

#### **By** Mary Durocher **Guest Writer**

You've never seen the Great Hall this pimped out. On a windy and cold January afternoon, there was not one but three Women's March related events in NYC. The first, hosted by the Women's March Alliance, began at Columbus Circle and made its way to Sixth Ave and 44th Street. Women's March Alliance was the grass-roots organization that brought together the first NYC Woman's March in 2017. Their mission is to empower women through politics, art, global and local networks, and equal pay. It was one of many independent groups that formed sister marches outside of Washington D.C. in 2017 and 2018.

March in Washington D.C. in January of 2017, following the presidential election. The first Woman's March in Washington was groundbreaking-according to the New York Times, crowd scientists estimated there were around 47,000 marchers. The mission of Women's March Inc. is, " to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change". The third event, which took place in Grand Central Terminal, was Rise and Resist's Non-March for Disabled Women. Rise and Resist is group focused on protesting government acts that threaten civil rights and democracy. In a statement Rise and Resist said they were proud to host the event and give disabled women an opportunity to participate in the Women's March and advocate for disability justice. Recently, Women's March Inc. has faced backlash surrounding their leaders. Co-President, Tamika Mallory,

was criticized for posting on Instagram to combine events, but due to disagreeing and attending one of Louis Farrakhan's speeches. Louis Farrakhan, minister of the Nation of Islam, has been known to make anti-Semitic and LGBTQIA remarks. didn't take away the importance of the Linda Sarsour, Bob Bland, and Carmen movement for all participants. Fahima Perez were also criticized for similar idealism. Women's March Inc. issued a statement saying, "Minister Farrakhan's statements about Jewish, queer, and trans people are not aligned with the Women's March Unity principles. The World Women's March seeks to build is one free from anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, racism, and all forms of social violence."

Photo Couresy of the Cause Bar

leaders, Women's March Inc. held their rally separately.

Despite a split among groups, this Degia, a sophomore at Marymount and writer for the Monitor, attended both alternative marches, said that for her, "It was a pivotal moment in history and intersectional feminism. White feminism has for too long ignored the issues of women of marginalized groups. I think to truly take a stance is to fight all year long, call up your local representatives, and visit your city council. It is to also realize that having an alternative march doesn't mean you're dividing up the feminist movement, it means recognizing marginalized women in all spheres".

The second event was the Woman's Unity Rally, organized by NYC's chapter of Women's March Inc. in Foley's Squareon the other side of Manhattan. Women's March Inc.organized the historic Woman's

Amidst this controversy, there was confusion when the NYC's chapter of Women's March Inc. announced an unrelated event from the Women's Alliance March. Yet, Women's March Alliance was the only group that had a permit to march on January 19th. The organizations tried

# LETTER from the EDITOR

#### Dear Readers,

Welcome back to the new semester and I wish you luck on your academic and professional endeavors this spring. This issue includes a look into the lives of New York City rats, the new Andy Warhol exhibit, and the reason Valentine's day may be a little overhyped. Another one of my favorite pieces of this issue is our wonderful centerspread written by Billie Sangha, staff editor, and designed by our layout editor Kayla Pacenka. It wonderfully depicts how the government shutdown has and will continue to affect us as the American public, both directly and indirectly. Next time you're walking through the security at LaGuardia, remember that those individuals in the TSA rely on our government for their paychecks. There are obviously a lot of other examples of how we literally and metaphorically walk right past the issues of this nation and the people that are impacted by our administration's horrid and selfish decisions; however, we must be constantly aware of our privilege to feel unaffected, and how that worsens the problem more. Read more about these happenings on pages six and seven of the issue.

On a much lighter note, I'd like to remind you all that we will be hosting a Writer's Workshop on the 25th of February. More information can be found within the ad posted on the back page, if you need anymore insight please feel free to contact me at marnold@mmm.edu.

Speaking on contacting me, it has come to my attention through a few different public forums for Marymount students that a few (or a lot of) students have issues regarding administration, our cafe, scheduling, etc. I'd like to remind you all that, although we require more than just a few sentences, we are also a public forum that strongly encourages you to submit your stories and opinions in a professional, respectful manner. The Monitor is a platform for you, the students of Marymount, and all of your positive or negative thoughts on our school. No actions or change will be made by your silence or animosity.

I hope you enjoy this issue and this semester. I wish you luck on your journey and I believe that you have the opportunities, strength, and ability to make your dreams and aspirations become reality.

With love,

Megon Arnold Editor-in-Chief

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makes it novel.

#### What inspired your play?

A theme I played with while writing was 'fear.' I wanted to write a story that both targeted a specific fear and also elicited fear from the audience. Premature burial is a common theme in a lot of Edgar Allen Poe stories. While doing more research on those pieces, I discovered the concept of safety coffins. I wanted to write a play that incorporate both of these ideas, so it was clear the setting had to be a cemetery. The characters and plot came after.

How did you become a writer?

writing process?



## Profiles MMC's The Monitor PLAYWRIGHTS THE COLLEEN BOWES AND JAKE BANASIEWICZ OPEN UP ABOUT THEIR NEW PLAYS

#### By Fahima Degia Staff Editor

Marymount Manhattan College is well known for the Theatre Arts program. The students part of the theatre department are involved in all the stages of production. This includes, design and technical production, directing, producing and management, writing for the stage, theatre history, theatre performance and musical theatre. Marymount's playwrights, Colleen Bowes and Jake Banasiewicz discuss the writing process and the uniqueness of both there plays. Colleen Bowes's play Dead Ringer takes place in a cemetery with grave robbers, and it has an intriguing plot twist. Jake Banasiewicz's play Blinking has no setting and that is what

Both plays will be performed February 16 and 17 in the Bordeau Box Theatre and the times are to be addressed. Colleen Bowes answers questions about her play:

#### Are the characters and events in your play inspired by events in your life?

The only thing inspired by events in my life is the background of Hazel's character. I wrote a monologue in which Hazel recites the complex story of her grandmother immigrating to America from Ireland. It's based on a real story of my greatgrandmother immigrating from Sicily that I've always loved.

I've always enjoyed writing. I've been writing from a very young age, whether it was silly plays I would perform with my sister or lyrics for my aspirations of being the next Hayley Williams.

## What are some challenges you face during the play

I don't know anyone who doesn't get writer's block. I'm heavily influenced by music, so for each different piece I'm working on, I create a playlist to give me inspiration while I write. I also create a Pinterest board with an aesthetic for each piece I write. Whenever I get stuck, I pull from the specific playlist and Pinterest board for that story to keep my creative energy motivated.

FEMALE PLAYWRIGHTS! Sarah Kane, Caryl Churchill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Anne Washburn, and Paula Vogel, to name a few.

#### Do you have any advice for future Marymount playwrights?

Write what you would want to watch. Write what you love. Write for yourself.

#### Are your plays being performed?

The performances are the 16th and 17th of February in the Bordeau Box Theatre.

#### I love the eerie setting of Dead Ringer, what made you choose it?

The setting for the piece came first. I typically begin with character and plot, so I wanted to challenge myself for this project by starting with a setting and building the other details after. The setting of a cemetery came to mind concurrently with the concepts of premature burial and safety coffins.

#### Is there a reason the characters work in a gravevard?

The character's don't actually 'work in a graveyard.' They're grave robbers, so they dig up caskets and steal expensive possessions to sell. They travel to a bunch of different graveyards

#### What motivated the plot twist?

The plot twist was inspired by the idea of the consequences of an unsettled grave. I originally thought to play with elements of the supernatural (like a ghost of one of the dead bodies, or a zombielike being), but I thought it would be more powerful for the punishment to be dealt by a human. I was striving to still have very human connections even in such an uncommon setting/scenario.

#### How would you describe Solomon and Livvy as characters?

Solomon and Livvy are both people who would do anything to get by. Both have nothing to lose. They work the job they do, not only because it makes them a lot of money, but also because it's a rush. They're doing something incredibly illegal. It's a very unconventional way to make a living, because they're unconventional people. They're not '9 to 5,' sit behind a desk all day kind of people. They had a very intense romantic relationship in the past, but it was left without a lot of closure. We're watching them dig up their past while they dig up a dead body. They don't necessarily still have feelings for one another, but there's a lot of unresolved love between them.

Jake Banasiewicz answers questions about his play:

#### What inspired your play?

My play was inspired by some exercises we did in playwriting by Mac Wellman. Mac Wellman plays with What are some playwrights that inspire you? form a lot by making his students write plays that "float" or "run" or stuff like that. So I wrote a play that blinks

#### Are the characters and events in your play inspired by events in your life?

Some yes, some no. Some I came up with, others are from notes on my phone.

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#### How did you become a writer?

Let's just say that sophomore year was rough.

#### What are some challenges you face during the play writing process?

I struggle a lot with revisiting old works. When I write, I have to write the full play right then and there. If I write half and then try to finish it later on, I can never find my way through the piece.

#### Has the Marymount community both helped or inspired you in your writing process in any way? Frankly, Marymount seems to like theatre in a very specific way that I don't necessarily enjoy. But because of that, I've been inspired to go out and find the theatre that I do enjoy. I have found so many marvelous things that I would have never been exposed to at Marymount.

What are some playwrights that inspire you? Sarah Kane is a huge inspiration for me. Also Andrew Schneider

#### What are the prevalent themes in your play?

I would say prevalent themes are life, heart, and absurdity

#### Do you have any advice for future Marymount playwrights?

Create what you want, not what they want.

#### Are your plays being performed and how do you want to see it come to life?

February 16th and 17th in the black box. Times to be determined

#### I noticed your play doesn't have a normal transcript, what inspired that?

The idea of tradition bores me, so I tried something new!

#### What inspired you to not have a setting?

In playwriting, we constantly learn about the three unities (time, place and action). This play was an attempt to abandon all three.

#### How would you describe and summarize your play? I honestly don't think I can.

#### I notice religion is a common theme in your play, why is that?

It's funny that you say that, because I didn't consider it to be until you mentioned it. I'm not sure where that came from



#### Profiles

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ALEX DIMITRIV

**By** Halle Roberts Guest Writer

You may know Alex Dimitrov as one of the names behind the • Twitter account, Astro Poets (@poetastrologers). What you may not know is that he is also an adjunct Creative Writing professor here at Marymount! With MMC's

first class of Creative Writing Majors graduating this Spring, we thought it would be a good time to

> consult Dimitrov on what it's like to be a working writer and what advice he has for our future grads.

What made you choose teaching as one of your many lines of work in the writing field? I love to teach and the students at Marymount are fantastic. I

wish I taught full time here. Marymount students are willing

risks and they aren't afraid of being provocative on the page. Something I strive to do is to encourage them in pushing boundaries, and helping them use writing as a tool with which to discover strange and powerful aspects of themselves.

What about Astro Poets? You and Dorothea Lasky's poetrybased, astrology themed Twitter account has 430k followers, but has only been around since 2016. Regardless of the platform, building a following as a poet is notoriously difficult. How did you come up with the concept for Astro Poets and how did you grow its following to be so large, so quickly? Dorothea Lasky and I have been friends for a long time. And we've always been obsessed with astrology (and obviously with poetry). We met at an after party at a poetry reading at this Brooklyn wine store (so maybe the reading itself was an after party, and we met at the after after party). I don't think I talked to anyone else after I met her. We were totally

consumed with each other and couldn't stop laughing. Imagine our twitter, but IRL. And actually you don't have to imagine it because soon we'll have an Astro Poets podcast (please listen!). So to answer your question, Astro Poets organically grew out of our friendship. It's how

I think we should have a TV show. I hope one day we do. In conjunction with the Twitter, you also write a monthly advice column for W magazine. Oftentimes, people write in about experiences that you've already acknowledged in your books. In fact, certain lines from your poems, "If you left your life, what life would you leave for? Tell me"

we talked and gossipped and understood the world already.

they can't keep and keeps them" (from "Together and By Ourselves") or, especially, "Take a vitamin, angel. Drink water" (from "Cocaine") already read like lines out of an advice column. So has giving out advice on purpose been difficult, or has it felt like a natural progression of your work? Thank you for reading my poems, by the way, and for quoting these lines. They're different for sure! When I'm writing a poem I'm not thinking of an audience. At least not in the first drafts. I'm thinking of how to translate the emotional impulse onto the page in a way that remains surprising to me. I'm trying to create an experience, rather than to recreate one. And when I'm giving advice to someone about how to get their Capricorn lover to chill out, or how to get a Pisces (just let them cry all the time and pretend to listen when they're "processing," which is always), I'm really thinking deeply about their situation and their chart and their lover's chart and really, it has little to do with me. It's all about them. Teaching is that way too, it's about being selfless.

To recap: you're a professor, advice columnist, and published poet, both on & offline. You've also been an editor and run a poetry salon. None of those sound like entry-level positions. What was your first writing job post-graduation 🔎 and would you recommend that kind of job to creative writers graduating now? If not, what would you recommend? To be a poet means to be okay with doing all sorts of jobs. Being a poet isn't really a job itself either, it's a vocation (though I wish it was a vacation). Which is to say, you have to be flexible. I remember my first internship was in editorial at Interview magazine. I was obsessed with Andy Warhol growing up and that was his magazine originally. Interning there introduced me to all sorts of worlds-film, fashion, literature, New York at large. One time, at a launch party for one of the issues, I rode the elevator with David Bowie. I was all of 21, maybe 22. It was just me and him for maybe 10 floors. And like a total fanboy I just blurted out "I'm obsessed with you." To David Bowie! In an elevator! I was so embarrassed. And he asked me what I did at the magazine, and I remember saying, oh no, I'm a poet. It's what I always thought of myself as, no matter what I was doing. Being a poet is not something you choose really. It chooses you.



(from "You Were Blonde Once") or "People are mostly what

By Catherine Pool Staff Writer

MMC Senior, Emily Karandy, is an English World Literature Major with a double minor in Political Science and Creative Writing. Karandy is active student leader on campus as Co-President Social Sciences Assembly, the Senator for Senior • Issues in Student Government Association, a Senior • Marshall, and a member of the English Honors • Society. In her time at Marymount she has seen many accomplishments: interning with Kirsten Gillibrand, working with Fortune Society the non-profit alternative incarceration, and being a TA for Michael Colvin in the fall 2018 course 'World Literature in Context'. In the Fall of 2018, Emily participated in her senior • capstone class for the EWL major. It was the desire to expand a paper written in a research and theory course on the subversion of humor in Trevor Noah's Born a Crime that led to her thesis paper "Writing While Black: Exploring the Hierarchy of Language in Trevor Noah's Born a Crime and Toni Morrison's Beloved". Emily explores the idea of how language is racialized in a text and that text depicting the hierarchy of language in two nonfiction postcolonial texts. She recognizes the mother tongue or native language and the use of English within text, specifically within Trevor Noah's and Toni Morrison's books. Trevor Noah writes in several languages in his memoir: Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, and English. Toni Morrison writes with African American vernacular, English plus creole, and in English. Both books successfully depict language equating to power. Emily's research surprised her when she began analyzing

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historical debates on the use of language. She found that book, which permitted her more freedom in her thesis. the discussion was on writing in the mother tongue versus writing in English with little to no middle ground, but both books she analyzed were able to write in English and their own language. Trevor Noah does both in using multiple languages and the parts not in English are equally as important because they are a representation of his identity and depict his struggle with being mixed Emily took the race during Apartheid in South Africa, being neither black nor white. Toni Morrison does both by writing in English and utilizing the slang as the mother tongue giving African Americans their own language when

hage Courtesy of facebook did have one to return to. This shows how both authors successfully broke away from the idea that you have to read, write, and speak English to be successful. By using their native language, they remained connected to their

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identity and kept the languages alive in the literature. Emily went to South Africa over spring break 2017, with an MMC travel course, and being able to see how some of the aspects of Apartheid still existed in the country drove her to explore language and identity first within Trevor Noah's memoir. She was excited to analyze Noah's memoir because there was a limited amount of peer reviewed sources due to the recent release of the

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On her chosen topic, she stated, "Combining the politics of language with literature was a rewarding experience because I was able to use my love of politics and social change to inform the reader about the history

of language and the importance cultural identity of

LSATS than a month less ago and hopes to attend Columbia University Law School. More than wanting to be a lawyer in the United States, Emily wants to advocate for those disenfranchised by the system by pursuing work in the criminal justice system and educating herself on human rights law.



Volume 21, Issue 07

# THE LUNAR NE



## MARYMOUNT CELEBRATES THE INFAMOUS CHINESE HOLIDAY

#### By Billie Sangha Staff Editor

You walk into the Regina Peruggi, and the room is heavily decorated with red and gold everything. Three tables of bowls and plates full of food, candy, and refreshments along with goodie bags, streamers and a banner adorn the room and fill the space with an aroma that excites you along with those signing in and glancing around in awe. What was happening on February 5th that gathered 50 people into the Regina Peruggi? The day marked the Lunar New Year, a Chinese festival that celebrates the transition to a new year and the coming of spring. The Chinese zodiac calender also incorporates different animals each year on a twelve year cycle, which some people associate a spiritual connection to. The animal and description of what it symbolizes can be used to inform events, personality traits, and paths that an individual may take according to that sign. 2019 is the year of the boar, or pig. So people born in 2007, 1995, and moving backwards in twelve year increments would identify as a boar and claim this year as their own, according to the Chinese zodiac. An easy way to determine when you will get to do celebrate your animal is to research your animal based on

the year that you turn 12, 24, 36 years old and so on.

by Karyl Balatbat, the current sitting president of Marymount's Asian Student Association, and Fanny He, the Coordinator of Student Activities & Inclusivity Asian Student Association is fortune cookies for good luck. in the midst of transitioning to being registered as the Asian Pacific Islander Desi Association (APIDA) to be more inclusive of other identities within the diaspora, and the organization is also seeking new student leadership for its executive of many Asian ethnic groups of many programs curated board to activate APIDA. The Student Development and Activities Board works closely with students and registered student organization who want to bring cultural events and cultures wareness to campus, and the a Lunar New Year kicked off the families spring semester as an example celebrate of their collaborative work.

Once everyone settled down and filled their plates and expressed wonder about what the banquet meant, Fanny He explained the cultural context ring in the new behind the many food options year. presented to the Marymount community. Spring rolls were both of Asian descent an appropriate and traditional appetizer to welcome and symbolize the coming of spring,

your birth year, or just celebrate following entrees of dumplings have evolved from a blending (for transitioning to a new of cultures and generations beginning), fried rice (for luck, The event was organized fertility, wealth, and connecting immigration stories. Different spiritually to the Heavens), and noodles (for longevity) separated by table according to including Vice President for dietary preferences and needs. Lastly, for dessert, attendees Programming. Currently, the enjoyed mandarin oranges and her Journalism in the 21st

During the banquet, several students pointed out or interacted with the culture surrounding Lunar New Year, education about the history and and sharing of traditions of how of Student Development and different

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that comes with time and members of staff and faculty were in attendance as well Student Affairs Carol Jackson, Professor Tatiana Serafin and Century class, and members of Residence Life. The event demonstrated a high need, that they had never celebrated interest, and turn out for events that cultivate celebration and which is often a major celebration practices of different students' in the lives and communities cultures. And it will be one and one of the main family by various registered student gathering days of the year. This organizations on campus with sparked many conversations the support and collaboration Activities.

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Some students, and otherwise, shared what foods they eat and what traditions why,

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Features

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## THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN WHY

# & WHAT IS NEXT BY BILLIE SANGHA

Since December 21st, a number of federal government agencies had been shut down by President Trump, in a stalemate regarding funding for the U.S. - Mexico border wall. Trump demanded more than \$5 billion to fund the border wall, while Democrats maintained their position in not agreeing to any new money for it.

















On January 25th, after the longest government shutdown in American history, the president announced that he had agreed to fund and reopen the government for three weeks, including back pay for employees who had not been on furlough or working without pay for over a month. Signing the three-week continuing resolution bill passed by Congress means a handful of things.



President Trump has called upon Republicans and Democrats to reach an agreement that will include funding for a border wall, meaning the point of contention remains until February 15th. If by then, Congress has not complied and reached an agreement, the president has implied he will declare a national emergency after mentioning he has "legal standing" to do

In regards to hundreds of thousands employees who furloughed or forced pay, Trump they will all "quickly or This is

the federal had been to work without announced that receive back pay as soon as possible". not an

immediate process, however. Signing the legislation to give back pay means that the earliest paycheck certain federal employees may receive will arrive February 8th as their first of 2019. But payroll varies by agencies, so it remains unclear when employees will receive full back pay, but they are advised to reach out to their specific agency for more details.









Features

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Many federal employees reported struggling to sustain themselves and pay their bills, rent, and other expenses while waiting for the government to reopen. And although recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, unemployment insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps, and other benefits program were still able to receive these benefits, funding would have changed and harmed even more Americans had the shutdown extended to March. In regards to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for example, Congress approved funding only through January. The budget stalemate in Washington would have impacted 38 million Americans who rely on SNAP if their benefits were to expire during the shutdown.



Airports across the country began facing severe staffing shortages as the financial strain of the shutdown began forcing TSA officers to no longer come into work if they were not getting paid. One Marymount student, who wishes to remain anonymous, commented, "He [Trump] wants to built this pointless wall that isn't even guaranteed to be effective and is throwing a political temper tantrum that is ruining the lives of the American people he is supposed to be caring about." When asked for thoughts on the funding for the border wall being held as a point of negotiation that if not agreed upon would lead to another government shutdown, the student added, "The border wall is a racist power move. It's not about national security. If this was about national security, the people who are in charge of keeping airports and public transportation safe, the TSA officers, would be getting paid right now. America is more at risk in a government shutdown, so none of this makes sense."



*Images courtesy of Politico* 

#### Pop Culture

#### Volume 21, Issue 07

## FEBRUARY HOROSCOPES HOROSCOPES BY NATHALLIE HUGHES-

These are horoscopes from February 11th through February 24th. You should read for you sun, moon, and rising sign. If you're not sure what those are, you can find out at https://horoscopes.astro-seek.com. These messages are received through the use of oracle cards as a tool of Divination, or communicating with Spirit/God/Source/The Spaghetti Monster. Take what messages resonate— you should check back at the end of the month to see if they were accurate! If you like these, you can find pre-recorded tarot readings by me on YouTube at Youtube.com/c/nathalliehughes.

#### ARIES

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Spirit is asking that you pay attention to the signs and synchronicities being shown to you in the form of repeating numbers or phrases or colors (anything with significance for you, really). There is an incredibly lucrative opportunity coming your way (some of you are already aware and are currently indecisive), and Spirit is telling you that your intuition is correct no matter what others may think; there may even be people/ concepts around who think it may be too much, but you should be listening to your inner voice on this one. Be mindful that this opportunity may take time for results to be seen in the physical. If and when you do, you are going to end the month with a new sense of empowerment and self reliance.

#### **TAURUS**

You are manifesting a soulmate relationship this month with someone who brings you immense joy and tranquility. Though this could be romantic or platonic, you are manifesting this relationship through the music you listen to and the positive energy you are welcoming into your life along with it. You should try positive morning affirmations for two weeks and see how you feel afterwards: assert that you are having a good day and that you are currently CAN attracting the love you seek and deserve, for example.

#### GEMINI

There is a message of love coming ir 18 from someone you consider to be a friend. Spirit is telling you to pay attention to the signs showing you when it will be coming- this might be an ex or a childhood/high school friend. This message may be coming in from someone you already confessed feelings to. Spirit is telling you not to lose hope this month, as the universe is working behind the scenes on your behalf and you just can't see it yet.

#### CANCER

You are being presented with an opportunity, bonus points if you have heavy aries energy, by a friend this month. This will be the resurgence of something – either a relationship or creative project that initially flopped. Spirit is telling you to remain optimistic because your pessimism creates blockages in the flow of blessings coming to you, but also because this opportunity is going to bring a surprising amount of abundance to you either materially or emotionally. Divine timing is at work here, don't

#### give up.

#### LEO

At the beginning of this month you are being asked to relax and go within - if you don't, Spirit will force you to by depleting your energy levels. You are coming up on a new dawn of self love, worth, and acceptance that cannot occur until you slow down and look inward at behavior patterns in all aspects

of your life. Spirit will then ask you to communicate what it is you believe you deserve- so answer wisely and then expect the miracles to roll in. Remember, your actions and those that you accept from others are a reflection of what you believe you deserve.

#### VIRGO

You are being called to heal your problems with authoritative or male figures in your life. When you release all grudges, you will come to the understanding that Spirit is protecting you - especially now in your time of

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#### **SCORPIO**

Leave your ex alone, Scorpio. Spirit is telling you that it is time to break free of your ex and move forward with your life. Set your standards higher so the universe can meet them by giving you a love that you truly deserve and desire. This month you should go inward and look for qualities you want in a partner in a relationship. Make sure you can provide exactly what you are looking for and then release it to God and wait for your ships to come in.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

The time has come for you to leave singledom and enter a relationship. There is someone who has come into your life and your intuition has been trying to nudge you in their direction. You wished for them and they are here, this is not an illusion, this is really the change you were looking for - now all you have to do is delete Tinder and let yourself receive this true love. You deserve it

CAPRICORN

#### CAPRICORN

You are manifesting miracles and blessings into your life through the music you listen to, brownie points if you also have Taurus energy. This could be monetary or romantic success, either way you are surrounded by magic, and this month Spirit is asking you to make a wish and perhaps take a chance because you'll be pleasantly surprised at the results

#### **AQUARIUS**

Positive change is coming in the form of a soulmate relationship this month. Before this union happens, you have to release old behaviors, thought processes, and people that no longer serve you. Spirit is guiding you, but you have been resisting the change and that is only hindering your happiness. Go within this month and asses what you need and what is starting to hold you back.

#### PISCES

You have made a wish to the universe, and it is manifesting this month. Every project or partnership you enter or execute in the month of February will turn out beautifully, but before this happens you have to heal your issues with passive or feminine energies- these can be seen in the form of mother issues or conflicts you've had with women at some point in your life. They are blocking waves of prosperity from reaching you today and your forgiveness will increase the flow of blessings to you.

Anne Cunningham, a senior at Marymount who has more than \$11. It's ideal for a patron when it comes to affordability, box theatres be closing also enrolled in and graduated from both UCB East's improv but not for lower-income students who want to take classes or the After all, the UCB Theatre was founded by comedians Amy and sketch programs and performs there often, expressed her actual cost of renting a space in the East Village Poehler, Matt Besser, Ian Roberts and Matt Walsh. Aside from the Continuing with thoughts on why UCB might be struggling, sentiments and thoughts regarding the theatre shutting down. two New York theatres that were opened to address the lack of "I've met some of the most incredible people, and I think it's an she says, "I also believe that, because of the white, cis, straight, "Chicago-style" improv and comedy, UCB also has two sites in UCB dudes, a lot of fantastic comedians feel muted when they go amazing community. UCB started out as a platform for anybody Los Angeles, making it the only bi-coastal sketch, improv, and to these shows. There are so many incredible comedians of color, to do comedy in a fun, underground way. But the classes are, like, comedy theatre in the country. Casting directors, agents, festival mad expensive. And, from personal experience, dominated by a gueer comedians, trans comedians, etc. whose voices were never producers, and journalists from all over come to the theatre to lot of white, straight, cis, semi-rich (because their parents have heard in these shows. The fact that I've performed in countless seek out talent. And the comics and actors who graduated from queer-centric shows performed in bars, basements, rooftops, money) dudes. I've been in classes where there is only person of training programs, pioneered sketch shows, and performed at its color, like 1/8 women, and I've for sure been the only gay person living rooms, and anywhere peope can laugh really shows how open mics have gone on to Comedy Central, Saturday Night Live, in the room." According to its website, UCB's classes, depending the comedy scene is changing. In a good way." and other platforms from which UCB was a springboard. With on level, run upwards from \$450 for 8 sessions that are 3 hours If you're curious and would like to submit a review of your its reputation, over a decade of buzz, and hundreds of patrons each and max out at around 16 students per class. Majority of take on UCB and its atmosphere or demographics, attend a show and students attending and signing up for a variety of programs the teachers reflect the demographic of being mostly white and at UCB Hell's Kitchen and email us at monitor@mmm.edu about in improvisational comedy and theater every week, one would straight as well. your experience! assume the Upright Citizens Brigade was doing fine. Anne added, "People who want to do comedy are giving the magic of it! But as one of the hosts jokingly (but not jokingly) announced



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explore all o the options being presented to you - this is to say don't put all of your eggs in one basket. Explore your options and then go after what you choose with gusto and optimism, and expect miracles and amazing results because you are much more powerful than you realize— your for giveness is actively bringing your power back to you!

VEBRI

#### LIBRA

Spirit is trying to communicate with you through signs and synchronicities in order to help move you out of indecision this month. You are being called to finally make a choice. The key here is to listen to your intuition instead of your "logical" understanding of events as there are many many aspects of this situation you are not aware of. This is nothing to fear, Spirit has your back, and you are being divinely guided – so go for your greatest desires!

#### Page 9 Volume 21, Issue 07 Entertainment UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGRADE THE INFAMOUS COMEDY CLUB CLOSING THIS YEAR

#### By Billie Sangha Staff Editor

On the corner of Avenue A and East 3rd Street, you will find the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, one of two in New York City. But not for long. USB East will be shutting down and all comedy and improv shows and classes will move to the Hell's Kitchen site. How could one of the most legendary and revolutionary black

at the beginning of one of the last late night improv shows offered at the East Village theatre, "This is what happens when you do donation-based shows! This was a bad business model!" The theatre does offer a handful of weekly open mic, sketch, and improv shows for free, and a bucket is passed around through the audience, encouraging anyone who feels compelled to donate what they can. That particular night, the bucket was seen being passed over to the next person more than it was heard receiving the clink of people's spare change if that is any indication of the issue the host was referencing

themselves a platform now. Instead of following a specific quota for comedy, people are branching out in Brooklyn and hosting

their own shows and booking the people they want. Again, UCB is a fun and fantastic place, but people are expanding on their own. I've been to more living room and rooftop shows in the past year than shows at either UCB theatre, and I don't think I'm the only one.

Cunningham brings up valid points, echoing the critique of an unsustainable business model that requires funding to come from classes more than shows, which when ticketed, rarely cost

### WARHOLA TO WARHOL ANDY WARHOL'S ARTISTIC TRANSFORMATION

#### By Cross Nelson Staff Writer

Modern art of the twentieth century uncovered a new path for the course of art history to venture down, by challenging the conventional norms of art and diminishing the barriers of creativity that people had never dared to cross. One of the most daring artists of this era was someone whose artistic eye saw art in a way that no one had ever looked at it before, and with such an abstract view, he was able to create a style entirely of his own. Known famously as the creator of the the modern art movement, Pop Art, Andy Warhol boldly revolutionized the timeline of art history by setting a new standard for the creation of art in the modern world. This year, the Whitney Museum of American Art is paying homage to this master of modernity in their latest exhibition Andy Warhol--From A to B and Back Again. This exhibition is special for many reasons to both the artist and the art community, because it is the first time since 1989 that there has been a retrospective show of Warhol's work at a U.S. institution, and the Whitney masterfully guides visitors through a comprehensive timeline of the exciting life and career of the artist, in the city that gave birth to the Warhol that the world has grown to admire. New York City became Warhol's artistic domain, a place where the bounds of creativity only reached as far as the imagination will allow. It was there in the city that he discovered the true artist within himself, and the rapidly changing art scene became an invitation for him to let his creativity take his art to new heights. However, before Warhol became the vibrant, cosmopolitan figure that people now recognize so well, he was a person of humble roots. Born in 1928 to Czechoslovak immigrant parents of the last name Warhola, Warhol was raised in a working class, Byzantine Catholic home, which was greatly juxtaposed to the eccentric life he would later create for himself in Manhattan. He had always been artistic in his youth, and after high school, he attended Carnegie Mellon University to study commercial art. After graduating in 1949, Warhol moved to New York and his degree

in commercial art allowed him to work as a commercial illustrator for Glamour magazine. One of the first things that Warhol did when he moved to New York was drop the "a" at the end of his last name, leaving the past Andy Warhola in Pittsburgh, and emerging as the reborn Andy Warhol in Manhattan. This small change may seem insignificant, but this is the pivotal moment when Warhol let go of his artistic confines and became the artist he went down in history as. His work as a commercial illustrator in the fifties acted as a catalyst to his individual artistic career, because it was through commercial illustration that he discovered the power of images to be reproduced, and publicized. With this idea in mind, Warhol began using the method of silk screen printing to easily reproduce several versions of the same image that soon became his hallmark style of painting. This iconic style is what the world came to know as Pop Art, or Popism, and it was centered around the notion of taking genre consumer items from popular culture and reproducing them on the canvas so that they became bold works of art that intrigued the viewer and inspired the ironic idea that everyday objects could be viewed as art. Works such as Campbell's Soup Cans, or the portraits of celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, and Elvis, are all staple works from Warhol's Pop Art era that have he e recognizable worldwide b of their notoriety. It is because of the popularity of Warhol's work that Pop Art became one of the primary art movements of the late twentieth century and it undeniably defined Warhol's career as a modern American artist. Whether it was his intention to change the art world, or simply his own desire to showcase his unique sense of creativity, the world was Andy Warhol's canvas and he painted what he wanted to see. Andy Warhol--From A to B and Back Again will not only take you through Warhol's world, but also through the art world that quickly changed around him as people looked to him for inspiration. Immerse yourself in his story at the Whitney from now until March 31st.

Images couresty of Cross Nelson



#### **Student Opinions**

## **OUR FAVORITE COMMUTERS**



#### THE RATS OF NEW YORK CITY -

Another

amazing

evolutionary

phenomenon

happening

on the streets

involves the

growing

distinguishablity

in downtown

and uptown

rats.

#### **By** Kennedy Blankenship **Guest Writer**

Rattus norvegicus found scavaging for food in the subway rails, often are met with scornful eyes by their human counterparts. Though, this species is considered to be vermin they are an extraordinary model for the intelligence found in animals. Rats are highly adaptable to their environment, great problem-solvers, and social beings. Not to mention the evolutionary adaptations of their incisors, mobility, and heightened senses making it possible for them to live virtually anywhere there is food. Rats have evolved along with humans for centuries. The specific breed found in the city subway stations originated in Western Europe and followed where human expansion took them. They eat all of our discards and can smell out any potential dangers lurking in the food. Observing them provides insight into their intelligent nature. Subway rats can be seen completing incredible feats of survival in the tunnels; such as communication, scavenging, and

food. In a study conducted on rat sociability, researchers gave rats an option to get a chocolate bar or save a fellow rat from a trap. The rats decided to save their fellow mates, highlighting the possibility for empathy. A quality generally only attributed to humans.

often We regard rats as ridden bacteria disease and And carrying. that is true. Rats would need a times million bacteria more their blood in than humans to kill them. This is evolutionary an adaptation to the foods they eat, rotten and trash.

grooming habits. Generally, if origin. something gets matted in their fur they immediately clean it out. They also practice allogrooming, or group grooming, where they all help out grooming each other.

Another amazing evolutionary phenomenon happening on the

> involves streets the distinguishablity downtown and uptown rats. Matthew Combs a graduate student at Fordham University has done York and between and

Isn't incredible to think that the rats. Such distinctions were found become for the underestimated basic subway rat you see scurrying that the research team could even and truly magnificent creatures around has an immensely stronger determine which neighborhood that are: rats. immune system than you? Yes. the rats were from. Rats only move Though this also carries the about a couple blocks making this connotation that rats are dirty. They genetic differentiation possible. may live in dirty places, but they Though all NYC rats remain

even aggression over mates or are notorious for their fastidious showing their western European

All this to be said, it is safe to assume there is definitely more to the vermin of the subway stations than what meets the eye. Rats are arguably one of the highest ranking of intelligent animals. Though they cause many nuisances in the day to day life of the average New growing York tenant, they strive to survive just like the rest of us. Without many predatory threats on their existence, they will remain to thrive in the tunnel atmosphere. Food, shelter, and mates... What else could a rat ask for?

The subway station is jam work sequencing packed with people travelling as the DNA of New quickly as they can. It is chaotic City rats and generally an unenjoyable concluded experience. Littered, smelly, genetic differences and hot. Hopefully, in your next uptown commute, you can peer into the downtown rails and accept the habitat it has

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#### By Catherine Pool Staff Writer

February 14th, a day that for some is marked by chocolates, flowers, and other miscellaneous often extravagant gifts, and for others, is a blatant reminder of how alone they are. Whether someone's plans for that night include an expensive meal or a hot date with a pint of Ben and Jerry's, most will be playing right into the commercialization of the holiday. The roots of the celebratory date are convoluted to say the least. Some historians argue that the origin comes from the beheading of a third century religious leader that was healing children or possibly illegally marrying young couples, in upon his gruesome death. He at some point may have signed a letter to his love, "Your Valentine". Whatever the story, Saint Valentine became famous, his body was even a sought-after artifact for a while, thought to have the ability to cure maladies and prevent natural celebration of St. Valentine's Day,

this possible history lacks the idea and

and women would allow themselves to be whipped by the pelts in order to increase their fertility. This practice found to be un-Christian in nature was outlawed by the Pope in the 5th century and replaced by St. both scenarios becoming a martyr Valentine's Day. Again, a history far less romantic than that which

honored the martyrdom with the "my very gentle Valentine". Chaucer million cards are shared annually. I 15th, when chocolate is 75% off.

Shakespeare popularized of romance the date possesses today. Valentine's Day in some of their expected to say something loving Other historians insist the origin works. Commercial growth in the is pagan in nature, evolving from United States of America in the Lupercalia, the celebration of mid 1800's is largely responsible the coming Spring. Men would for the Valentine's we know today. sacrifice animals to a Roman god, A valentine went from signifying

> In any case, here we are celebrating a holiday that either came from whipping women with animal pelts, a man's beheading, or some combination of the two...

a loved individual to representing a gift or card and by the early 1900's, Hallmark and The Hershey Company became staples for the day in the United States, recognizing the lucrative nature of "love", when packaged and sold. Despite the questionable the creation of holiday, is it

is practiced today. So where did day that holds a great deal of the romance come from? Over the expectations and at the end of it centuries, Saint Valentine's story all, are we not just playing into the

guess it makes sense, when you are and romantic, why not just buy a Hallmark card to say it for you? Valentine's Day can be great, with friends or with a partner, but when romance is involved, it should not be about how much money people can spend on one another. Romance is also about the small gestures that make you feel valued, like a handwritten note or a unique gift. Maybe we need the excuse the day provides to show someone how we feel. Maybe romance is too difficult a task, but the expectations of the day make it a little more bearable. Maybe Valentine's Day is a way to add a little luxury. In any case, here we are celebrating a holiday that either came from whipping women with animal pelts, a man's beheading, or some combination of the two and we are just padding the pockets of already very wealthy companies. Whatever your thoughts about Valentine's was romanticized; even a famous commercialization of the day? It may Day, and whatever your plans, just poem written by the Duke of not have been created by Hallmark, remember that the holiday created disasters. While the Catholic Church Orleans in 1415 included the line but the company estimates that 130 the best day of the year: February



