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# THE CHRONICLE

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STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE

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# the Chronicle



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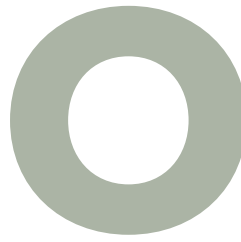
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



One of my editors asked me at the beginning of the year if I was worried that I had killed The Chronicle. I answered yes. After several discussions, we decided to make some major changes to our print issue — we've gone from printing three times a term to one single issue.

The focus of this term's issue is division, something that's on everyone's minds these days. With our political sphere resembling a circus and family and friends being split by their views, it's hard to see the silver lining. Here you'll find interpretations of division from all political sides, what it means to be in the middle and how, despite all this political dissent, we're still able to come together through everyday things like Netflix.

So, without further ado, I welcome you to the new Chronicle.

Halle Olson  
Editor-in-Chief

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## ABOUT

The North Central College Chronicle is published once a term by students of North Central College as a forum for providing news, opinion and information of interest to the campus and the greater community.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Chronicle editorial board or of North Central College.

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Photo by Noah Cordoba

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## Election of 1840

PETER MEDLIN - ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**W**ith a disastrous economic crisis falling into the rearview mirror and anger brewing on both sides of the political aisle, the stage is set for an ugly, contentious presidential election. On one side, a seasoned, astute Democrat, a former-New York US senator and secretary of state who ascended from humble beginnings.

On the other, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, born the heir of a wealthy family, although campaigning as the champion of the “common man.”

That election in 1840 was crazy, am I right? “What?!” You’re thinking. That sounds a whole lot like 2016! Feel a little eerie?

Yes, it should. It’s time to find out what a race from over 150 years ago can teach us about ourselves. And better yet, how we can use it to prepare for the future. Let’s go back and find out.

### The Little Magician

Among a variety of clever nicknames, President Martin Van Buren was often known as “The Little Magician” for his pint-sized stature as well as his uncanny ability to find himself on the right side of political controversies. But, Van Buren, the man also known as “The Red Fox of Kinderhook,” will get destroyed in this election — at least in the Electoral College. Eerie, right?

### The Panic of 1837

President Van Buren came into office in 1837 at a prosperous time for America. However, the new president’s honeymoon period would last only three months until the Panic of 1837 hit. The panic was the one of the first depressions in American history, the popping of an economic balloon created by state banks in the West and their careless expansion policies. Land speculation cratered the banks, prospectors lost their property and Van Buren swallowed the blame; although President Jackson’s closure of the National Bank a few years earlier set the nation on the path to panic. Van Buren’s popularity would never recover from the pessimism that grew from the depression, and even led to another nickname: Van Ruin.

### To Whig or not to Whig?

The Democrat’s challengers in 1840 were the Whigs. They had formed seven years earlier, pulling together portions of defunct parties like National Republicans and the Anti-Masonics to oppose then-President Andrew Jackson. They were still searching for a figurehead to run behind and were stuck between two candi-

dates: the party’s founder and principal policy worker Henry Clay or the military hero William Henry Harrison.

Clay was a more controversial figure, so, in a bid to capitalize on the folk hero celebrity of “Old Hickory” Andrew Jackson, the Whigs put all their chips behind Harrison, old “Tippecanoe.”

### Log Cabins and Hard Cider

After the panic, Americans were not happy with Martin Van Buren. In fact, they were primed and ready for a grassroots revolution; for the everyday American to reclaim their country. And the Whigs were thrilled to give it to them. Their champion of the common man: William Henry Harrison.

Oddly enough, though, Harrison was not particularly common. He was actually born an heir to a wealthy, slave-run Virginia plantation. He lived in Ohio, which was considered frontier at the time, but lived on a huge property. He may have once had a house partially made of logs, though. Maybe.

However, his Democrat opponents likened him to an old man that would rather pick up his pension and sip some hard cider in his cabin than be president. An insult that would backfire so fantastically that Harrison committed his whole campaign to it. The “Log Cabin candidate” they called him for his rough-riding frontier spirit. A man of hard cider, just like you! A regular American for regular Americans. I warned you this would be eerie, didn’t I?

### A Man of Gold Spoons

President Van Buren, on the other hand, was labeled an out-of-touch aristocrat, even though he was the one raised by a humble New York tavern keeper. A tavern keeper! Come on, it doesn’t get much more hard cider and log cabins than that.

But, the rhetoric had spoken. A Whig congressman even delivered a speech about President Van Buren’s White House renovations. Representative Charles Ogle of Pennsylvania roasted the president for his fancy dishware for two days.

He went into ruthless detail about how beautiful the gold spoons were and how very expensive the fine china was. Van Buren was living in luxury on the taxpayer dime, although much of the renovations were done by Andrew Jackson and the fine china had been accumulated by presidents for the last half century. But hey, politics, right?

It didn’t matter. The speech was massive. Thousands of copies of the speech flooded the country. The new penny press spun the

message to the masses at a pace never before seen. The Whigs adopted all sorts of everyday materials to make Harrison relatable.

There were Harrison handkerchiefs, teapots, they made cider bottles in the shape of log cabins and even made a 10-foot paper ball. Seriously. People even wrote songs about him, most famously, the spunky little diddy “Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!”

### Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!

Who is this Tyler, you should be wondering. That would be Harrison’s running-mate, John Tyler. Tyler was a former Democrat who had just abandoned his party after a spat during the recent Nullification crisis. What is that? An article for another day, probably.

Even though he was still very much a Democrat and therefore disagreed with the Whigs on almost everything. Whigs utilized Tyler as a way to feign unity — but mostly to rack up votes in the South. Politics, right?

### “Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story”

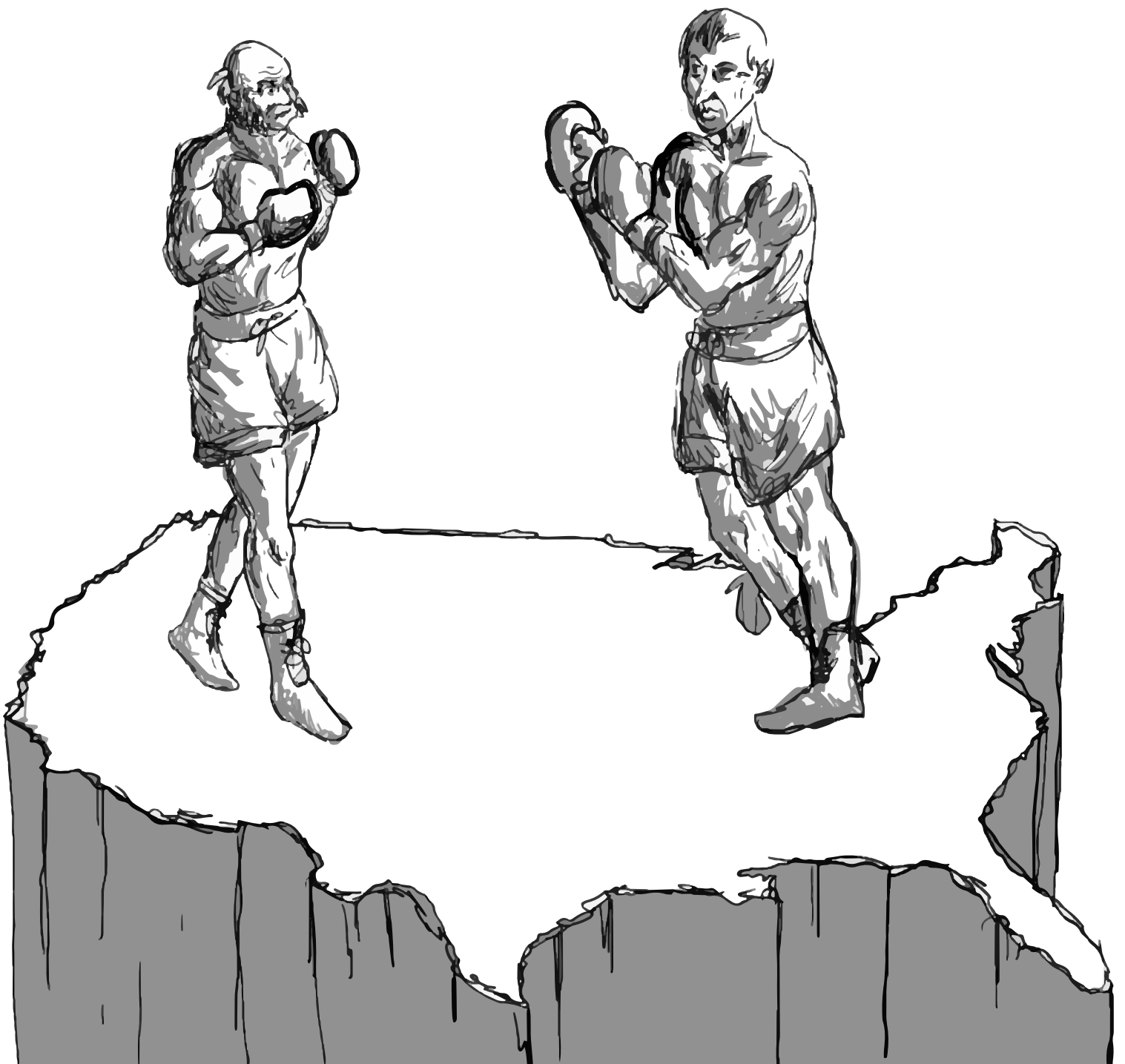
It is said that the election of 1840 was the first modern American election. There were no platforms. Everything in the campaign was done to have an advantage over the other side. Everything was rhetoric. Sound familiar?

Harrison easily beat Van Ruin in the Electoral College, despite a closer popular vote. Shortly after, a coatless Harrison delivered an unending inauguration speech in the rain almost twice as long as any other president before him or since.

He died from the pneumonia after one month in office. One month. Now John Tyler was president — a former Democrat who agreed with the Whigs on almost nothing. He would spend his time in office blocking their legislation. They called him “His Accidency.”

The Whig party would die a decade later. An unbelievable win with nothing to show for it, their legacy.

The seemingly modern political ploys that are employed today may seem unique to us, and they may feel insurmountable. But they have happened before. And we’ve survived, learned and moved on past 1840, despite how ruthless and similar it was to the way we do things now. We hardly ever think about the Whigs, “Old Tippecanoe” or ol’ Martin Van Ruin anymore. Now more than ever it’s important that we make our parties today learn from the mistakes of our past — or they too will go the way of the Whigs.



GRAPHIC BY GENCO AKACIK

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# PROGRESSION OF WOMEN IN FILM & TV

ALEXIS HEINITZ - VISION EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**T**he portrayal of women on screen has progressed since the introduction of cinema in the 1890s. From humble beginnings as mothers, housewives, mistresses and femme fatales to mothers, housewives... wait, has anything changed?

While we have moved on from the days of almost exclusively one-dimensional character tropes, women still struggle to find success in roles of everyday women that stray from the glamorized on-screen versions of real women. It seems that no matter how “normal” a female character may be, their purpose is related to serving their male counterparts.

“I’d like to be an optimist and say that there has been a radical overhaul of the depiction of women and of women’s bodies,” said Dr. Chelsey Crawford, visiting assistant professor of English and professor of film and screen studies. She goes on to say, “To some degree, that’s accurate. Or the representation is perhaps more multifaceted in a lot of ways. But it’s not the progress we might have hoped for.”

With the recent success of female-empowering films like “Wonder Woman” and “Battle of the Sexes,” it is clear that the desire to change is there. We have women of color and of all ages being represented, but that is still not the norm. While the way toward a new norm is being paved by women, that wasn’t always the case.

### **The Mother, The Housewife, The Mistress**

Mothers, housewives, mistresses... what more could a woman want to be? Successful, independent, single? Not just yet. Before modern female characters, women were frequently cast in roles that existed to support their male counterparts. They were not there to add anything to the plot, not there to have their own storylines — only to be a nurturing mother, an obedient housewife or the submissive mistress. They were either a June Cleaver, Lucy Ricardo or an Elvira.

In the mother and housewife roles, a woman is shown as being the ideal, stay-at-home caretaker and all-around perfect specimen. Even today there is disconnect with these roles: of course women can be any of these things, but to present the experien-

ce of motherhood wrapped in a neat little bow is troubling.

“The problem is what we don’t want to watch is actually close to our own lives, because the actual day-to-day life of being a parent isn’t sensational enough for reality television,” Crawford said. “We have to almost always invent a certain class of mom. What motherhood has to look like is apparently everything — having social conscious, having time to care about your appearance and pay attention to your children and work, if that can fit in somewhere, but notably so many of these women don’t have traditional, if any, jobs.”

Even before the humble beginnings of the Mother, the Housewife or the Mistress, the Femme Fatale was born first dating back to 1913’s “The Vampire” to as recent as 2014’s “Gone Girl.” These women are sexualized, but only to show that a liberated woman is dangerous. Often portrayed by vampy, foreign women, the Femme Fatale must be balanced by a wholesome good girl to offset the way a woman could be with how the media wanted a woman to be.

### **Man-haters and Manolo Blahniks**

From matronly housewives to the “Real Housewives,” all the way to “The Bold Type” and “Younger,” women have expanded their on-screen roles to ones more representative of real life. Two popular albeit controversial HBO shows, “Sex and the City” (1998-2004) and “Girls” (2012-2017) followed female friend groups living in New York City.

Both shows tackle serious topics, like abortion, women’s rights and sexual liberation. It is not a competition, though media outlets have been turning the shows against each other since 2012 — before “Girls” even hit the screen.

The comparisons between the two are obvious and overdone, but both HBO shows offer a different approach to female empowerment. “Sex and the City” shows four glamour, single 30-year-old women living in Manhattan drinking cosmopolitans and romanticizing hook up culture. Sarah Jessica Parker’s Carrie Bradshaw was a mess, and we loved her for it.

On the flip side, the ever-polarizing Lena Dunham’s Hannah Horvath was a mess and we hated her for it. “Girls” shows four uncomfortably real 20-year-old women struggling to live in Brooklyn and trying to navigate life with no sense of direction. The women of “Sex and the City” are what we aspire to be while the women of “Girls” represent the not-so-pretty

reality we live in: broke, unfulfilled and without a designer wardrobe. “The idea that they had to be unlikable, or that they didn’t seek to make them likable characters, is a difficult question before I find it commendable, like why do women have to put on this front of being sweet and likable and endearing but they’re not likable characters in their representation?” asked Crawford.

### The Virgin, The Whore and the Manic Pixie Dream Girl

Beyond their roles as the Mother, the Housewife and the Mistress, and after the “Awkward Best Friend and Hot Girl She Wants to Be” duo peaked in the early 2000s, women still have the option of being the Virgin, the Whore or the Manic Pixie Dream Girl.

The Virgin and the Whore are most prevalent in the horror genre, while the MPDG lurks in the corners of hazy, poster-clad bedrooms in indie flicks. Each of these three tropes is dangerous — they portray women as romantic creatures existing to either tease, tempt or change the lives of men.

In horror films, it is clear to see who the Virgin, the Whore and the Final Girl are from the beginning. Who is wearing a headband and polo, who is wearing the low-cut top and who is not like the other girls? One will survive because she is innocent, one will be punished for her impurities and the other will live on because of her otherness. Get the picture? The MPDG is harder to detect. Crawford describes the MPDG as “someone that is disturbed and therefore atypical, and sometimes they’re just eccentric.” She is elusive, yet despite how little we know about her, we are drawn in to her charm just like her male admirer.

“And that goes back to the problem of patriarchy. We’re not admiring someone because they’re being true to themselves, for instance, we’re admiring them because they’re just unique and different and they spice up the life of the depressed, bored male character,” said Crawford.

Films like “American Beauty” (1999), “Crazy/Beautiful” (2001) and “Garden State” (2004) feature disturbed women who ignite the savior complex in bored men who believe they can fix her life, and in turn, he will fix hers. And she will be totally fine with that because she is a shallow character who exists solely to improve his life.

### On-and-off screen sexism

While their on-screen roles can be degrading, nothing compares to the scrutiny and sexism that females in Hollywood face. The most recent example dates back to 1984, the beginning of a continuous string of allegations and accusations of crimes ranging from sexual harassment to rape against film producer Harvey Weinstein. With up-and-coming actresses, models and assistants working for him, Weinstein used his position of power to sexually harass and assault countless women, including Rose McGowan, Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow. On a smaller but equally disgusting scale, the creator of Screen Junkies, Andy Signore, has also come under fire for sexual harassment allegations. Both situations involve a powerful man and vulnerable women trying to begin their careers — and this is not uncommon in the industry. Beyond being portrayed as hollow characters on-screen, the women acting in these roles are treated differently than their male colleagues. How many times on a red carpet have you heard a male asked who he’s wearing, how comfortable his suit is, what brand the shoes are... and how many times have you heard an actress explain who she’s wearing, how “beauty is pain” as opposed to what projects she is working on?

### Embracing feminism in films

Take graphic novelist Alison Bechdel and Liz Wallace’s self-titled test to determine whether or not a film fairly portrays women. To pass the Bechdel-Wallace Test, a

film must have:

1. at least two named women in it
2. who talk to each other
3. about something besides a man.

According to the official Bechdel-Wallace Test website, 57.5 percent of the 7407 movies in their database pass all three tests. Why is it so difficult to answer these simple questions, and what does this say about the media’s portrayal of women? Why does any of this matter?

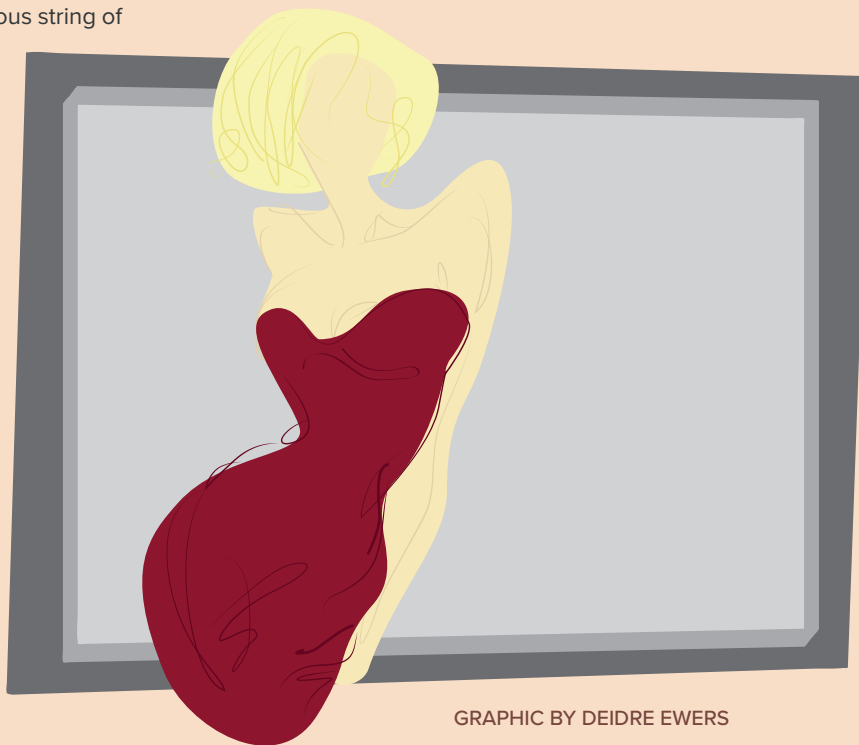
“As much as I like to resist the idea that things that are not designed to be educational are thought of as instructive, they are,” says Crawford.

What the media shows and says of female characters and actresses has an impact on the way that women, especially of a young age, view themselves. Over the last decade, women’s roles on-screen have taken a step in the right direction — but that step is still freshly pedicured and donned in the trendiest shoes.

There may not be a female comparison for Daniel-Day Lewis’ character in “There Will Be Blood” just yet, but with the number of female directors coming into the spotlight — namely Kathryn Bigelow becoming the first female to win the Outstanding Achievement in Feature Film in 2008 for “The Hurt Locker” — progress is being made.

Creating genuine female characters on-screen is important for women in the industry, as well as for women consuming the content. The issues surrounding the portrayal of women on screen may be far from being fixed, but awareness of these problems is growing.

People have realized a pattern in who is creating these characters and narratives, and it is slowly beginning to change. As Crawford asked, “Who gets to tell stories about who? It really is a one-dimensional street, apparently there’s only one type of person that’s in mastery to tell stories about everyone else.”



GRAPHIC BY DEIDRE EWERS

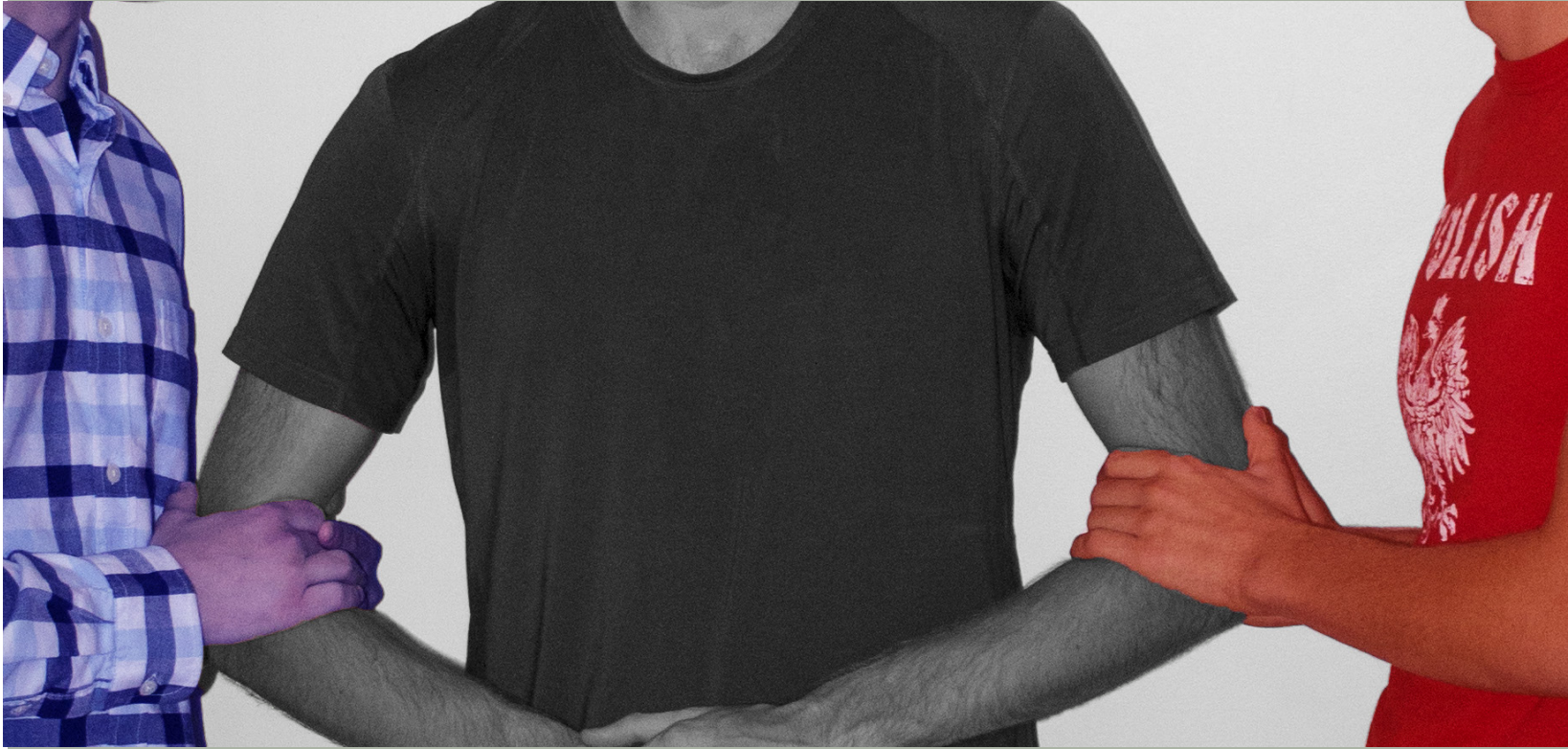


PHOTO BY NOAH CORDOBA



## What it means to be in the middle

ALLISON HARTMAN - MANAGING EDITOR

Since President Trump was elected last November, the word “moderate” has become a buzzword when it comes to talking about the American voter. In 2016, 20 percent of voters identified as ideologically moderate. But what does this mean for the millennial generation?

Millennial voters make up about one-fourth of the U.S. population according to the 2015 census. Adding on to that, Pew Research Center did a survey that showed that 50 percent of them describe themselves as a political independent. Moderate, middle and independent are all words that can describe what the political landscape will look like in the future.

### Why be a political independent?

Matthew Norvell, '19, finds himself in that 50 percent. When asked why he does not identify with a political party he said, “I think it would be artificially limiting to the way I think about politics.”

Independent voters are effectively changing American politics one election at a time. Pew Research Center shows that independent voters are starting to outnumber both Democrats and Republicans. If this continues, the traditional political party system could weaken. The next set of leaders are going to have to break away from the hyper-partisan outlook to appeal to the majority of voters, which happens to be those who are “in the middle.”

Carly Dagen, '20, finds the current political system binding. “If I were to say I was a Republican, I’d be lying — I disagree with many of their ideological views from a standpoint of my belief in equal rights for all people. If I were to call myself a Democrat, however, that would also be untrue, as I often see Democratic decisions as fiscally impossible. Likewise, each party is sometimes unfairly stigmatized.”

### What are the disadvantages?

The word “independent” comes with an abundance of stereotypes, just like any other political party. There is no escaping controversy. “People think you are uninformed or don’t care,” Norvell said. Dagen described her argument to this stereotype. “Some people definitely consider me to be lazy or uninformed when I say that I am neutral. It is true that some people do

not identify with a political party simply because they do not know or aren’t interested in politics, but for me, this is untrue. I’m no political buff, but I certainly do stay informed and participate in political discussions and exercise my rights to vote,” she says.

Also, voters who are registered as “independent” cannot vote in the primary election. Depending on the state, you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican. Though you may register as one of those two and vote the latter, you have to make the choice when you register. But, in the general election, registered independents are not pigeonholed into choosing one of the two main parties.

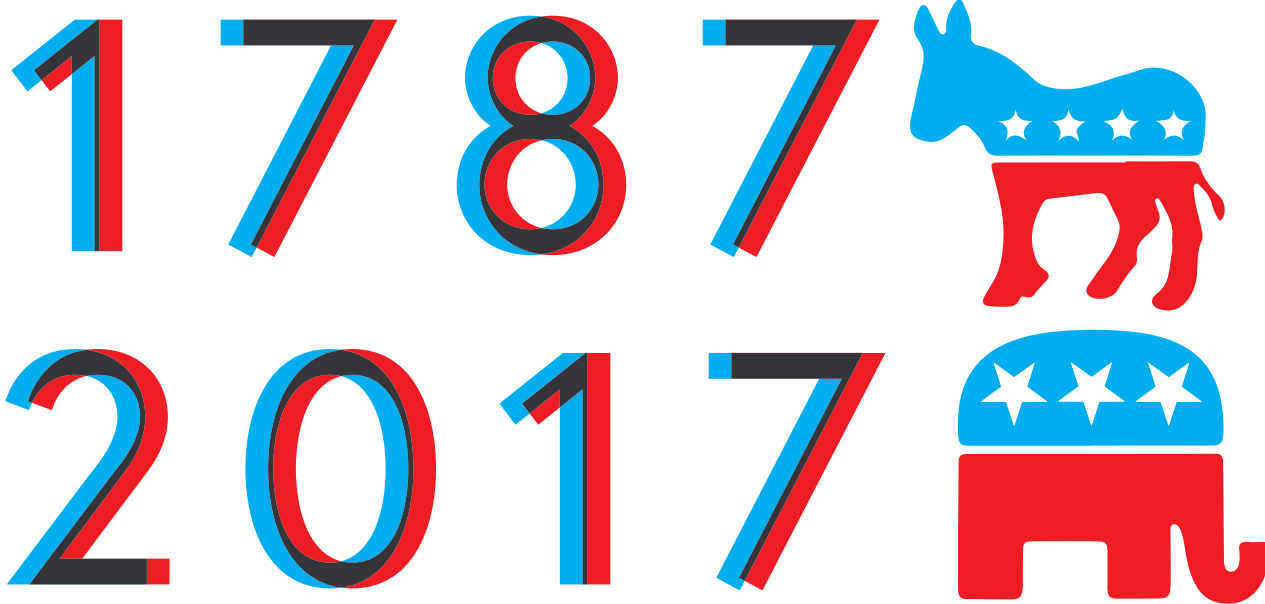
Some studies show that the “political moderate” is not what it seems. The University of California at Berkeley political scientist David Broockman talked to the Washington Post and said “that the way we compile poll responses gives the false perception that there are a bunch of people flooding the middle of the political spectrum.”

### What it means.

Moderates are changing the way politicians campaign. With this large of a group not identifying with a particular side, they will have to change the way they reel in the undecided voter. “As a voter, I tend to elect based on current issues and examining the rights and wrongs from both sides and make what I believe is the best choice possible,” Dagen said.

It also means that being “in the middle” is more common than you thought. Though there is research that shows that political moderates exist and do not exist, people are identifying as so.

The key to defining your political interests rests on being educated on the topics that are important and relevant to you. Even if you cannot choose a party and you choose to be moderate, you can still make your vote matter. The political landscape is ever-changing. It is OK if you find yourself switching sides or not choosing a side at all.



## POLITICAL

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ADAM POKLOP - NEWS EDITOR  
GRAPHIC BY GILLIAN YOUNG

# EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

If the clock was turned back on the United States political scene by a century and a half, the two parties would seem almost opposites of how they look today. While the U.S. attempted to heal its wounds from the Civil War, the Republican Party — with its voters concentrated in the North — led the charge to provide rights to the newly freed slaves. By contrast, the Democratic Party, which was strong in the South, vehemently opposed these reforms. After Reconstruction ended, these Democrats created Jim Crow laws that left the South segregated until the 1960s. The Great Depression saw the Democratic Party began to take its modern mold: the far-reaching relief programs of FDR's New Deal helped attract a diverse group of voters to the party, known as the New Deal coalition. Ultimately, this coalition broke apart during the mid and late '60s, due to the sweeping civil rights legislation passed by Lyndon Johnson, while internal divisions about the Vietnam War further splintered the party. Seizing the opportunity, the Republican Party made a triumphant return during the late '60s and throughout the early '90s by advocating for the law and order and appealing to the Silent Majority.

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## “A crafty politician, Johnson was able to pass a significant amount of legislation in the wake of Kennedy’s death, in an honor to the fallen man.”

**F**or more than 20 years after the Civil War, the U.S. entered a period of reconstruction as they tried to transform the Southern states that had seceded to form the Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln’s assassination at the war’s end put reconstruction up in the air. Through his prior actions, it’s believed Lincoln would have taken a moderate stance during reconstruction, with his priority being the speedy healing of the nation. His death allowed a radical wing of his party to take control of Congress, which pushed through several important measures to protect newly freed slaves. The party pushing through such drastic legislation? The Republican Party, which may seem a little surprising in today’s climate. In 1860, the Democratic Party had run on a platform focused on the protection of slavery and won the entirety of the South. After the war, Southern democrats attempted to resist the reforms laid forth by the radical republicans, and eventually created Jim Crow laws.

Essentially, the two parties entered into the 20th century with their modern platforms reversed. During this time, Republicans dominated national elections. Just three of the 16 presidents between 1865 and 1928 were Democrats.

It was the Great Depression — the nation’s worst economic conditions ever — that initiated the switch of the parties. The economic woes began almost immediately after Herbert Hoover took office in 1929. Hoover, a Republican who had swept the electorate minus the deep South and a couple Northeast states, had strong beliefs against welfare, worried it would erode people’s “rugged individualism.” He did, however, raise taxes significantly on the wealthy as well as corporations, which a Republican president would balk at now.

Unsurprisingly, Hoover lost his re-election bid in 1932 to the Democratic challenger Franklin D. Roosevelt. But more remarkable is the manner in which Roosevelt was able to do so. Of course Roosevelt won the South, but taking advantage of poor economic conditions allowed Roosevelt to gain support, turning the nation blue, except for just a few Northeastern states.

Roosevelt’s relief efforts — the sweeping New Deal programs — helped create the New Deal coalition, a surprisingly diverse group of voters. For example, the 1932 election was the last time to date that the Republican Party received a majority of the African-American vote.

From there, the stage was set for an alignment of the two parties as we recognize them today. Roosevelt’s far-reaching programs helped him and Democrats create an unlikely hodgepodge of voters. This included blue collar workers, farmers, white southerners, unions, some minorities and city machines.

This was when the modern use of liberals and conservatives began: liberal became associated with the New Deal, while conservative described its opponents.

The coalition wasn’t perfect: there were internal divisions — mostly on matters concerning race — but that’s to be expected when bringing together so many different people. The party came together during election time, and that’s all that mattered for a few decades. Roosevelt’s death marked the end of his three term (he had just been inaugurated for his fourth term) rule. Harry S. Truman, Roosevelt’s vice president who took over in 1945, was able to win in 1948 thanks to the coalition his predecessor created.

The Democrats might have lost the elections of 1952 and 1956, but they did so to Dwight D. Eisenhower who was not only a national hero helping to win the European theater during World War II, but also favored the New Deal. In office, he expanded social security and several New Deal programs.

After Ike’s two terms, it was time for someone new to take the reins. John F. Kennedy was able to win, aided by strong turnouts in major cities and his vice president, a Southerner named Lyndon B. Johnson. In his inauguration, Kennedy spoke of a Great Society, which became the umbrella name for his domestic programs, not unlike the New Deal. After Kennedy’s assassination in Dallas, Johnson was sworn in and the New Frontier became the Great Society, which was a war on poverty, while also promoting civil rights.

A crafty politician, Johnson was able to pass a significant amount of legislation in the wake of Kennedy’s death, in an honor to the fallen man. Five days after Kennedy’s death, Johnson pleaded with Congress, telling them, “No memorial oration or eulogy could more eloquently honor President Kennedy’s memorial than the earliest possible passage of the civil rights bill which he fought so long.” Congress responded by passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed the South’s rampant segregation. The following year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, which reaffirmed African American’s voting rights by instituting federal protections.

These two laws were the nail in the coffin for the Southern Democratic support, the first casualty of the New Deal coalition. When the 1968 election rolled around, a wildly unpopular Johnson declined to seek re-election, setting off a struggle for the Democrats to find a worthy candidate. The party — and coalition — further split during this time. It became labor unions and city machines against a group of upper middle class whites and college students, minorities and the remaining Southern Democrats. The Republicans won a landslide election in 1968, ushering in a new era of Republican prosperity. Nixon ran on a platform of “law and order” signaling a tougher stance from Republicans and a shift to the right.

It was also around this time that the Republican Party emerged as a leader for foreign policy. Democrats enjoyed taking responsibility for winning World War II, but the stalemate in Korea followed by the disaster of Vietnam allowed Republicans to ‘own’

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“The people of major geographical regions by and large maintain their political belief; the South remains conservative, the coasts more liberal, etc.”

foreign policy. During the following decades, Republicans would focus more on moral issues such as abortion to further gain support, especially throughout the Bible Belt.

In the election of 1980, which pitted incumbent Jimmy Carter against Republican challenger Ronald Reagan, Reagan won in a landslide, taking 489 electoral votes (even more impressively he received 525 out of the total 538 four years later). Reagan, a conservative icon to this day, signaled a shift to the right for the country, Democrats included. It wouldn't be until 2008 that they got a president in office who was as liberal as Kennedy or Johnson had been.

Though political shifts occur, and national parties change in regard to their respective ideologies or platforms, there is one change we do not see throughout history that underlies all of it. The people of major geographical regions by and large maintain their political belief; the South remains conservative, the coasts more liberal, etc. This can be difficult to understand when viewing voting habits purely by party, as one aligns historical party voting patterns with modern party platforms (i.e. the South in the 1890s voted democratic and therefore held liberal views similar to modern democrats.)

The reality is that the parties have shifted their views to appease the public, but political public belief hasn't experienced drastic demographic shifts. If there's anything to draw from that conclusion, it's that the people have significantly more influence in the two political than may seem.

CONTRIBUTING REPORTING BY CALEB LUNDQUIST



**Beliefs:**

Liberal Philosophy  
Based on Community and Social Responsibility  
Higher taxes for higher income brackets  
Support of Gay Marriage and Abortion Rights

Democrats

**Beliefs:**

Conservative Philosophy  
Based on Justice and Individual Rights  
Taxes shouldn't be raised for anyone.  
Oppose Gay Marriage and Abortion Rights

Republicans

GRAPHIC BY DEIDRE EWERS



# Evolution of Political Parties

**1865**

- Civil War ends
- Abraham Lincoln assassinated
- Radical Republicans take control of reconstruction
- Push for more rights and protections for freed slaves

**1877**

- Reconstruction ends
- Southern Democrats immediately begin institution of Jim Crow laws

**1929**

- Great Depression hits

**1933**

- New Deal policies begin to go into effect, Democratic Party gains broad support

**1964**

- Democrats lead push to pass sweeping Civil Rights legislation
- Costs them support of white Southerners

**1965**

**1968**

- New Deal coalition crumbles
- Nixon wins landslide

**1980**

- Reagan's landslide victory signals a conservative shift for the nation

# NETFLIX

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Netflix: unifier or divider?

PETER MEDLIN - NEWS EDITOR  
MADELINE KLEPEC - ARTS EDITOR

**Y**ou know that last scene in “Stranger Things”? You know the one where Lucas and Dustin walk into SPOILERS. Just kidding. What about “Breaking Bad”? Did you watch that? Can we talk about it yet? No?

No. We can’t talk about it because then the dear readers would be divided into two camps: the ones who have seen it — probably during a two-week binge last Christmas break — and the ones who just haven’t gotten around to it yet. But that doesn’t mean they want to know what happens. They’ll get to it one day. They’ll get to it on their own time, on their own terms. That’s the beauty of Netflix after all. You control your own destiny. Just try not to spoil someone else’s.

#### Part 1: “Goodbye, Farewell, And Amen”

The year is 1983. On the last day of February, millions of people across the globe huddled into their living rooms to watch the series finale of Korean War-based dramatic comedy “M\*A\*S\*H.” In total, 50.15 million viewers tuned in to witness the last days of duty for the 4077 M\*A\*S\*H Unit. To put it into perspective, the highest-rated TV episode of 2017 so far had 17 million viewers.

#### Part 2: “The Upside Down”

It’s impossible to deny that Netflix hasn’t revolutionized the way that we consume television. Making a point about the decline in viewership isn’t to say that we don’t watch TV anymore, but to say that how we do it has shifted similarly to how the internet changed other facets of our lives. From political ideologies to conspiracy theo-

ries to entertainment, the Internet encourages you to curate your own narratives. You only want to watch “Friends” but never want to hear about “Black Mirror”? Fabulous. Isn’t it great that we can watch whatever we want now? Aren’t we liberated from the old guard of network TV?

#### Part 3: “Too Good to Edith”

The options for television viewing were limited to say the least in the early ‘80s when Hawkeye and the rest of 4077 flew home from Korea. But, in a way, it made what was on the air all the more special. “M\*A\*S\*H” was a phenomenon. You can bet that everyone tuned in Monday at 9 p.m. for it. And on Tuesday, if people mused around the water cooler you wouldn’t call “SPOILERS.” If you didn’t watch the finale on Monday it was because you didn’t watch “M\*A\*S\*H.” You missed your opportunity, and you had to wait until it re-aired. Over 50 million people bonded over that episode that night. Forty million people a few years earlier tuned in when Norman Lear’s commentary on the American family “All in the Family” came to a close. The show was daring and divisive, but still garnered over 40 million people. That means folks of every color, creed, age and political party watched and learned something they may have otherwise missed. Many Americans in the 1970s learned about tolerance with Archie Bunker on “All in the Family.” In 2017, if that show’s message made you uncomfortable, it would be pretty easy to leave it by the wayside and find a confirmation bias somewhere else. Whether or not you believe unlimited options to

be a good thing or not, you can agree that a TV show episode won’t be a cultural event like the finale of “M\*A\*S\*H” or “Goodbye, Farewell, And Amen” were. And people wouldn’t bond over it together on the same day, because “Hey! Don’t talk about it! Me and my girlfriend are only on season five!”

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“Without the discussion that comes from Netflix, how would we ever find out the next show to binge watch? The answer is you wouldn’t.”

**N**etflix. For some, it keeps you busy during a rainy, cold day. Or perhaps, just an excuse to get out of social situations by binge watching your favorite shows. After all, isn't that why it's there? Netflix is a platform in which can unify watchers to engage in a conversation about the old '90s show they just watched or the new original series Netflix released. Whatever the case may be, Netflix has the power to unite the masses.

Netflix can be something you can do alone, but "over half, 51 percent, (of people) prefer to watch in the company of at least one other person," Paul Hiebert of the Pacific Standard states. It's considered a hobby for over half of the population to binge-watch Netflix with their loved ones or friends. The thrill of watching an episode of the series you're currently bingeing with another person and then talking about it is exciting. Those who watch Netflix alone don't get the experience of discussing or making comments during the episode.

Then there's the unification of recommending a show to one of your friends that's on Netflix. Soon enough, they're texting you and tweeting about the show with you, and it brings you together by exchanging your favorite characters or least favorite characters. It pulls in a discussion that you wouldn't have by watching by yourself. It's a fun streaming system that lets you engage with other watchers and to hear their opinions of your favorite show, even if one of them tells you they don't like your favorite character. Either way, it creates a discussion and a kind of understanding of why it may be your favorite show.

In some cases, binge-watching horrible shows on Netflix can also unify people. One of my friends on campus binge-watched "One Tree Hill" on Netflix throughout spring term, and our lunches would revolve around the discussion of how dramatic and awful the show is. Or I would get texts during the summer about the show. There are various ways of unifying people through the scope of Netflix.

How about the Netflix original series that everyone is hooked on? In fact, if you haven't seen one of their original series, you kind of feel out of the loop. Let's take the phenomenon of "Stranger Things" as an example. There was so much hype over the show, and until you started watching it you didn't fully get why people were freaking out together over it. It was obvious on Twitter how much it brought people together, especially factoring in the nostalgia of it. The show was so popular amongst viewers that they had a whole recreation of the set in San Diego during Comic-Con, and people were able to divulge together why they love the show.

Friends or family members also string along recommendations from Netflix to you. Without the discussion that comes from Netflix, how would we ever find our next show to binge watch? The answer is you wouldn't.

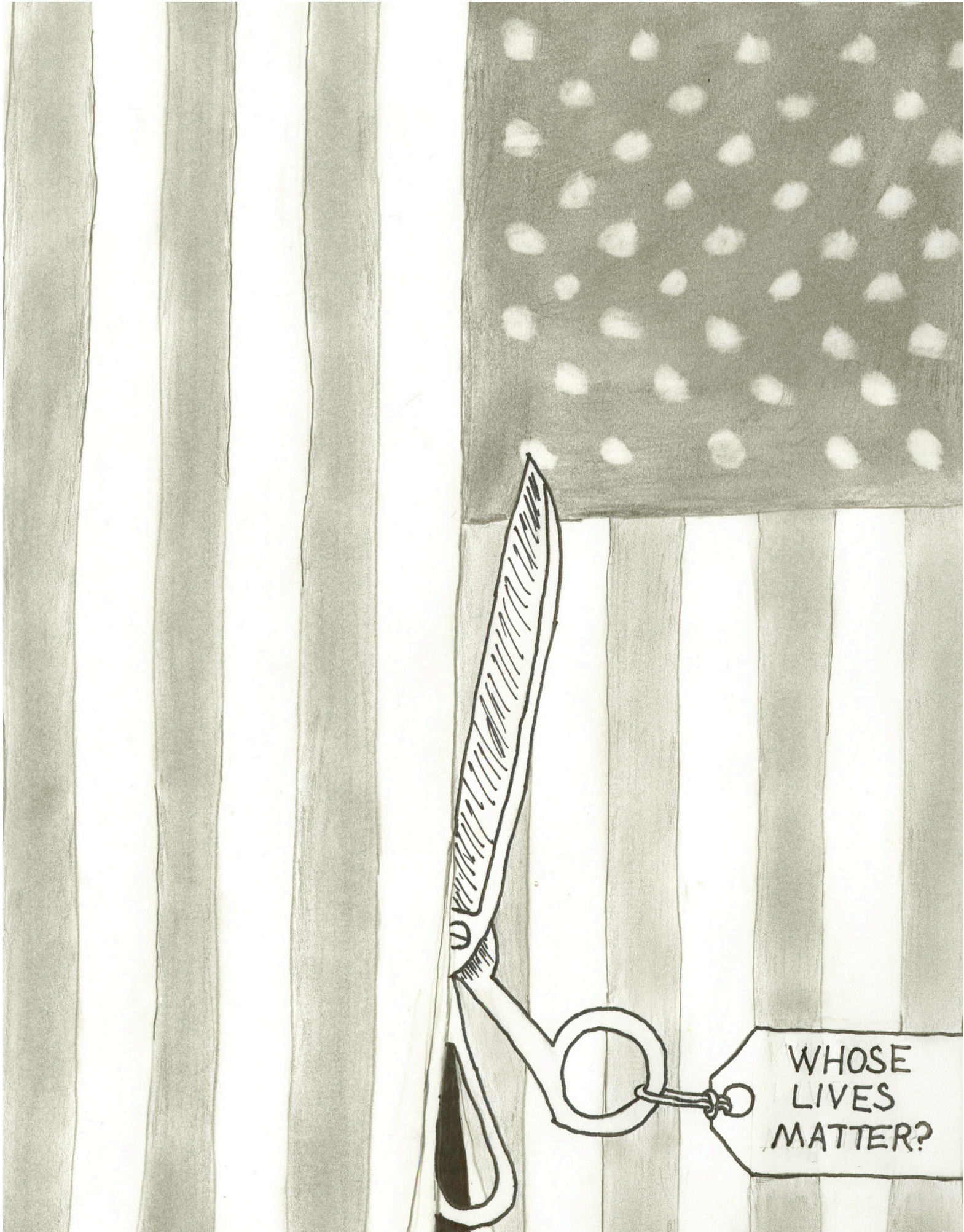
Also, did you know that Netflix can strengthen your relationship? The New York Times states that "resisting the impulse to binge so that you may watch with a lover is the new equivalent of meeting the parents or sharing a sober kiss." This is kind of like the idea of a cheating boyfriend or girlfriend. If you binge-watch a show you're watching without your significant other, it's almost like dating someone else behind their back. There are times when you have to resist the urge to binge-watch the whole show without your significant other. However, it

is possible.

Additionally, "reading books and watching shows and flicks as a couple was associated with greater intimacy and confidence in the relationship," according to Health magazine. Binge-watching a show together as a couple can actually be a huge benefactor for a relationship. Netflix isn't putting a damper on relationships or even making people feel isolated, it's bringing people together. Health also says "having a shared connection to the characters in a TV series or film might make couples feel like they share a social identity even if they lack mutual friends in the real world," says Sarah Gomillion, who is a visiting scholar at the University of Texas at Austin. Some couples have different groups of friends and sometimes that may sour a relationship. However, a couple watching a show together may find a kinship in a specific fictional character that sparks conversation. It's happened to all of us. We watch a show where the main character just gets us and we tell our friends about it. We even may characterize who's who in our friend group by comparing each other to the characters on "Friends" or "Parks and Recreation."

Once again, Netflix is encouraging us to engage in conversation. In a world of modern technology, Netflix is one of those technological advances that has the power to bind us together. It creates discussion and sometimes can even connect you to friends or jobs. Weirdly, it can bring you closer to friends, significant others or family members. Despite having your eyes glued to the screen, it prompts discussion as well.







# THE STATE OF AMERICAN POLITICS

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I recall as a child the notion of political alignment being shrouded in the confines of personal information. Like a person's weight or their income, it was rude to blatantly inquire of which party someone belonged. Just 15 years ago, the common man or woman, using my parents as examples, kept their ideologies veiled. Voting was a private matter; for whom you cast or in what you believed, it was of nobody's business but your own.

Such an era appears to have faded in the recent decade. Alongside the rise of the millennial generation into America's political society, a transference has occurred. We tend to wear our party alignment as a badge of honor; it's used in part for our personal identification and used wholly by others to sum our beliefs on an array of social, economic and political topics. How often do we presume a Republican is a fierce defender of the Second Amendment, a pro-life supporter and in favor of less government regulation? How often is a Democrat a believed proponent of social programs, increased taxes on the upper class and decreased military spending? Now, it's not incorrect to cast certain beliefs under a collective umbrella term such as Republican, Democrat, conservative or liberal. The two parties do historically follow a general system of ideology, with some substantial albeit gradual shifts in the past such as the Republican/Democrat switch in the decades following the Civil War. However, we have reached a point of extremism in modern day in regard to the conclusions we draw onto others.

The assumption that Democrats advocate for social welfare, or that republicans support gun rights, are largely harmless. They may be characterized as broad, but nobody would condemn them as false or misrepresentative. People may form disagreements and even conclude on each other's personalities based on these beliefs, but again the effects are minimal. However, in recent years, these assumptions have been incredibly generalized and coupled with poor conclusions of often degrading qualities. Liberals are socialists. Conservatives are fascists, racists, sexists. They are ignorant. Insults have replaced discourse. We find ourselves in political tug of war, with either side more invested in conquering the other than hearing what they have to say. We have shut ourselves out from conversation. We have receded further from one another along the spectrum; the satisfaction of selective hearing has overcome our desire to think openly. In doing so, we have curtailed ourselves of understanding and the ability to sympathize. We marginalize one another and re-

main detached from the social experiences that others endure. If it doesn't happen to us, it doesn't happen at all. If it doesn't align with my belief, it isn't right. If you think this, you are that. Period. American politics has become a sport. It's not a cohesive mass of people with differing beliefs working together to function; it's a game, where societal groups compete for dominance and relevance. Cable news channels polarize us into factions by hosting hours of talk shows that seek to propagate the message of their respective parties. Separation breeds controversy and controversy attracts viewers, readers and new members. Division rules the American people, seeping into our veins like a poison, infecting us with ignorance and intolerance. While still we struggle not to judge one another by the color of our skin, we have instilled a new prejudice based on political alignment. This is not how things once were; it is not how they've always been. We have progressed politically and socially through decades past, setting aside differences in the interests of our nation and its people. We have unified ourselves for the greater good, for the safety and security of democracy. But now, we are losing our way. Now, it is a very real fear that only a truly catastrophic or tragic event may disrupt the civil feud ongoing amid American politics. That only something as extreme as another terrorist attack on American soil will unite us under the fire of patriotism; one of the few traits that transcends politics. We should all hope that such an event does not prove itself necessary to bring us together, and we should collectively strive to avoid a setting where it is.

Fortunate are the generation my peers and I find ourselves a part of. The advancements of technology in the new millennium, practically paralleling our own development, have seen us grow up in a world brimming with potential. Information is abundant and just a click away for most. The use of smartphones grants us access in seconds. We are connected now more than ever. Major global events, natural disasters, etc. all can be reported and spread to millions in minutes. In the political environment, this has led to a saturation of the misleading and uninformed. False news stories are shared like candy across social media sites. An attention-grabbing headline and shocking photo are all it takes to rack up views, comments, likes and shares. Despite efforts to discredit these articles and diminish their influence, they root themselves in our brains and combat facts. They breed false information. They tell us that vaccines cause autism or that Hillary Clinton sold weapons to ISIS as secretary of state. In politics, this infection of falsity furthers our divide. Our greatest feature has become the irony of our state of politics. Despite all our access to factual information, we find ourselves submerged in falsehood. We accept what we read at face value, rather than spend an additional minute to double check. Abundance and lethargy are leaving us ignorant. Our pride sees us doubting the testimony of experts, paranoid that they are politically driven. We are becoming the generation where truth is irrelevant, but we can change the tide if we wish.

Stop blindly sharing articles on social media. Check the facts against legitimate sites. Don't alienate those who believe misinformation; hear what they say and then present your perspective, guiding them toward the facts. Let go of political affiliations in unrelated topics. We are not the sum of the party we belong to. Our country will never function under the dictation of a single group. Why should we continue to strive for political domination? Better to enrich our understanding through discussion and seek mediation than to further the division to a point of totality, wherein we forego conversation in favor of silence because it's become easier not to talk than it has not to listen. We can establish political give-and-take to outcome progress or let greed drive us to a stalemate. The right, the left, both are well-worn roads, but the middle is less traveled — perhaps it will make all the difference.

think we can all agree that it's been a tumultuous year in terms of politics. Just 365 days ago, our eyes were glued to our devices as presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump battled for the Oval Office. Now, our eyes can't leave our screens as we watch the current state of affairs play out on our Twitter feeds.

It's like a car accident; you don't want to look, but you can't help it. You have to watch the chaos unfold.

This time is one of the most divisive in our nation's history, with people vehemently for or against our president. But I prefer not to care. Now, that doesn't mean I don't care about what's happening politically, but I just choose not to get involved in the battle. I'm that weird middle person who doesn't really want to debate whether or not Clinton would've been a bad president or if Trump's changes are spelling doom for the whole world. I just don't care.

In a way, I, as have many others, have been forced to be in a more neutral position. Whether it be because of our position or because of who we're friends with, neutrality is necessary for some of us. Let me explain.

I live with and am friends with Trump supporters. Do I necessarily agree with supporting someone who is unfit to be president? No, I don't. But that doesn't mean I move out of my apartment or stop hanging out with people who support our president. They're still my friends.

That's what really gets me about this whole thing. Not the circus of an election and presidency, but the way people just drop their friends or family or coworkers just because they support a different person.

This time has been divisive, yes, but we've overcome this before in our short history, so why should now be any different? If we're able to look past simply political affiliations or who someone voted for in the last election, we might actually be able to have conversations and come to a more balanced perspective and country.

That's what I care about. People caring about other people regardless of the way they think. There will always be people in life that you disagree with, but do you completely drop them and stick to your views? You shouldn't. While it's not always easy for me to be friends with people who I have somewhat large disagreements with, we're able to have conversations about differences, accept them and move on — this is something that much of the country needs to learn how to do.

When it comes down to it, Trump is our president. We're all Americans, and we need to be focused on bettering our own communities and the larger society instead of fighting each other at every turn. And if you don't like the state of the union, you have an election in three years to change it.

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**“American politics has become a sport. It's not a cohesive mass of people with differing beliefs working together to function; it's a game, where societal groups compete for dominance and relevance.”**

**T**oday America finds itself lost, adrift in the midst of an identity crisis and rocked by continued culture wars. What do we and what will we stand for — apart from the national anthem, maybe. Are we still a beacon of liberty who accepts huddled masses with open arms? Does our priority lie with business or with protecting the environment? How do we cope with the uncomfortable parts of our history? The list goes on and on.

One of the biggest casualties of today's political climate has been the middle-ground, which is all but lost. After years of demonizing the other side, it seems all we're left with are the two ends of the spectrums. Everyone is drawn with the same brush. Movements like Black Lives Matter have made this all too obvious, by showing that advocating for reform to stop systematic brutality against minorities is to condone violence against police officers.

And this has been proven in polls and surveys as well, most recently courtesy of the NBC and the Wall Street Journal. Those findings, which revealed 80 percent of respondents saw the country as mostly or totally divided, showcase just how little agreement there is today. Obviously, Republicans and Democrats are divided: more than 75 percent of Democrats but less than a third of Republicans felt comfortable with societal changes that have made the country more diverse. That sort of party division reflects significant party polarization, which shouldn't surprise anyone.

But the poll also showed how people — party affiliation aside — are on such different pages. It's remarkable how economic status and geography dictate the way people perceive the economy.

But this isn't the first time America has experienced an identity crisis, nor will it be the last. In fact, division almost seems synonymous with the year 1968, probably the most tumultuous year of the twentieth century.

The Tet Offensive strengthened a growing anti-war sentiment as people at home realized the government had lied to them about the situation in Vietnam. Martin Luther King Jr., the voice of the nonviolent civil rights movement, was assassinated, which touched off a wave of riots that left several cities including Chicago in flames. Robert Kennedy, running for the Democratic presidential nomination after sitting president Lyndon Johnson declined to pursue a second term, was assassinated leaving the Democratic Party without its forerunner. The party's convention was marked by violence between protesters and police, highlighting a deeply divided party. To many, it seemed the fabric that held America together was being undone.

But somehow, against all odds, America survived 1968, as it will survive 2017.

One way to understand American politics is as a pendulum, swinging back and forth. After electing two very liberal presidents in John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, the pendulum swung hard the other way, with the elections of strong conservatives Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, both of whom won an election with more than 500 electoral votes.

Eight years ago the country elected its first black president. Last year, it elected a man who's had difficulty condemning white supremacists. If that's not a swing back, I don't know what is.

For his part, there's no denying the president has added to a deeply divided country. His recent attacks against athletes kneeling during the national anthem certainly highlight this. More so, Trump's election gave a voice to groups of people — such as White Nationalists — who further the division in this country, as seen by the clash in Charleston that left one dead.

There's something to be said about a president who has no qualms about inflaming racial tensions just to keep attention off his incredibly dysfunctional administration, in this case its meager response to assist Puerto Rico. But that's a topic for another day.

So in the meantime, how do we get America back on the same page?

A good place to start might be stepping out of our comfort zones. A Pew Research study revealed only one in 10 people have a lot of friends from the opposite political party. It's natural to be drawn toward like-minded people, but by associating more with people who don't necessarily share your beliefs, it could help in understanding the other side. They're people too, no matter how wrong they may be.

Today's rampant technology has made it all too easy to live in a bubble, where all the stories and posts on our feeds reinforce our world view. A professor of mine once told my class that those of us who gravitate toward things like the Daily Show should turn on Fox News every once in a while (and vice versa). "You don't have to agree with what they say," he told us. "But it is important to hear more viewpoints."

.....  
**“There’s something to be said about a president who has no qualms about inflaming racial tensions just to keep attention off his incredibly dysfunctional administration...”**





# EVOLUTION OF THE FAR RIGHT

TOM MILLER - LIFESTYLE EDITOR  
GRAPHIC BY GILLIAN YOUNG

2008

Paul Gottfried, a notable paleoconservative, is widely reported to have coined the term "Alternative Right."

2015

June 16 – Donald J. Trump announces campaign for presidency and is immediately backed by alt-right due to his anti-immigration views.

Oct. 13 – Trump tweets the Frog meme of himself. Pepe then becomes popular among the alt-right and shifts from being an innocuous meme used by members of internet communities to being seen as a symbol of white power and nationalism.

2010

March 1 – Richard Spencer further popularizes term "Alternative Right" when creating the website Alternative Right, the subreddit r/altright is created following Spencer's website launch.

# 2017

Feb. 1 – Violent protests erupt prior to Yiannopolous' scheduled visit to the University of California Berkeley campus, leading to his removal from the campus and the canceling of his speech. On the same day the subreddits r/altright and r/alternativeright are banned and removed from reddit for posting the personal information of liberal supporters.

Aug. 11-12 – Unite the Right rally, held by members of the alt-right in protest to the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee, in Charlottesville, Virginia leaves one dead, 19 injured, multiple arrested.

Oct. 7 – Richard Spencer leads another march in Charlottesville which included 40 to 50 people chanting things such as "The South will rise again, Russia is our friend," and "Jews will not replace us."

# 2016

July 19 – Alt-right poster boy Milo Yiannopoulos is banned from twitter following a tweet urging fans to send threats and racist tweets to celebrity Leslie Jones.

Oct. 14 - Anti-Defamation League teams up with Matt Furie, creator of Pepe the Frog, to form a #SavePepe campaign in an attempt to take Pepe back from the alt-right.

Nov. 8 – Donald J. Trump wins United States presidential election.

# To kneel or not to kneel?

MATT HEHL - SPORTS EDITOR

**C**olin Kaepernick, Jeremy Lane, Brandon Marshall, Marcus Peters, Devin McCourty, Martellus Bennett, Mike Evans, Megan Rapinoe, Bruce Maxwell, J.T. Brown, numerous others.

Every weekend the list of players who protest continues to grow.

To some people, the protests — kneeling, raising a fist, wearing custom shirts, socks and shoes — have been viewed as a sign of disrespect to the military. For some Americans, it's engrained from a young age that before you hear that "Oo-oh say" you stand, remove your hat and put your hand over your heart. That might be a part of why this strikes some people as disrespectful to the flag, nation and servicemen and women.

From a young age, some are taught that they're all linked and to show a perceived sign of disrespect to one is to show a perceived sign of disrespect to all. This isn't entirely the case.

Before we go too far in one direction it might not hurt to take a quick refresher course on the history of the national anthem and its eventual involvement in the sports world.

**Sept. 13, 1814:** Francis Scott Key witnesses the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Royal Navy during the War of 1812. As the battle continues into the night he notes the storm flag is still flying but he won't know its fate until dawn.

**Sept. 14, 1814:** Dawn comes and the smaller storm flag has been replaced by a larger American flag. This inspires Key to write a poem titled "Defence of Fort M'Henry." He gives this poem to his brother-in-law Joseph H. Nicholson who finds the words match up well with "The Anacreontic Song" by English composer John Stafford Smith.

**Sept. 16, 1814:** Nicholson sends the poem off to a printer in Baltimore and the broadside is printed.

**1889:** The US Navy adopts "The Star-Spangled Banner"

**1916:** President Woodrow Wilson orders that the song be played at military events and other appropriate occasions.

**April 10, 1918:** Rep. John Charles Linthicum of Maryland introduces a bill to officially recognize "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem. He will try and fail to pass this bill numerous times.

**Sept. 5, 1918:** We get the first collectively agreed on playing of the song at a sporting event (other debated dates are May 15, 1862 and April 22, 1897) during the seventh-inning stretch of Game 1 of the 1918 World Series (a game in which Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox threw a shutout against the Chicago Cubs). Given that the game was during the final months of World War I, the U.S. Navy band played the song.

Upon hearing the song, Boston outfielder Fred Thomas (who was currently serving in the Navy, but had been allowed to come back to play in the World Series) turned to the flag and gave it a military salute. Other players faced the flag with their hands over their hearts. The crowd of 19,274 started sing along and when it had ended there was booming applause. According to the New York Times it "marked the highest point of the day's enthusiasm."

**March 3, 1931:** President Herbert Hoover signs a bill that officially adopts "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States.

**1942:** Following the U.S. entry into World War II, all baseball teams start to play the anthem before all games. This tradition catches on across all sports.

**Oct. 19, 1968:** After finishing first and third in the 200-meter race of the 1968 Olympics, Tommie Smith and John Carlos go to the medal podium wearing no shoes, Olympic Project for Human Rights badges and wearing black gloves. Throughout the playing of the anthem, both athletes bowed their heads and raised a fist.

When they leave the podium they are booed



by the crowd. Later on, Smith said, "If I win, I am American, not a black American. But if I did something bad, then they would say I am a Negro. We are black and we are proud of being black. Black America will understand what we did tonight."

**Late 1960s:** Numerous athletes refuse to stand in protest of the Vietnam War and in support of the Civil Rights movement. Teams start to play the anthem prior to athletes leaving the locker rooms.

**March 12, 1996:** Denver Nuggets guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf refuses to stand during the anthem in protest of anti-Islamic rhetoric. After his suspension, he stands, but with his head bowed in prayer.

**Feb. 23, 2003:** Vietnam veteran Jerry Kiley runs onto the court with an American flag and up to Manhattanville College player Toni Smith telling her, "She has not earned the right to disrespect the flag." Smith had been refusing to face the flag all season in protest of U.S. involvement in Iraq.

**2009:** NFL players are required to stand on the sidelines while the anthem is being played during primetime games. Prior to this, players stayed in the locker rooms "due to timing concerns for the networks."

**May 13, 2015:** A report is put out by Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake stating that the Department of Defense had paid sports teams for patriotic displays.

**Aug. 14, 2016:** Colin Kaepernick sits for the anthem during the San Francisco 49ers first preseason game. He continues to do this for the next two games. He explains his protest in a post-game interview by saying, "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." He followed that by saying he would continue to protest until the American flag "represents what it's supposed to represent."

**Sept. 1, 2016:** After having a conversation with teammate and U.S. military veteran Nate Boyer, Kaepernick chooses to kneel rather than sit in order to show more respect to current and former U.S. service members while still protesting.

**Sept. 4, 2016:** Seattle Reign FC's Megan Rapinoe kneels in a game against the Chicago Red Stars. Three days later in a game against the Washington Spirits, the Spirits decide to play the anthem prior to the athletes leaving the locker room stating that, "to willingly allow anyone to hijack this tradition that means so much to millions of Americans and so many of our own fans for any cause would effectively be just as disrespectful as doing it ourselves."

**Late 2016:** Numerous players across all levels of the sport join Kaepernick in protest.

**Sept. 22, 2017:** President Donald Trump calls out protesting

players in a speech at a rally for Alabama Republican Senate candidate Luther Strange saying, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out. He's fired. He's fired!' You know, some owner is going to do that. He's going to say, 'That guy that disrespects our flag, he's fired.' And that owner, they don't know it. They don't know it. They'll be the most popular person, for a week.

They'll be the most popular person in this country."

**Sept. 23, 2017:** NBA star LeBron James responds to the president's comments in a video saying, "It's not about dividing. We as American people need to come together even stronger." He later added in a press conference during the Cleveland Cavaliers media day that, "The people run this country. Not one individual. And damn sure not him."

Later that same day, Oakland A's catcher Bruce Maxwell, whose father was a member of the U.S. Army, becomes the first MLB player to protest the national anthem (Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Carlos Delgado sat during the playing of "God Bless America" to protest U.S. involvement in the Middle East) by kneeling and placing his hand over his heart during the anthem. The A's immediately put out a statement saying the team "pride(s) ourselves on being inclusive" and supports "players' constitutional rights and freedom of expression."

**Sept. 24, 2017:** During a playoff game, the Minnesota Lynx and the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA both protest. The Sparks leave and head to the locker room while the Lynx stand at the free-throw line with their arms linked.

**Oct. 7, 2017:** Tampa Bay Lightning right winger J.T. Brown becomes the first NHL player to protest by raising his fist during the anthem.

So here we are. You've read the facts and some of the key points in time. A nation divided by people in colorful outfits standing up (pun intended) against injustices they see during the playing of the anthem.

Or, a nation divided by disrespectful people playing a game that isn't worth your time to watch until those playing it start showing respect to the men and women who have served/currently serve in the military.

By going through and talking about these players and sharing, in their words, why they're doing what they're doing. Hopefully, you've gained something you can have in the back of your mind. Something that sticks out when you're about to jump into another Facebook battle or get into it with a coworker.

GRAPHIC BY GENCO AKACIK



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# STUDENTS AND POLITICS: ARE THEY INVOLVED?

HALLE OLSON - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's easy to see the number of students involved in politics on campus. From student government to College Democrats and College Republicans, there are plenty of outlets for students to get involved in a political manner prior to graduation.

These outlets are ways for students to discuss similar political views and even have healthy debate between each other. There also a place for students to gain real leadership experience, like Student Government Association president Connor McGury, '18, has done. "I got involved in Student Government because I saw it as an opportunity to gain leadership experience, as well as the chance to take on projects that will benefit students experience on campus," said McGury.

But recent years have brought changes in the political involvement of students on campus. Just within the last year, we've had protests and marches led by students in reaction to national and global events. The College has also hosted fireside chats in response to political statements — typically those of a more mean-spirited nature — for students to discuss their feelings about the situation.

Before, during and following last year's election, there seemed to be a spike in student political involvement on campus. "One major thing that I've noticed is more politically related events on campus," said McGury. "Students seem to be more engaged in current issues, and as a campus we foster an environment that makes students feel comfortable talking about it." But according to Dr. Stephen Caliendo, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, student political involvement has remained relatively static during his 13 years on campus. "This is the first time we saw the emergence of a college republican, college democrats group," said Dr. Caliendo. "You have a vibrant way to engage students, and particularly electoral politics. There's all kinds of politics. Those that are surrounding elections, for some people, are the most exciting because it's the game part, it's the contest part. It's like you can sort of get behind somebody and you're rooting for somebody."

This engagement has been played out in student debates, namely the debate between College Democrats and College Republicans last year prior to the election. The debate offered a healthy and neutral way for the two groups to voice differing opinions in front of their fellow students.

For students who are looking for a more active way to be involved in politics, student government offers a platform for students to voice their opinions and help implement change on campus for everything from a downtown meal plan to coffee machines in academic buildings. "I think more students should get involved in political organizations because it gives you the opportunity to take on projects you're passionate about, and it gives you the chance to provide an impact to your community," said McGury.

Overall, Dr. Caliendo said he's seen a sustained involvement in "other types of politics. Establishing safe zones, for instance... and we've been doing that for a long time." He also said that students, faculty and staff have been having meaningful and organized discussions on topics such as race for the entirety of his time at the College.

"There's something that's communal, that's public, that are opportunities for students to express their beliefs or engage in ideas outside of the classroom," said Dr. Caliendo.

"The purpose of politics is service, but that often gets lost in the division of people via political parties. If people came together around common goals as opposed to party platforms, we would see change everywhere," said McGury. "I think college students are the best people to begin that initiative."

.....  
**Marina Botello, '18** “I’m not really involved in politics but I like to know what is going on and I like to read the news. I’m not part of any party but I still like to keep myself updated.”



# FACES OF NCC



.....  
**Taylor Edmunds, '20**

“I stay up to date with current events and I vote when I’m given the opportunity to. I usually go on Twitter or ABC News and my girl Dr. Chod and her tweets.”



.....  
**Meghan Pfister, M.A. '18**

“I attend political talks. I’ve seen Bernie Sanders twice to get political ideas. I’ve also helped campaign for Democratic candidates. I try to get involved by going places and also donating money toward campaigns that are really important to me.”



.....  
**Lauren Whalen, '19**

“I pay attention to what’s going on in the world. I work on political campaigns for Chicago politics. I have open discussions and debate to help educate those who aren’t updated.”



PHOTO BY STELLA FANEGA

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**Michaël Hudetz, '19** “I’m actually choosing to be apolitical, so I don’t get involved in most things such as the economy and foreign affairs.”



PHOTO BY NOAH CORDOBA

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**Alex Andria Basset, '19** “I’m very liberal but I’m liberal where I’ll listen to people even if you have opposite views. I think debate is healthy.”



PHOTO BY NOAH CORDOBA

.....  
**Penelope Reyes, '21** “I’m not really into politics but I’m forced to be because I’m an immigrant. It’s just not something I like to be involved with.”

Concert for Charlottesville Fund



ENTERTAINMENT

MADLINE KLEPEC - ARTS EDITOR

Celebrities &  
unity:

# HOLLYWOOD SPANS THE NATION THROUGH CRISIS



When the world is in chaos, normally we turn to celebrities and fiction to escape the harsh realm of reality. We hope that they have a word of hope or charity to cater to our fearful state of mind. When we see a celebrity do charity work or organize a concert to unite the masses, we tend to hold onto the hope that maybe there is a chance for humanity. That maybe we are not alone in this world full of trauma and evil. Whether it be Ariana Grande’s “One Love Manchester” performance or Kristen Bell, the star of “Frozen,” attending to hurricane victims this past summer, we see how Hollywood can, in fact, unite the world.

It seems that every time you turn on the TV, there is another tragedy, another act of evil. Seeing it is hard, but we can’t let the evil our world faces destroy who we are as a community. We must unite to bring peace and love to the world. We can’t walk on eggshells each time we go out, afraid that something terrible will happen. As a nation, as a planet, we need to come together to find that center of love and peace. We can’t let the evil of the world win, and the celebrities of Hollywood are using their platforms to urge unity of the masses.

The day was May 22 and Manchester had just been rocked by an act of terrorism at Ariana Grande’s concert, a suicide bomber killing 22 innocents. The world was in a state of shock. A lot of people were afraid to venture to a concert or a convention because of this horrible and heart-breaking act. However, in the beginning of June, Grande decided to stare fear right in the eyes and throw a benefit concert for the victims of terrorism. The concert was called “One Love Manchester” and featured artists such as Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber and Colplay. The concert would benefit the victims of the suicide bombing and their families. Proceeds that came from the show went to the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund, according to ABC News.

A concert goer, Lily Garner, stated in the New York Times that “it puts you on edge a bit, but you can’t let those things affect you. You can’t

stop it from living your life, doing what you want to do.” It was an act of unity that brought people together. This concert showed that we must not be afraid; that we must keep living and doing what we love without fear. It wasn’t about being put in the spotlight, it was about bringing people together to spread love and music. Even if you’re not Grande’s biggest fan, there was a sense of respect you felt toward her for bringing people together after such a tragedy. It was a somber and heartfelt concert that allowed you, even through the TV, to come together as one and not let evil win.

A couple days after the tragedy, Grande responded in a report by ABC News: “I extend my hand and heart and everything I possibly can give to you and yours, should you want or need my help in any way. Our response to this violence must be to come closer together, to help each other, to love more, to sing louder and to live more kindly and generously than we did before.”

Following the terrorist attack, a more local scare shook the United States. In the beginning of August, Charlottesville, Virginia was over took by a white nationalist rally. As reported by the New York Times, a car plowed through a group of counter protesters, killing one woman. There was fear evident that day, fear that something like this was still happening in the United States. In response to this act of evil, Dave Matthews planned a free benefit concert on Sept. 24. Along with Dave Matthews Band, Ariana Grande and Justin Timberlake were also present at the concert to perform for those in Charlottesville who were rocked by such an act of violence.

The concert was free to attend, however, donations were encouraged to benefit “Concert for Charlottesville Fund” at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. The donations from the concert went to “victims of the events in Charlottesville on August 11 and 12, and their families, first responders, and organizations devoted to the promotion of healing, unity and justice locally and nationwide,” according to Variety. The defiance to form unity doesn’t stop there for

celebrities. At the end of summer, Texas and Florida was struck with violent hurricanes. There were many people without their homes. Kristen Bell was in Florida while the destruction of Hurricane Irma was paving its way through Orlando. As reported by ABC News, Bell was not able to leave Orlando, so she decided to spread some joy to those who have lost their homes. She visited a middle school turned shelter to put on a concert for the victims of Irma. There was also an Instagram post showing Bell with a cart of food and water for the victims. A small act of kindness managed to bring some hope and entertainment for those who lost their homes.

Unity and the ability to come together is a powerful thing in the aftermath of such tragedy and evil in this world. With events such as the Las Vegas shooting, we start to wonder if things will start to get better. There will be doubt, but the ability for celebrities to bind people together in a time of need is something we may need. It may not seem like much, but, as evidenced by celebrities such as Ariana Grande, Dave Matthews Band and Kristen Bell, they just want to do what is best for those who are hurting. They may not be able to stop racism or terrorism, but they can unite us to bring more love and defiance to the world. We need it now more than ever.

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**“As a nation, as a planet,  
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