because they earned it by fighting for this country. We cannot abandon them to their fate when it is thanks to them that we live in Freedom!

It's not just the government who has to look after the veterans. We, also, have a debt with them and with the children, wives, and mothers of our soldiers, and I say "our" not only because I am a citizen of this country. I am the proud mother of a United States Marine and when the time comes when he becomes a veteran, my family and I will be there for him. He decided to be part of the history of this country and defend it. Many told me that he did not need to enlist. He had a career, a good job, he earned a

lot. For what? His response was because he wanted to bring honor to the family and defend his country. For my family and for me it was always an honor to have the son that I have. My husband drove us ten hours to go to his graduation and back home; at every stop we made people shake hands with my son and thank him for his service. Also, in a restaurant someone paid for our food. My husband was the happiest. All the way home, he came with a big smile, proud that on the road everyone honked and saluted, because we wrote in the van: "We are proud of our Marine". Soon, my son is leaving and he will take my heart with him and I will stay here waiting for him to come back home...

Dear student: Our veterans defended this country. Thanks to their service you can have the freedom to study and contribute to the progress of this country. Then, do not let their sacrifice be in vain. Make the best decisions in your life. Make it worth the sacrifice of those heroes who fought for their homeland and for their fellow citizens. Make them feel proud. They left their children, their wives, and their mothers to defend you. What are you doing with your freedom? Are you contributing to improve your community, your school, your country, yourself? If not, start now. It's never too late to start over. But make it worth the sacrifice that these heroes made for you. Be a better version of yourself. Make the country that they defended the place where our soldiers can rebuild their lives when they come back home. They choose to defend you and what will you choose to do?



Photo credit to William R. Goodwin via Wikipedia

HCCC Has A Mystery Frozen Classroom

JESSICA SILVA AND GINA PILAMUNGA
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Hudson County Community College's Culinary Conference Center has a mysterious third elevator that is hidden away, yet leads to the same place as the other elevators. The mystery doesn't stop there, however, as the building also has a class that many students don't even know exists.

Paul Dillon, Associate Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality, led the way to the mysterious unknown that was on the fourth floor. "I can show you something that I'm pretty sure you've never seen before," Dillon said, "It's up to you if you want to write about it."

The elevator doors opened up to the dimly lit hallway of the fourth floor. Dillon walked through the vacant hall and on over to the final destination. This room wasn't the typical classroom; instead it was filled with strange machines, wires, and even chainsaws. It was almost like a scene taken right out of a horror movie, just perfect for Halloween.

"This is an ice carving class," said Dillon. Culinary students can take a food preparation class, called *Garde Manger*; it is offered as a beginner, intermediate, and an advanced course. It's held twice a week, and allows for students to practice various techniques needed in the culinary field.

The room has two Clinebell Machines, which are used to form the blocks of ice used in creating ice sculptures. As Dillon walked around the room explaining the machines, the sound of water dripping from a leaky faucet remained in the background.

Next to the machines was a dark and narrow room that Dillon offered to show. As he opened the door, cold air enveloped the entire room. No amount of clothing could prepare the body for that bone-chilling blast of cold air; it felt as though ice had replaced the spine. Several three-hundred pound ice blocks were lined up in the freezer, awaiting their execution.

Each pulley hangs from the ceiling with attached electrical cords, which allow students to have easy access to power chainsaws or any other equipment. Because of this innovative and creative attachment on the ceiling, the work becomes a much smoother and faster process. The cord is also retractable, which cuts down on clutter and improves organization in the room.

In this room, masterpieces are created through different shapes and designs. Overall, the process takes about thirty minutes to an hour, depending on the speed and experience of each individual operator. The ice sculpture is crafted on a wooden platform, which can also be lifted into the air for easy access.

Though chainsaws are commonly associated with horror movies, the ones used in the *Garde Manger* class have safety procedures built in, such as special handles that are made for safe operation. These chainsaws are 100% electric, so they don't require harmful gas fumes to fill the room when being used. The chainsaw blade is regularly maintained to ensure safety in the classroom as well.

Towards the back of the room, there was a piece of plastic covering a shelf. It was hard to resist wondering just what might be hidden behind that plastic cover. As Dillon uncovered the plastic sheet, he revealed miniature examples of ice carvings. These examples are detail-oriented, and used for precise measurement, as well as a design for how the ice sculptures should be completed. A few of these examples included owls, fish, trophies, and birds.

The ice carving room was an interesting and unexpected experience that had many different aspects involved. While not many know about this class, the ice sculpting process is sure to amaze anybody who sees it. Though one can spend hours there witnessing the ice sculpting process, it was time to leave. "Happy Halloween," Dillon said, while walking out of the room, "Hope you guys got enough for a story!"



Photo credit to Jessica Silva

Want Free Tuition for Spring 2018? Enter Raffle!

OCTAVIO CADENAS-SANDOVAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you ever imagined being one of the three fortunate students who can obtain a scholarship of up to \$3,000 for the spring semester? It is now possible for the students who register for their classes by Wednesday, December 20 at Hudson County Community College.

In the fall of 2017, Hudson County Community College offered three Early Registration Scholarships as an incentive to students of all ages to go to school and register before December 20.

In-state, out-of-state, transferred, and international students can qualify for this scholarship if they register before the date agreed.

HCCC's student portal has displayed an announcement that says, "All students who register by Wednesday, December 20th, for the Spring 2018 semester will be entered into a drawing to win one of three Spring Ahead Scholarships, valued up to \$3000 each."

It was first introduced by departments such as Enrollment Services as well as Advising and Counseling during the Fall 2017 semester.

Additionally, it has been mentioned in the Open Houses as an enticement for new students to apply and register at the institution.

During the Open House that took place on Saturday, November 18, the scholarship was announced to prospective students attending the event.

"We are glad to announce that the Early Registration Scholarship will be given to three students, who will receive a semester of free tuition during the Spring 2018 semester."

The positive energy can be felt in the environment whenever the words "free tuition" is mentioned. Several students think that such motivations are very useful for the students in need.

Najee Wehner, a twenty-year-old student currently studying electrical engineering at Hudson County Community College says, "I think it is a really good inducement to get students to register early... I would invest some of it and use the rest towards my tuition."

As well as Najee, Elisa Vivero, who is also a student at HCCC whose current major is

psychology, thinks it is a great initiative. "I will save the remaining for traveling, or to buy food," says Elisa while laughing.

It is also important to know how students with different conditions, such as F-1 visas, are being affected.

Maribel Gonzalez, sponsor and mother of an international student, says, "It will represent an advantage to all the international students; however, it would be a much better benefit if the amount of the scholarship could be increased to pay the tuition which is often twice the amount a regular student has to pay."

A tuition-free semester is not seen very often, even less often is to have one; however, HCCC's students can now qualify for one by just registering as soon as possible before December 20, 2017.

The drawing will happen in a couple of weeks, and people cannot wait to know who is the lucky winner of the free-tuition Spring 2018 semester.

Real Life: The Disadvantages of Social Media

NEVIN PERKINS
STAFF WRITER

We live in the age of the internet. The era where everything is accessible from the tips of your fingers. The whole world, in the palm of our hands. Many have benefitted from what we call "Social Media." Talents have been discovered. Careers have blossomed and flourished. Most importantly, the inhabitants of the world have gained the ability to self-express to the masses, quite conveniently I might add. However, there is a fatal flaw in the brilliance of social media, and although I have been benefiting from the ability to spread love and light to the world through media, I cannot go another day without illuminating the issue that so many overlook.

Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook. All social media apps that keep people connected to the world. What could be the problem with that?

The issue is comparison, one of human beings most prominent flaws. People compare themselves to others they see on social media apps. Others who appear richer than they are. Others who appear more loved and celebrated than they are. Others who seem to be happier than they are. These comparisons do nothing but provide a sense of inferiority within an individual simply scrolling down their timeline.

"Why does she get thousands of likes on her pictures when I get less than one hundred?" "Why does he have so much money to buy cars and clothes and I barely have anything?" "Why are they so 'LIT' and I'm not?" These questions are asked around the world more than any of us realize. By people who are

struggling to better themselves and are getting discouraged by the people who seem as if they have it all.

The most terrifying part of the problem is that it is usually not the intention of the person famed on the internet to discourage. In fact, most try to inspire; it just ends up being received as discouragement. How can we avoid this? People are dwelling on depression on the daily, hating their lives, and wishing they had more than what they have, all because they see someone else who seemingly has more. How can we rid the world of this problem?

The answer lies within both the people who have been granted fame and the people who are wishing they had it. Firstly, people who are in a position of power and fame need to do a better job at inspiring. The world needs to know that anything is obtainable, but not if you are allowing your wants to leave you unmotivated.

Secondly, and most importantly, as J. Cole notes in his song "Love Yourz," we must always remember that "there's no such thing as a life that's better than yours." Comparisons will do you in in the truest sense. Never allow the things you do not have to blind you from appreciating everything you do. I'm a realist, I won't sit here and pretend that things don't get tough. All I'm saying is if you have read this, then you are alive. Things could always be worse.

Don't allow social media to dictate how well you think your life is going. Likes are just likes. Pho-



tos posted are merely memories of someone else's life. Do not envy them, simply make your own. Remember, not everything is as it seems, and everything that glitters isn't gold. On the flip side, the grass is greener where you water it. So stop watching someone else water their plants and water your own. Trust me: you'll be happier in real life that way because there will always be someone to compare yourself to but the only real comparison that you should focus on is you versus you yesterday. Love the life you live folks, peace.

Photo credit to Tomwsulcer via Wikipedia

Rescripting the Second Amendment after the Las Vegas Shooting

FATIMA OSMAN
STAFF WRITER

On the night of October 1, 2017, America experienced its deadliest mass shooting in history. A man, later identified as Stephen Paddock, checked into the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino high-rise suite on the 32nd floor with ten black unidentifiable bags, opened the glass window, and shot over five hundred Las Vegas concert-goers attending the concert below.

The second deadliest mass shooting was last year when Omar Mateen entered a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and with a semi-automatic rifle and a 9mm semi-automatic pistol shot and killed fifty-eight people. Both weapons used in the killings were legally purchased from a legal gun shop. Over these two hundred years, America has continuously re-scripted itself. From electing our first black president, to legalizing same-sex marriage, to the increased role women have in the job market, we came a long way in challenging our past laws. However, rescripting the Constitution has proved more difficult.

The second amendment states that a well-regulated militia's right to bear arms "shall not be infringed". It was initially implied for the state militia (now known as the National Guard); however, throughout the years, this rule was extended as a right for individuals as well. If the forefathers who wrote this amendment were alive today, looking at how far we have come, I believe even they would attest to some form of gun regulation.

We need some form of gun regulation. The majority of Americans believe that there should be some restrictions regarding gun sales; however, the minority are more likely to advocate their view, whether it's in forms of writing letters to Congress or donating money to further loosen gun restrictions. The majority needs to come together and take action, so the lives lost in Las Vegas, Sandy Hook, and Orlando shall not go in vain. You can show your support by going to EveryTown for Gun Safety's website to find an event near you, or go to Brady Campaign to sign

an online petition to let Congress do the right thing on gun control restrictions.

After the Las Vegas attack, Caleb Keeter, one of the musicians that was playing at the concert, was reported saying, "I have been a proponent of the 2nd amendment my entire life. Until the events of last night. I cannot express how wrong I was." However, one republican named Steve Scalise, says that the Las Vegas shooting has only strengthened his support for the second amendment. "The gunman actually cleared background checks" says Scalise, "To promote some kind of gun control, I think, is the wrong way to approach this. And frankly, what I experienced was when there was a shooter, luckily we had Capitol Police there with their own guns."

On that Sunday night of October, America lost a special education teacher, a first-responder, a kindergarten teacher, a veteran, mothers, fathers, daughters and sons. John Phippen, age 56, died when shielding a stranger. He was attending the concert with his son. He used his body to shield a girl when he was shot in the back. His son ran to his father's assistance, with his father's blood all over him, and experienced his father dying in his arms shortly after. He was also shot in the arm after. "[He] gave his life for someone he didn't even know," his son said, later in a report, holding back tears, "He wanted every-



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Basketball is Back! Super-teams on the Rise

MICHAEL PARDAL
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The NBA season is finally back again after more than four months! As a fan, I am pretty excited to see how this season shapes up especially how the star power in the Western Conference will affect the playoffs. We all know teams like the Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers will most likely remain the top teams in their respective conferences but other teams like the Houston Rockets, Boston Celtics, and Oklahoma City Thunder have begun to follow their “super team” strategy with adding multiple superstars to one team in order to actually compete against the best. Unfortunately, other teams that are having trouble catching up will have a really hard time this season. This is the reason why many basketball fans, with their favorite teams being the ones that are behind, hate the idea of “super teams” controlling the league and the NBA themselves for allowing such an idea to prosper. Many fans are now waiting for those teams to finally disband. On the bright side, fans can look forward to the development of the young players on their teams and hope that they can take charge for years to come, possibly overthrowing the best teams in the league eventually. We will be seeing plenty of competition in the West because that is where the big money is. There is now an uneven ratio of superstars between the two conferences with the West containing more of them than the East, which will certainly play a factor come



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playoff time. Once again the West will most likely dominate the East in terms of competition within the conference and possibly interconference play. If your team is slow catching up, all I can recom-

mend is being patient and hope that your team can show potential for the future and just maybe land important free agents or draft great talent in the offseason.

End of an Era: Who Will be the Next Yankees' Skipper?

MICHAEL PARDAL
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Coming off an excellent season for a team that accelerated their progress by at least a year, the Yankees have proven they are a team that cannot be slept on in the future. The New York Yankees, lead by a young core consisting of Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez, Didi Gregorius, and Luis Severino, were able to make it to Game 7 of the American League Championship Series even though they did lose to the eventual World Series champions, the Houston Astros. Many people did not expect them to make it so far into the postseason with the team that they had.

Yankees' Manager at the time, Joe Girardi, was in his final year of his contract and that crushing defeat in Game 7 of the ALCS would be his final game as the team's manager after ten seasons. General Manager of the Yankees, Brian Cashman, and the rest of the front office felt that Girardi was not the right person to lead a young team to the top. This led to mixed reactions from fans.

Cashman is looking for a manager that will embrace the analytical aspect of baseball as well as being able to nurture a young team. The MLB has transitioned to an analytical perspective of managing games. The front office has considered a couple of candidates that fit Cashman's view for the team. The candidates are Yankees' bench coach, Rob Thomson; Hensley Meulens; former Yankee, Aaron Boone; two-time manager, Eric Wedge; and former player, Chris Woodward. Cashman is known to be unpredictable so he possibly has other candidates in

mind that we do not know about. The fan-favorite would be Boone because many Yankees fans still hold a special place for him in their hearts because in Game 7 of the 2003 ALCS against the Boston Redsox, he hit a walk-off homerun in the 11th inning that stamped the ticket to the World Series. The

safest choice for Cashman would be Thomson because of his twenty-eight-year experience working for the organization. Whoever he picks, it would be a great opportunity for that person since the team is young and is improving every season.



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The World Series Dominated by the Astros

OMAR DWIDAR
STAFF WRITER

The postseason kicked off with the MLB Wild Card round where the Yankees qualified to the American League Championship Series (ALCS) after beating the Twins (8-4), and the Diamondbacks victorious win against the Rockies (11-8) booked their position in the National League Championship Series (NLCS). Now we shift to the division series where both the ALCS and NLCS playoff ends up with two teams competing for the World Series trophy.

ALCS 17:

Early October the Astros played four games with the Red Sox. The Astros started strong in the first two games scoring not less than eight points and twelve homers (8-2) in Games 1 and 2. Game 4 was the breaking point (5-4) that put the Astros in the lead 3-1 with three wins out of four games. The final round of the series the Astros met with the Yankees. They played seven intense games (4-3). After being tied in games the Yankees lost in Game 7 (4-0), and lost their chance on being in the World Series because the coach mislead on the last game from ensuring Masahiro Tanaka on the team that could have prevented this from happening.

Top Two Competitors in the ALCS 17 Championship:

The Red Sox applied thirty-eight hits and twenty-eight homers in Game 3 that resulted in a 10-3 total score. They had a glimpse of potential on entering the World Series with the Dodgers, but it didn't stay long as their pace declined across the last game.

In Game 5 the Yankees prevented a tie with the Indians from advancing with the Astros.

NLCS 17:

The Diamondbacks were an easy target for the Dodgers to beat in just three games. The former World Series winner (Cubs) were challenged by the Nationals over five games, but the Cubs, up to the challenge, beat them at last. The Cubs met with the NLCS most awarded team, the Dodgers, and played a total of five games, but Game 5 was the most interesting game of them all. In Game 5 they weren't taking it easy on the Cubs as they slammed them with eleven home runs and one of them was a grand slam by Hernandez. They advanced to the World Series with the Astros.

World Series:

Timeline of MLB World Series Winners in the Last Five Years:

Over the pan of history the Yankees were the most rewarded team holding the title for twenty-seven times.

Boston Red Sox 2013
San Francisco Giants 2014
Kansas City Royals 2015
Chicago Cubs 2016
Houston Astros 2017

The formerly named Brooklyn Dodgers re-named the team to LA Dodgers after leaving Brooklyn, New York, in 1957. The story behind the Dodgers' name was given after the 1941 tragic incident in Brooklyn, NY, where Brooklyn pedestrians dodged streetcars in the city. And their last title was in the year 1988.

In the early days of the team between 1962 and 1964, they were named the Houston Colt 45s and in 1965 they became the Houston Astros. And there first ever World Series appearance was in 2005; they came back in 2017 for the win.

Games and Players Analysis:

Kershaw and Verlander were emphasizing all their strength into back to back play in all seven games. They sculptured some fastballs, curveballs, and slider-throws that ranged between 102 MPH top for Verlander and 98 MPH for Kershaw. The Astros entered history winning their first World Series in the history of the franchise. After playing Game 1 in Los Angeles, CA, at the Dodgers Stadium and losing 3-1, they played an intense and aggressive Game 2 (7-6) that lasted three hours and sixty minutes. What a come back after their loss the night before! Skipping to Game 4 where the Astros had eighteen strikeouts and blasted their first homer in the sixth inning, then in the seventh the Dodgers scored a tie. LA didn't give up in the ninth inning (6-2) and tied the games 2-2. Game 5 was the longest game of the championship: both teams played ten innings for five hours and seventeen minutes. Fun fact: both Dave Roberts (LA Coach) and A.J. Hinch (Houston Coach) almost ran out of pitchers and hitters in this last inning. Sadly, the Dodgers lost the game by just one point, 12-13. The longest game in the history of World Series was a 2005 Game 3 between the Astros and White Sox where they added five extra innings, a total of fourteen innings that

operated for five hours and forty-one minutes.

The majority of sports reporters said that Game 6 (series tied 3-3) was a Dodgers' strategy to force a Game 7, which was Verlander's first game loss (3-1) while being on board on any past World Series. Game 7 was the breaking point for both the Dodgers and the Astros whether it bends or breaks one of the teams and awards another. Here it comes, the moment that all of you have been waiting for: the winner of the 2017 World Series is the Houston Astros (5-1)! This victory is a big transformation for the Astros as becoming a major baseball team among the Yankees, Dodgers, Cubs, and others.

MVP of the Season:

- Chris Taylor and Justin Turner rewarded as NLCS MVP
- Justin Verlander rewarded as ALCS MVP
- George Springer rewarded as Willie Mays World Series MVP



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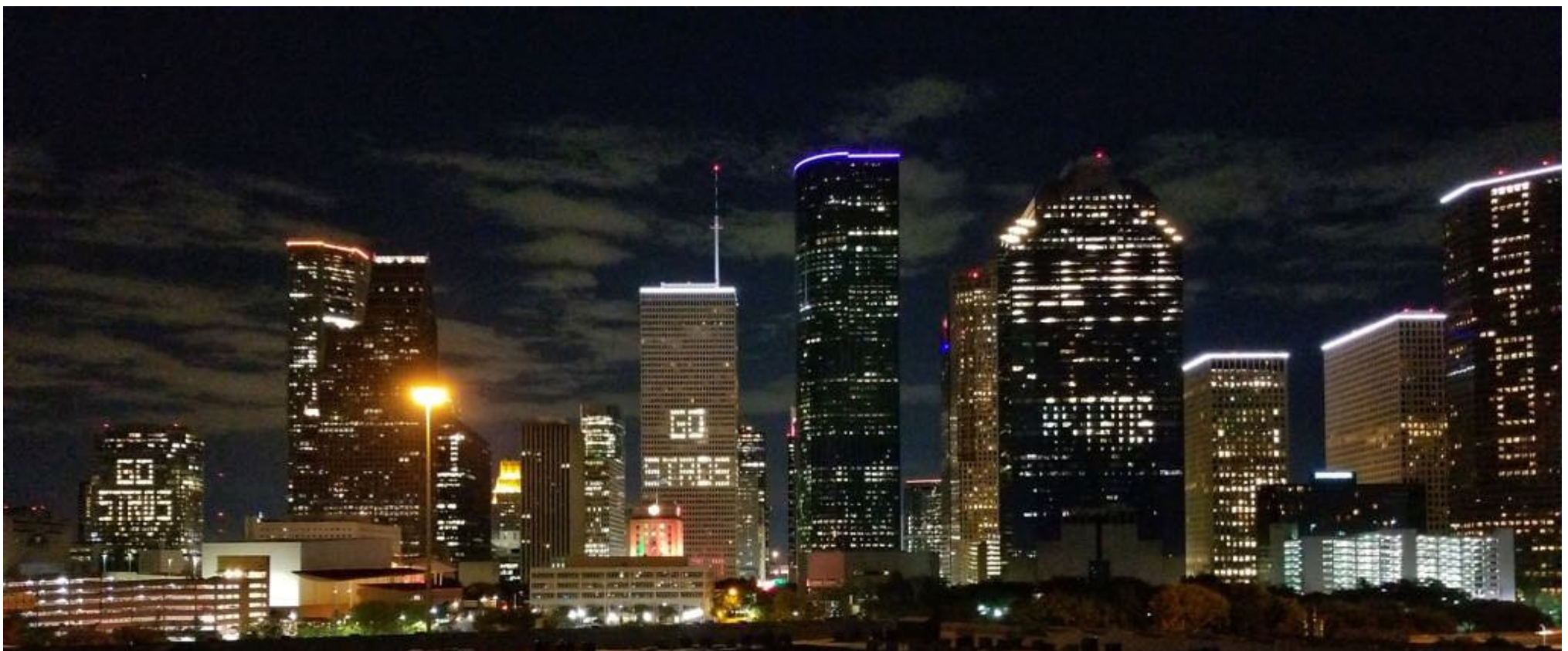


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