



5-7-2019

Outside Colby (May 7, 2019)

Colby College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/outsidecolby>

Recommended Citation

Colby College, "Outside Colby (May 7, 2019)" (2019). *Outside Colby*. 9.
<https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/outsidecolby/9>

This Journal is brought to you for free and open access by the Colby College Archives at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Outside Colby by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby.

OUTSIDE colby

Issue 4

Vol. 10

May 7, 2019



AGING LION, HIDDEN
DRAGON
(pg. 10)

NOTRE DAMN
(pg. 14)

UNIVERSAL BASIC
INCOME?
(pg. 4)

Editors-in-Chief

Amya Bhalla
Carolyn Jones

Layout Editors

Paige Buell
Manny Salas

Copy Editors

Tanner Boucher
Emily Cunningham
Jane Franks
Angela Fernandez
Bohan Ma
Zack Mishoulam
Sofia Oliveira
Ketty Stinson

Section Editors

Domestic Affairs Editor
Banks Dotson

International Affairs Editor

Himanshu Bhurtel

Political Affairs Editor

Lily Herrmann

Maine Affairs Editor

Eana Bacchiocchi

Arts and Culture Editor

Aaron Canter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Maine Affairs, 3

Domestic Affairs, 4-5

Arts and Culture, 6-7

International Affairs, 8-11

Political Affairs, 12-15

Column, 16

Continued, 17-19

A Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

This week, a cyclone hit Eastern India and Bangladesh, most impacting the state of Odisha. As this was one of the worst cyclones the region, and the world, has seen, many were worried about a huge number of deaths. However, an unprecedented number of casualties have been averted, and some of the most vulnerable people were relocated and saved from the worst of the cyclone.

This is an example of a state coming together to reinvent global expectations for disaster preparedness. Though there was still death and destruction, of which we mourn, we must celebrate the successes of local community fighting back the effects of natural disasters. As the effects of global climate change increase and impact communities all over the globe, but most extremely, poor communities and minorities, we must learn from the actions of Odisha.

As our tenure as Editors-in-Chief come to a close, we want to express gratitude for the growth and change of Outside Colby throughout our years with the publication. We want to express gratitude for a space in which we can talk about the issues that matter that impact people all over the country. We hope that this space continues to grow and thrive, and that students at Colby can learn to lead with empathy about global issues that may seem far away.

If you would like to get involved with Outside Colby for the 2019/2020 school year, please contact Himanshu Bhurtel (hbhurt21@colby.edu) or Maddy Albert (mhalbe20@colby.edu).

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jones and Amya Bhalla

Outside Colby is a non-partisan political publication dedicated to informing students about different opinions on controversial issues in the United States and around the world. Our goal is to increase political discourse and debate at Colby, and serve as a forum for different points of view to be heard.



REQUIRING VACCINATIONS FOR MAINE STUDENTS

By Hanna Bouchard *Staff Writer*

This April, the Maine House approved a bill that would remove the option of religious and philosophical exemptions for vaccinations. If passed in the Maine Senate and approved by Governor Mills, the only vaccination exemption for those in the public school system would be for medical reasons. The bill applies to children in daycare, young adults in Maine's public university system, and everyone in between. This bill is a crucial move in protecting all people who live in Maine, especially those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

As of right now, the Center for Disease Control is reporting 695 cases of measles in the United States, which is a significant number since Measles was eradicated in 2000 due to vaccinations. Many of these 695 cases are children that have been infected with the disease. Children are more likely to spread germs due to more social contacts, and they are still building their immune systems. Children are a vulnerable part of the population, and relying on others to be vaccinated is not an ideal situation. Also, people that work with these children, like teachers, represent a group more likely to spread germs due to having more social contact with kids. This simple path of disease transmission from person to person highlights the importance of vaccinating school-aged children.

Maine's rate of parents "opting" their child out of vaccination requirements is more than three times the national average, and legislators are doing their best to bring this number down. There is a clear need to protect the health of the general public and those unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons. The Maine Legislature has proposed several other bills targeting vaccinations; one would require the meningococcal meningitis vaccinations for teenagers and another attempts to increase transparency of the ingredients in children's vaccinations, which should

ease some parental concerns about what is going into their child's body.

Some opponents of the bill believe that parents should decide what is best for their children in terms of vaccinations, but in this case parents may not always know what is best. Medical professionals have spent years studying medicine, and their opinions are not clouded by a relationship with the potential patient. While parents have a right to whatever parenting style they choose, when discussing vaccinations, you're dealing with the health of the general public in addition to your child's.

Other opponents feel that this is government overreach, and that it takes away constitutional rights to practice the religion of your choice. One representative that voted against the bill, Justin Fecteau from Augusta, went so far as to say, "My body, my choice." But the fact is, in terms of vaccinations, it is no longer "your body." By not vaccinating your children, you make them susceptible to a preventable disease and also put others at risk. Young babies cannot be vaccinated, and neither can individuals with compromised immune systems. These individuals rely on others to be vaccinated to not spread the disease.

In conclusion, while it may be perceived as overstepping, this bill is an essential step in preserving the health of people all across the state. While it is important to allow parents to raise their own children, when it concerns the health of the public as a whole, it becomes an issue of the government. Hopefully the Senate and Governor Mills agree with the House and pass this bill, as it will improve conditions in schools for those unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons. We are lucky enough to live in a time in which we can prevent certain diseases and we should always use these tools to our advantage.



JOB LOSS DUE TO AUTOMATION: IS UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME THE ANSWER?

By Chris Battaglia *Staff Writer*

A focal point of Donald Trump's presidential campaign was predicated on the premise that the U.S. has been losing millions of manufacturing jobs due to international trade. According to the Trump campaign, the U.S.'s trade policies that have furthered growing trade deficits with Canada, China, and other countries have led to the deindustrialization of the American manufacturing industry and the disappearance of America's middle class. However, research has shown that these jobs have been lost to a different cause: automation. The U.S. lost an approximate 5.6 million manufacturing jobs from 2000-2010, but studies show that 85% of these jobs were lost due to automation and technological advances such as robots and 3D printing that have been replacing human labor at a catastrophic rate.

The average operating cost for a robot is estimated at \$8 per hour while the average cost for a human is around \$25 an hour. Unfortunately, this gap in operating costs will only increase in years to come. According to Mireya Solís, a senior fellow at Brookings, the extra cost of maintaining a robotics system including installation, elongated maintenance, and operating costs should be amortised over a five year period. This indicates that the gap will widen even more dramatically in the next fifteen years.

Many academics and policy experts have rendered the automation process irreversible. However, Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang has been running on a platform that advocates for the implementation of a Universal Basic Income

(UBI), which could provide the U.S. with a possible solution to combat the progressing technologies in our nation's factories. UBI is a form of social security that guarantees a certain amount of money to every citizen within the United States. Yang's version of UBI would be funded by an increase in taxes and would include a set of guaranteed payments of \$1,000 per month, or \$12,000 per year, to all U.S. citizens over the age of 18. UBI would provide

money to cover the basics for Americans while enabling the U.S. citizens to look for a better job, start their own businesses, go back to school, and work towards their next big opportunity.

Can UBI act as a salvation for the American middle-class and improve the lives of thousands of citizens? UBI would indeed lead to more disposable income in the pockets of millions of working Americans,

but would have sacrifices binded to its implementation. Utilization of UBI would lead to budget cuts to our national budget in places such as defense spending where the U.S. spends over \$600 billion on a yearly basis in addition to higher income taxes for higher income earning citizens. The problems rooted in UBI go beyond empirical consequences. UBI would disincentivize American citizens to find work leading to complacency and a breakdown of one of the most fundamental ideals that the U.S. prides itself in: hard work pays off. Yang can campaign for UBI and release obtuse statistics regarding its productive nature but at the end of the day, implementing UBI is not the solution to job loss due to automation. A proper solution remains to be found.

"THE U.S. LOST AN APPROXIMATE 5.6 MILLION MANUFACTURING JOBS FROM 2000-2010, BUT STUDIES SHOW THAT 85% OF THESE JOBS WERE LOST DUE TO AUTOMATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES SUCH AS ROBOTS AND 3D PRINTING THAT HAVE BEEN REPLACING HUMAN LABOR AT A CATASTROPHIC RATE."



WHAT DOES “FREE” REALLY MEAN?

By Jonathan Taylor *Staff Writer*

When government expenditures exceed tax revenue, the federal government runs a deficit, selling its own debt as treasury securities. Democrats have not made any serious attempt to reduce government expenditures at any point in recent memory. Republicans, likewise, have all but abandoned their formerly core principle of economic conservatism in favor of financing Donald Trump’s oft-misguided whims. At least in this sense, while much attention has been given to the Democratic party’s steady leftward drift, the Republican Party has likewise drifted further and further away from their Obama-era fiscal policy stances.

One explanation for this troubling trend within both parties is the rise of Modern Monetary Theory, or MMT. While Republicans must shoulder their blame for the explosion of government debt, politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have brought with them increasing public appeals to MMT. The theory boils down to the idea that costly government programs—think of Medicare for all, for instance—can be paid for by the Federal Reserve (commonly known as The Fed) using borrowed funds without adversely affecting consumers or investors. Or so the theory predicts.

In some ways, this has always been a part of prevailing legislative thought in America. World War Two, for instance, was largely financed using money borrowed from American consumers, who were paid back with interest over the coming decades. But the difference here is that under MMT, the Federal Reserve purchases this debt, not the taxpayers nor foreign investors. This distinction, though seemingly unimportant, is perhaps the key point of contention within monetary policy debates, since the Fed buying the Treasury’s debt is tantamount to simply printing more money.

MMT is therefore akin to magically creating dollar bills and using them to finance whatever program is on the table. But if this doesn’t necessarily affect important economic indicators such as real gross domestic product or unemployment, then why not just institute a plethora of costly programs with huge social benefit, and never even have to worry about truly paying for them? That’s the question that increasingly vocal factions of

the Democratic Party have recently begun asking publicly.

The answer has two major parts. First, MMT threatens the political independence of the Federal Reserve, which is a huge component of investor and consumer confidence. Were the Fed to be subjected to political whims—such as having finance ballooning treasury deficits—then it would almost assuredly be forced to undertake inflationary open market operations lest all those treasury securities fall into the hands of private investors.

This is where the second counter-argument comes into play. Not only will the Fed lose independence—which is problematic in and of itself—but in doing so it will cause heightened inflation, depressing real wages, investment, and consumer purchasing power in the long run. To an extent, tax policy can be offset inflation by removing some dollars from circulation. But this only works to a certain point; given the immense costs associated with many programs poised to woo voters in the upcoming Democratic Primaries, pretty much any conceivable tax hike would plug the hole in the deficit in much the same way as a piece of Scotch Tape would have plugged the hole in the side of the Titanic. This is all to say that there are legitimate, tangible reasons as to why using MMT to institute lavish social programs is destined to be a pyrrhic victory at best; it’s not simply by chance that a recent University of Chicago survey of top economists found unanimous disapproval of MMT’s core tenets.

Modern Monetary Theory isn’t really all that modern; many defining features of it have been decades-long mainstays in America’s economic lexicon. But the rise of “spend now, pay never” political thought marks a reckless—dangerous, even—misappropriation of these core macroeconomic principles. If there’s one thing that voters respond to more so than party, ideology, or even their own economic interests, it’s the promise of “free” stuff. But we forget the economic costs associated with expansive social programs at our own peril; the way in which the American economy has evolved over the years emphatically precludes us from undertaking European-inspired reforms without first fundamentally re-thinking the role of the U.S. dollar in our debt schemes.

THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF MUSIC

By Lorne Carter *Staff Writer*

Music has come a long way. During our lifetimes, we have seen technology rattle the music industry to its core -- and then revolutionize it. As a kid, I remember snagging my dad's CDs for my walkman, buying Tha Carter IV (a real, live, physical copy) from Best Buy. I also remember encountering the new frontier of iTunes and venturing into the forbidden lands of Limewire. Now, with streaming services like Spotify and Soundcloud, I can access seemingly any song in the world in a split second and take it with me everywhere I go. The arrival of music streaming services, though first resisted by the music industry, provided music with an unprecedented mobility and accessibility. Streaming also puts the reins in the hands of the listener and the artist themselves, democratizing an industry in danger of suffocation from the stranglehold of capitalism and allowing the art the freedom it deserves.

Traditionally, the pipeline of music to the general public has been highly regulated and controlled by elite groups like radio broadcasters and record labels. Artists were forced to work through a label's imposed structure, quotas, and standards. Listeners were mostly confined to the one-dimensional, static rotations set by radio companies that frequently overlapped. Artists had little hope of their music extending beyond local spheres to reach wider audiences without the institutional approval, support, and resources of these powerful industry players. With the internet, artists can easily distribute their work themselves, empowering them to remain independent and not sacrifice their vision for their success. Streaming hits like Desiigner's "Panda" and Lil Pump's "Gucci Gang" have proved not only that artists can launch careers without capitalist overlords, but also that consumers can and should be in the

driver's seat. Artists decide how, when, what they create and listeners choose how, when, what they hear. Makes sense, right? In my experience, these new conditions have yielded more frequent releases that aren't restrained to traditional form and content. For example, in 2017, underground trap legends \$uicideboy\$ did not release a full length album, but instead dropped 11 EPs, including 10 three-song installments in their KILL YOURSELF series that now totals 20 projects over the course of three years. In the liberated era of streaming, there is space for art to move in new directions and transform at will.

The simple beauty of streaming is that the artist retains agency and creative control over their product, untainted by capitalist interests and conventions. The music industry's capitalism operates as the complete antithesis of what music and art are supposed to be about, reducing artists and the pieces of themselves that they generously and bravely share with the world into simple commodities that allow fat pockets to get even fatter. This parasitic capitalism intersects with legacies of racial exploitation and oppression in the west. The majority of record labels are run by wealthy white men and many hot young artists are people of color who are systematically forced to comply with the power structure to uplift themselves and further their careers. These artists are at the mercy of these labels that can take advantage of their vulnerability and historically disenfranchised position. Artists, particularly in rap music, have addressed this presence of historical racial power dynamics and oppression in their music. The late Nipsey Hussle addressed this issue on his 2018 track "Dedication," rapping, "Royalties, publishing, plus I own masters/I'll be damned if I slave for some white crackers." A contract becomes the chains of slavery to a distant, bloated overseer; in

SAVE THE CHILDREN

By Kristen Yorke *Staff Writer*

I didn't think my childhood memories of Full House could be tainted further after I found out that Bob Saget, the wholesome, fun-loving, super-sitcom-dad of the Tanner family, was one of the most raunchy comedians I had ever listened to (for reference, one of the first results of a YouTube search for his name gives you a two minute clip entitled "Butt Plug Made of Leather.") However, recent events prove my assumptions otherwise. But this time Danny Tanner is off the hook. I'm looking at you now, Aunt Becky.

Lori Loughlin, actress, mother, model, and producer, has been charged with conspiracy to commit fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering after information emerged that she and her husband spent \$500,000 in getting their two daughters into the University of Southern California as "crew recruits." Both of these charges are punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against the pair, Loughlin and her husband, Mossimo Giannulli, perhaps best known for his infamous Target clothing line, maintain that they are innocent of all charges. A source close to the distinguished couple explains that they did "what so many people in their financial situation do to get their kids into school." The source goes on: "What about the people that donate buildings to school? Why are they becoming the poster children for things that have been going on forever? They didn't do anything illegal. They just wanted a good education for the kids, like every parent does."

There is definitely truth there. Wealthy individu-

als with children entering the world of higher education are not prohibited from donating a small fortune to a college or university in hopes that their gift enhances their child's chance of admittance. That is not illegal. Unfair, yes. Illegal, no. But it's donations like these that provide colleges with state-of-the-art science centers, internship funding, improved housing, and excellent faculty. These donations trickle down to all the students at the school. Lori Loughlin's half million donation to a fake charity does nothing for anyone but herself.

"OFFERING COMPENSATION TO GET YOUR CHILD INTO A BETTER SCHOOL THAN SHE CAN GET INTO FOSTERS A CLEAR SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT AND LAZINESS THAT THE CHILD WILL CARRY WITH THEM FOREVER."

But even these "legal" donations pose a larger problem. Offering compensation to get your child into a better school than she can get into fosters a clear sense of entitlement and laziness that the child will carry with them forever. Earning your spot on a distinguished college campus, for most people, takes literal blood, sweat, tears, and more tears. Junior year of high-school might as well be a stage in purgatory. But there is no better feeling emerging on the other side victorious. Opening

that acceptance letter knowing you did that all on your own, the feeling is unexplainable.

It's not just Aunt Becky who is depriving her children of this sense of satisfaction. She is just one of the fifty charged in this aptly named Operation Varsity Blues. While of course, deep down, they mean well, these parents are robbing their children of the most character building experience of their young life. They are taking away the challenges, the failures, and the rewards that come with the college application process. That, I believe, is the real offense here.



HOW ALGERIA CAN BEAT THE RESOURCE CURSE

By Benjamin Pickle *Staff Writer*

Algeria is a prominent exporter of oil and natural gas. Currently, most oil and gas is produced by the state owned Sonatrach company. Privately owned international oil companies exist but are not significant. It also possesses some of the largest untapped shale gas reserves in the world. In total, the energy industry accounts for a third of the North African country's GDP, and two thirds of their exports, with western Europe being the primary importer of Algerian oil.

Recently, young Algerians, displeased with nations direction, protested and pressured long time president Abdelaziz Bouteflika to resign from office. The army, once a key part of Bouteflika's administration, also pushed him to resign as the protests grew. Protesters continue to express displeasure with the men appointed to oversee the administration until new elections are held. Many worry the political tensions might relapse the nation into turmoil. In order to build a lasting domestic peace, a strong system of government must replace the strong man Bouteflika. This strong system of government must harness energy revenue and make Algeria's government answerable to its citizens.

Two questions will shape the fate of Algeria. First, how does the Algerian government collect oil revenue? Dominant oil exporters like Saudi Arabia rely on state run enterprises to generate oil revenue, whereas other nations prefer to rent their oil fields to foreign companies. A state run oil company is a strong source of revenue that no government can ignore, but the power that comes with it breeds corruption. Renting oil fields to private companies offers fewer opportunities for corrupt dealings, but grants foreign actors undue influence over an important economic sector. With massive oil rev-

enues, moderation is key. Dependence on a single path will give an interest group too much power over the state; power that should belong to all Algerians equally. Algeria's next leader should not rely exclusively on either method of extraction, but should instead allow Sonatrach and foreign companies equal access to Algeria's oil resources. Structuring the energy sector this way prevents any one group from gaining prominence, forcing them to compete with one another for access to untapped reserves. Algeria's energy sector should help fund government policies, not control them.

The second question that will shape Algeria: what is energy revenue spent on? A new administration will soon come to power, and likely attempt to solidify support through strong economic growth, social programs, or force. Energy revenues are a valuable resource that can fund any of these three avenues for support. A populist might use energy revenues to expand or found welfare or health care programs. And an established politician could spend the money on infrastructure projects and boosting economic activity. But an autocrat would likely use oil money to shore up support among the army. Algeria's next leader should take inspiration from US law.

In America, federal gas tax revenue must be used to fund infrastructure projects. This matching of a revenue stream to an expense promotes fiscal discipline. Fiscal discipline and moderation are of paramount importance when revenue comes from energy rather than taxes. People can, and do, protest tax increases, but energy reserves cannot protest. This means a leader is less likely to receive push back from his citizens if they funds an expensive or unsustainable program with energy revenue

How Algeria can beat the resource curse, continued page 17



CAN MACRON SUCCESSFULLY ASSUAGE FRENCH ANGER?

By Rosie Kilcoyne *Staff Writer*

The continuation of the Yellow Vest protests in France raises major questions about the deep-rooted systemic issues in French society and the effectiveness of President

Emmanuel Macron as a leader. The protests began in November 2018 around the issues of a proposed green tax on fuel, which would affect rural workers, but has continued growing in the breadth of concerns. People have also been upset because of his loosening of labor laws and ending France's wealth tax, which is seen as supporting the wealthy. Now, protestors are demanding increases in wages and pensions, but President Macron has yet to succeed in quelling protestors' dissatisfaction.

In an attempt to assuage the anger and understand concerns, Macron launched a series of public forums that allow voters to express their discontent, which he calls the 'Great National Debate.' After the series of debates, Macron made a speech in which he outlined reforms, such as tax cuts and the demolition of the elite *École Nationale d'Administration*, where Macron himself studied. It is unclear whether or not these measures will result in change, and protests have continued despite the proposed reforms. Many believe that Macron did not provide any political answers to their struggles.

The protests show that France is struggling politically, but it has been struggling for a long time. Immigrants who live in the *banlieues*, or suburbs, have felt marginalized for a long time. The residents of the *banlieues* have not participated in the mainly rural-based protests because their concerns extend beyond that of the protestors.

Additionally, if they become involved, they may be implicated in the violence. This is a time for Macron to look deeply at the situation in France and make concessions. He has often been criticized for being a President for the rich, but the Yellow Vests provide him an opportunity to make some amends in French politics. It is clear that reforms such as tax cuts, minimum wage increases, and pension increases cannot alone assuage the discontent that the French people are feeling. The solution to the demands of the protestors resides much deeper within French society. The duration and intensity of these protests show that small measures cannot create change, and the unhappiness resides much deeper within French society. France is a country that is becoming increasingly protective of its culture and hostile to threats to the status-quo, as laws like the burkini ban have shown. This dissatisfaction shown in the Yellow Vest protests might have roots much deeper and requires Macron to really step down and work with the French people. Otherwise, he will remain disconnected from the French people and fail to assert change.

President Macron is already looking towards reelection, but his failure to effectively deal with the Yellow Vest protests will not help his chances any with Macron's approval rating resting below 30%. To many, Macron represents the elitist structure of French politics. He has proved unable to connect with the demands of the French electorate, which makes his odds for reelection low. President Macron, who was considered a political outsider when he got elected, needs to reconnect with the French people and enact sustainable change if he hopes to quell unrest and win reelection.



AGING LION, HIDDEN DRAGON

[Game of Thrones Spoilers Ahead]

By Nizar Kaddouri *Staff Writer*

It's Game of Thrones season again, one last time. As usual, I have been pouring through fan theories and book references to infer what may happen in the next few episodes, and how the season might end. Yet, that is not what I want to talk about today. Instead, I'd like to take some cues from the series to inform my and your view of global politics today.

See, if you had to boil recent GoT episodes down to a couple of sentences, you could say that a young queen with her dragons is coming to overthrow established royalty. Meanwhile a cataclysmic weatherman is trying to kill everyone, so the world must band together to defeat him. Stop me if you've read this before, but the whole White Walker storyline is a parallel to climate change. What interests me, though, is the power struggle between Cersei and Daenerys. Cersei is the established hegemon who has a great army and subservient citizens, but whom everyone hates. Daenerys, on the other hand, comes from a family that was once dominant, and seeks to reclaim her glory with the help of her dragons and freed armies. This is starting to sound a lot like Donald Trump's United States and Xi Jinping's China. Let me elaborate.

Once a great and powerful force, the US increasingly looks like a bastard ruler. A more aggressive political stance at home and abroad has alienated many of America's allies. While many countries keep cordial relations with the US, few would deny that they cannot look at America the same way again. Cersei's lands are poorly governed and short on resources, like America's crumbling infrastructure and public services. More recently, Cersei's need for relevance has led her to cozy up to rogue leaders like Kim Jong-Un...sorry, I meant Euron Greyjoy.

That being said, Cersei is the status quo choice, she may be a bad queen, but she's the only one in a line of noble kings. One could say the same of America.

At its best, it showed us a path to freedom and order. Despite its turn under the Trump administration, the US has usually been and will likely again be a great economic and political partner. Still, things here feel like they are rotting. Aside from hubs like New York or San Francisco, vast swaths of the country feel out of touch with the future.

China, on the other hand, is tackling climate change head on. Backed by state subsidies, the country is a global leader in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and technological integration. Like Daenerys's pact with the North, China has created a web of alliances with countries across Asia and Africa through its Belt and Road initiative: in exchange for commercial advantages, China offers financing for infrastructure projects that many states are in dire need of. Chinese box office markets are almost equal to their US counterparts, and China's cultural relevance is steadily growing.

Nevertheless, just like dealing with Daenerys's pyromaniac tendencies, siding with China has some setbacks and risks. Loans to Belt and Road partners have often been described as predatory, leading to long leases on construction sites like a new port in Sri Lanka (which China now holds for 99 years).

Just like the world of George R.R. Martin, ours is facing an impending choice between an established but now unreliable Western lion, and a promising but risky Eastern dragon. China's rise and its challenge to US hegemony will likely be the defining issue of our lifetimes. Is the American Century coming to an end, and if so, how? What we must ask ourselves today is who do we trust to lead us into the next 100 years of progress, and why? China has its fair share of problems, but has shown an unmatched drive to shake things up. Either way, tune in on May 19 to see how the saga ends.

On a final note, who do I think Jon Snow is in this story? **AFRICA.**



NETANYAHU INVINCIBLE, APARTHEID EMERGING

By Cam Garfield *Staff Writer*

With charges that include bribery, fraud and breach of trust being levied at a head of state one might think that person would be more worried about prison than being Prime Minister. But not Bibi. Earlier this month the Israeli political juggernaut Benjamin Netanyahu, affectionately known as Bibi, won another term as prime minister, successfully producing a majority coalition that won 65 of the 120 parliamentary seats in the Israeli Knesset. The victory guarantees Israel another 4 years of his leadership, adding to the past 10 years that he has served as prime minister. That will only happen provided he isn't sent to jail instead.

Netanyahu's charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust that he has been indicted upon relate to 3 separate cases related to corruption. The first case relates to him and his wife receiving gifts from foreign businessmen in exchange for tax exemption, the second relates to a tape revealing a deal struck between Netanyahu and an owner of an Israeli newspaper that would have given Bibi more favorable coverage. Similarly, the third case and perhaps the most incriminating is a police discovery that Netanyahu traded regulatory favors, despite political opposition, in exchange for more favorable news coverage from a number of local agencies. In all, it appears that the shrewd political manipulator has finally been caught in his machinations. We will see if the charges hold, though I am not optimistic as Israel, and seemingly also the whole world, continues to shift in an increasingly authoritarian direction.

In the elections Netanyahu was able to overcome these charges and hold onto his position as Israeli's hard right has increasingly overtaken Israeli society

and dominates the political sphere. One way Netanyahu courted voters in the led up to the elections was proposing to annex the illegal settlements in the West Bank. Conditions seem favorable for Bibi to do so as the current US president has willingly obliged to policy measures unthinkable in the past, such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and acknowledging the Golan Heights to be Israeli territory. It seems likely that under his rule, Netanyahu will continue to push aggressive policies and seek to incorporate more and more of the Palestinian territories. Also, The only parties that did mention peace with Palestinians during the elections won a whopping 10 seats in the Knesset.

Clearly, Israel has shifted in an alarmingly more combative and threatening way towards Palestinians and international law itself. In the near future, I expect Palestinians to show a strong and significant sign of resistance in accord with the Great March of Return rallies that have occurred over the past year. Don't be surprised if this resistance is violent in response to Israel's annexation laws which allow for private Palestinian lands to be confiscated and turned into Jewish settlements. Think about what you would do to fight for your home if it was being senselessly taken from you.

Thinking again about the role we all play in this, the Trump Administration, perhaps more than any administration in the past, is encouraging and sanctioning clear violations to humanitarian and international norms. Never before have we seen a president so ready to acquiesce to Israeli demands, especially ones that no one else in the world would agree to. Clear examples that I mentioned already were the recognition of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as solely Israeli property. Netanyahu even

TURNING THE TIDE:

What can history tell us about Mayor Pete Buttigieg's chances in 2020?

By *Charlie Beauregard* Staff Writer

As the 2020 Democratic field continues to grow, several candidates have begun to separate themselves from the pack, fueling more media coverage of their campaigns. Of those candidates, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg stands out. Mayor Pete, as he is often referred to, reflects the unpredictable and fluid nature of the Democratic race. Since Buttigieg entered the campaign trail, I have become interested in how well his local support will transfer to the national stage. Thus far, Buttigieg has fared well in the early polls, often placing among top Democratic candidates like Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Kamala Harris. As a youthful, openly gay, former military man, Mayor Pete's background is appealing to several groups in our country's diverse electorate. Buttigieg supports the Green New Deal, backs a single payer health care system, and opposes the Trump administration's hard stance on immigration. As Mayor of a Midwest town in a state carried by Trump in 2016, Buttigieg cites his ability to appeal to Republican voters. Additionally, as evident by the 2016 election, some voters favor candidates who do not have political ties to D.C. Many view Buttigieg as a refreshing face in a field dominated by current or former Senators and Representatives. But, mayoral candidates for the American presidency have a historically weak record. Will Buttigieg be able to prove history wrong and come out as a viable Democratic candidate and legitimate challenger to President Trump?

In our nation's political history, no mayor has ever ascended directly to the presidency. Despite this, there have been several mayors who have attempted to project their local muscle onto a national stage. Of the 13 campaigns, only two resulted in presidencies. Grover Cleveland served as president for two terms in the late 1800s and Calvin Coolidge served for one term in 1924. Yet, the other 11 campaigns by mayors for the most powerful office in our country failed miserably. Former

Mayor of Portland, Maine, Neal Dow earned 0.1% of the popular vote in the 1880 general election. More recent failed campaigns include Dennis Kucinich in 2004 and 2008, Rudy Giuliani in 2008, and Martin O'Malley in 2016. These three candidates struggled to gain any traction and eventually withdrew in the early stages of the primaries. Where will Mayor Pete fall in this embattled history of mayors who run for the American presidency?

I believe that Pete Buttigieg will fare better than most of his mayor predecessors. Buttigieg has been effective in bringing people together to solve collective action problems in South Bend. For example, his investment in city infrastructure, public private partnerships, and economic development have revitalized the city as its population is up more than 1,000 people in the last decade. Buttigieg's tenure as mayor, paired with his military experience, challenges his critics' claims that he lacks government experience. Buttigieg's small Midwest town appeal may result in his ability to flip several districts that voted for Trump in 2016. Additionally, early fundraising numbers suggest that Mayor Pete has not struggled to keep up with established candidates. His campaign has attracted support from several progressive groups in D.C., while also utilizing support from small donations across the country. I anticipate Mayor Pete will continue to make big splashes as the Democratic primary intensifies. He is in a unique position to set history in several ways as 2020 approaches. If Mayor Pete does the unthinkable by propelling from small town Mayor to President of the United States, not only would he defy the history books, he would become the country's youngest and first openly gay president in history.



US MILITARY HISTORY OF WAR CRIMES

By Daniel Ellison *Staff Writer*

When it came to light in the 1960s that American forces were responsible for civilian deaths in Vietnam, widespread rioting erupted across the US and the world. The already low support for the American involvement in Vietnam sharply declined, and the American response was inadequate; after the infamous My Lai massacre, where the American army murdered over 500 Vietnamese civilians, only one American officer was convicted (in American military court, not in an international tribunal) and was sentenced to what ultimately ended up being just three and a half years in prison. There were similar reports in the Gulf War as well where it was reported that US military personnel executed 350 Iraqi soldiers after their surrender.

With such a history, then, it is unsurprising that similar revelations have come about concerning the conflict led by American military forces against ISIS in recent years. The story of Navy SEAL Chief Edward Gallagher, who is currently on trial, has exposed a culture of tolerance and even support for truly inhuman actions. The stories about Gallagher are abhorrent: SEALs he commanded have said that he would neglect his duties of planning missions to sit at his sniping post, murdering unarmed civilians of all ages – he has been accused of killing over 100 civilians in this manner. Most horrifying is the story of how after a fifteen-year-old boy fighting for ISIS was captured as a prisoner of war and taken to the American military hospital for his injuries, Chief Gallagher went to his hospital bed and stabbed him to death in the chest with his hunting knife, following this action by posing for pictures over the child's dead body.

What is surprising, however, is the amount of support Gallagher received from the internal structures of the Navy

meant to stop war crimes from occurring. SEALs he commanded in Iraq repeatedly went through these channels, and were told to forget it, as the fallout from the case would hurt other SEALs, The New York Times reports. It was only after they bypassed these given channels that Gallagher was brought to trial.

Gallagher has also received a large amount of support from Americans. His family has hosted large fundraising events for him, attended by some prominent political figures, and many conservative television hosts have been supportive. President Trump, even, tweeted in support of the Navy Chief, and apparently has met repeatedly with a Fox News host who is one of Gallagher's biggest advocates.

Clearly, the American public and military institutions foster a culture that supports such awful brutalities. However, the international community plays an equally incriminating role. The International Criminal Court has been criticized in the past for exclusively investigating situations from Africa and Eastern Europe. The actions of Navy Chief Gallagher very clearly constitute war crimes, and scrutiny should surely be placed on American war criminals. Instead, the soldiers that do get indicted by the usually lax internal legal institutions get the support of many Americans and often, as in Vietnam, escape with minimal punishment. Punished much more harshly are those in the military who expose the overreach of the government, like Edward Snowden or Chelsea Manning. American war criminals must be punished in accordance with international law.

NOTRE DAMN

By Terri Nwanma *Staff Writer*

On the 15th of April 2019, the 759 year old French monument containing millions worth of artwork and French sentimental value, the Notre Dame went up in flames. Many around the world used social media to advocate for prayers to go up for the building which symbolized a lot to people religiously, artistically or just nationally. Eventually the fire died down and although much was lost, some of the building was recovered and as quickly as the next day, billionaires around the world and even country governments began to pledge their financial support in the rebuilding of this symbol of French national pride.

A lover of art myself and a fiend for anything of historical and sentimental value, I felt a slight twinge of sadness as Paris is on my travel bucket list and as a typical tourist the Notre Dame was on the sub bucket list of places to see in Paris. But as I began to read reactions on the ever multi-opinionated Twitter and Facebook and discussed this issue with others around me, it became clear that this monument burning signified so much more to a wide array of people.

The bulk of people involved in the conversation concerning this building were either showing off their past trips to Paris and discussing how glad they were that they got to see the Notre Dame. Others were regretting not taking up that one study abroad opportunity to have seen Paris and subsequently the Dame. Others yet were angered by the level of attention the building was getting and the rapidity with which the wealthy were willing to part with large sums of money to repair it.

The biggest problem people expressed was the multitude of simultaneous problems the world has going on right now and the lack of care the Christian West specifically demonstrated towards them. For example, the same day as the burning of the cathedral, another prominent religious building, Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound also suffered, albeit less damaging, a fire of its own. Also, in the month of April which had a week dedicated to Earth Week to focus on sustainable solutions to the world's climate change issues, it was interesting(to

say the least) to see many who've benefited from the big businesses whose activities have contributed largely to the environmental crisis, stay silent when it came to funding environmentally friendly initiatives or environmental emergencies like the Flint Water Crisis.

It just seemed once again, for many people that white Christian spaces are seen as more politically important and more worthy of the sympathy from the world. It seemed that many relevant issues in the world were quickly pushed aside to make room for what many saw as a symbol of imperialism, especially with France's post colonial history of keeping art that rightfully belongs to Africans and also their still ongoing collection of taxes from former colonies, no matter how poor these colonies are.

Most of the sentiments expressed stirred up thoughts I have had in the past concerning the way similar events in different places in the world were treated with different levels of emotion and worldwide commitment. Nigeria, my home country has suffered almost daily terrorist attacks since around 2001 from Boko Haram, a sect that has been linked to Al-Qaeda. Not once did I see a filter like the #prayforfrance one on Facebook asking people to pray for the almost 300 schoolgirls kidnapped by this sect for almost three years, many of whom have not still been found and returned to their families.

To be very clear, this is not a battle to see whose tragedy is greatest. Loss is loss. Loss should be loss everywhere. But it seems very clearly that certain people's tragedies deserve more attention, more support, more media coverage and more importance. If the world is going to move forward in creating equality within and between nations, times of crises must also be treated equally in different situations. The dynamics of certain nationalities, religious identities or civilisations getting more recognition than others only breeds resentment for many others who don't belong to the categories that have been decided by dominant groups in plurinational societies and on the globe at large.



AN AMERICAN CRISIS: THE PARTISAN PRESS

By Aimely Michaud-Nolan *Staff Writer*

The American public has abandoned the truth. People no longer want to read the news for the sake of facts, they want confirmation of their beliefs. Civil discourse is a thing of the past, and this is largely a function of the media. When the media becomes partisan, people's news becomes a question of belief, rather than truth. In a time when people on both sides can no longer compromise, one would assume that fact would bring people together. But as it turns out, across the aisle, people can not agree on what constitutes a fact.

There is a spectrum of partisan news; on either end falls Fox News and MSNBC. These two organizations have thrown out their journalism guidebooks and have decided to report through their set of beliefs.

Journalists no longer make decisions on what stories are most important for the American public, instead, they want sensationalism; they want clicks and views. For MSNBC, President Trump is a magnet they can't seem to detach from.

Not only does MSNBC love to broadcast the Trump Show, but they also can't seem to report without an obvious left-leaning bias. A Pew Research Center poll shows MSNBC's reporting on President Trump is 82 percent negative, and only 4 percent positive. This is a dangerous reality. Studies show that TV News is still considered the "most helpful" when it comes of chooses were to find the facts. If the "facts" are biased, can they be truthful? Although I do believe President Trump deserves his fair share of negative coverage, I don't think MSNBC is being objective in their reporting of Donald Trump. The main-stream media should hold those in power accountable, they should seek the truth. But that does not mean that organizations like MSNBC can be partisan in the name of "justice". Justice is facts. It's sticking to the

truth even when the truth is unpleasant for you.

Last year in July, Ralph Peters, a military analyst, quit Fox News. He cited his reasoning as his belief that Fox News had become a "destructive propaganda machine" for President Trump. This was last year, and in 2019 it has become even more evident that Fox News is less of a news organization and more a mouthpiece of President Trump, repeating the same lies as the President to their audience.

Fox News has a gift of perpetuating a crisis. Whether its snowflakes taking away guns, kneeling for the anthem, going on a witchhunt; or radical libs lying about police brutality and rape culture; it could even be a migrant caravan, filled with rapists and drug lords. Fox News knows its audience. Facts matter less than fear, and Fox panders to a right-side that fears the progressive left. Fox

News, like President Trump, knows how to race bait. They both know how to fabricate a crisis so dire, people feel radicalized. This is equally, if not more dangerous, than the narratives created by MSNBC.

To me, the most important aspect of news is objectivity. The media has a responsibility to the people, not to the people in power. When a news organization loses objectivity, they lose credibility. Both MSNBC and Fox News have lost their credibility because they cannot write stories without a partisan lens. This is a danger to America. When people can no longer decide on what is a fact, they cannot decide on a common goal, a common enemy, or even a common set of moral standards. When the media abandons the truth, they deepen the divide between the American public. The News is no longer a means to education, but rather a means to polarization.

"JOURNALISTS NO LONGER MAKE DECISIONS ON WHAT STORIES ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, INSTEAD, THEY WANT SENSATIONALISM; THEY WANT CLICKS AND VIEWS."

FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES: HARMLESS FUN?

By Sarah Warner *Staff Writer*

Oftentimes, when people think of the traditional American college experience, the image of a fraternity immediately comes to mind. In films, music videos, and other media, the American college student is typically featured with a red Solo cup in hand and Greek letters emblazoned across their chest as they party for hours on end. There's a certain allure to such a "fraternity life"—in which the only thing to worry about is how well you're going to do in beer pong—yet the reality of fraternities and sororities is much more convoluted than this rose-tinted portrayal. Look at what goes on during Rush Week, for example: at his college, a close friend of mine got hazed and came out of it with a severe concussion and a fractured cheekbone, another friend was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, and yet another walked back to her dorm in tears after a sorority told her she wasn't "pretty enough"—and these are just the stories I know. Fraternities and sororities have long, complicated histories of dangerous and problematic activity that not only put students' lives at risk but often perpetuate systems of privilege and oppression.

Greek life has come under fire time and time again in the past few years. In early April, four fraternity members from Pennsylvania State were charged in the 2017 hazing death of 19-year-old Timothy Piazza, who fell down the stairs and died during a pledge acceptance ceremony. Just a few days ago, fraternities on Swarthmore College's campus agreed to disband after weeks of protests from students outraged by leaked documents that revealed years of sexist, racist, and homophobic comments by fraternity members. Even at Colby, a school that totes its lack of Greek life, underground fraternities and sororities have been a recurring source of controversy.

Every time collegiate Greek life is catapulted into the spotlight due to yet another scandal, people rise to defend it. They say that it's all in good fun, that it's a place to make connections, that they do more than just party, that it lets you build relationships with your fraternity brothers or sorority sisters, etc. The harm that Greek life inflicts upon a college campus, however, cannot be diminished by such flimsy excuses. Hazing—a practice taken up by most fraternities and sororities on one level or another—endangers students, often

forcing them to drink copious amounts of alcohol, stay up all night, and sometimes become the subjects of physical abuse. Beyond hazing, though, the culture that propels Greek life is toxic. It is a culture built upon privilege, misogyny, and exclusionism—one that creates a hive-mind or, in the case of fraternities, a "boys club". You can see it at Penn State, where the members of Beta Theta Pi left Timothy Piazza to "sleep it off" after he drank so much that his BAC was .40. You can see it at Swarthmore, where the Phi Psi fraternity's house had a room called the "rape attic" and where their meeting minutes included a casual discussion of how to obtain date rape drugs. You can see it at Colby, where underground fraternities and sororities allegedly ask for your parents' tax returns to prove that you're rich enough to join. There's a reason, after all, that Colby tried to get rid of Greek life in the first place. If you look into the archives, you'll find a whole smorgasbord of horrifying behavior from fraternity members, such as the practice of "netting", where fraternity members would walk around at night and throw nets over women they found attractive, dragging them back to their fraternity house. Many female students at Colby avoided Frat Row entirely for fear of cat-calling and harassment. This is the environment that Greek life creates: one that is not welcoming to anyone who doesn't belong to their little club—and even then, those who do are still sometimes abused and ostracized.

So why, then, do we continue to cling to Greek life as a defining component of the college experience? Why do we continue enabling a system that hurts far more than it helps? The answer to these questions is complicated, of course; it is tied up in history and systems of power and privilege that Greek life upholds. Yet I believe that much of it is also tied up in the perception of fraternities and sororities as nothing more than some harmless fun with peers, as part of "the college experience". We need to recognize that Greek life is not, in fact, harmless—at least not to women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, low-income students, and whoever else doesn't fit into or participate in these institutions. Fraternities and sororities are divisive, exclusionary, dangerous, and, in my opinion, institutions that do not belong on college campuses.

THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF MUSIC

(Continued from page 6)

bondage, the artist, like the slave, is made through violent force to submit to the master's demands of song and dance. Humanity is denied, the individual degraded, and the creativity extracted for entertainment or gain. Now, with platforms like Soundcloud, the artist can be their own boss, facilitating the birth of beautiful, spirited, fun music. Agency is reclaimed and art flows free, decentralizing pure profit and the stifling hierarchy. All power to the artists.

HOW ALGERIA CAN BEAT THE RESOURCE CURSE

(Continued from page 8)

rather than high taxes. Algeria's next leader should establish a system of matching oil revenues to specific government programs. This matching will impede a future would-be dictator from spending those funds on bribes or unsustainable populist programs. Algeria's next leader would also be wise to establish a numerical target for the state's annual oil revenue. This target should not be a quantity of oil, as this could violate Algeria's OPEC agreement, but a revenue. Profits surpassing these targets can be used to offset below-target revenues in subsequent fiscal years.

The smoothing of energy revenues, paired with matching energy revenues to expenses, will mean that if a strong man wishes to shore up support with state resources, they will likely have to do it through higher taxes. Algerians, like people everywhere, care about how much they're taxed. With a seemingly endless supply of funds from oil and natural gas, an Algerian leader might be tempted to ignore his citizens and their tax revenue. By constraining energy revenues and the energy sector's influence, Algeria's next leader can ensure that its government must listen to its citizens when making major policy decisions.

NETANYAHU INVINCIBLE, APARTHEID EMERGING

(Continued from page 11)

named a new illegal settlement in the Golan Heights after President Donald Trump. Whether it is a thank you for all of his openhandedness or a simple attempt at his vanity, I think we should all acknowledge that this coziness is perverse and promotes a dangerous and corrupt string of American policy. This is just one reason why the next US election is so important. If Trump stays in the office we will continue to further develop an apartheid state. But if not, the American public, especially the Jewish youth, seem willing to question the relationship we have with Israel and perhaps take a more stringent, fair and humanitarian course.

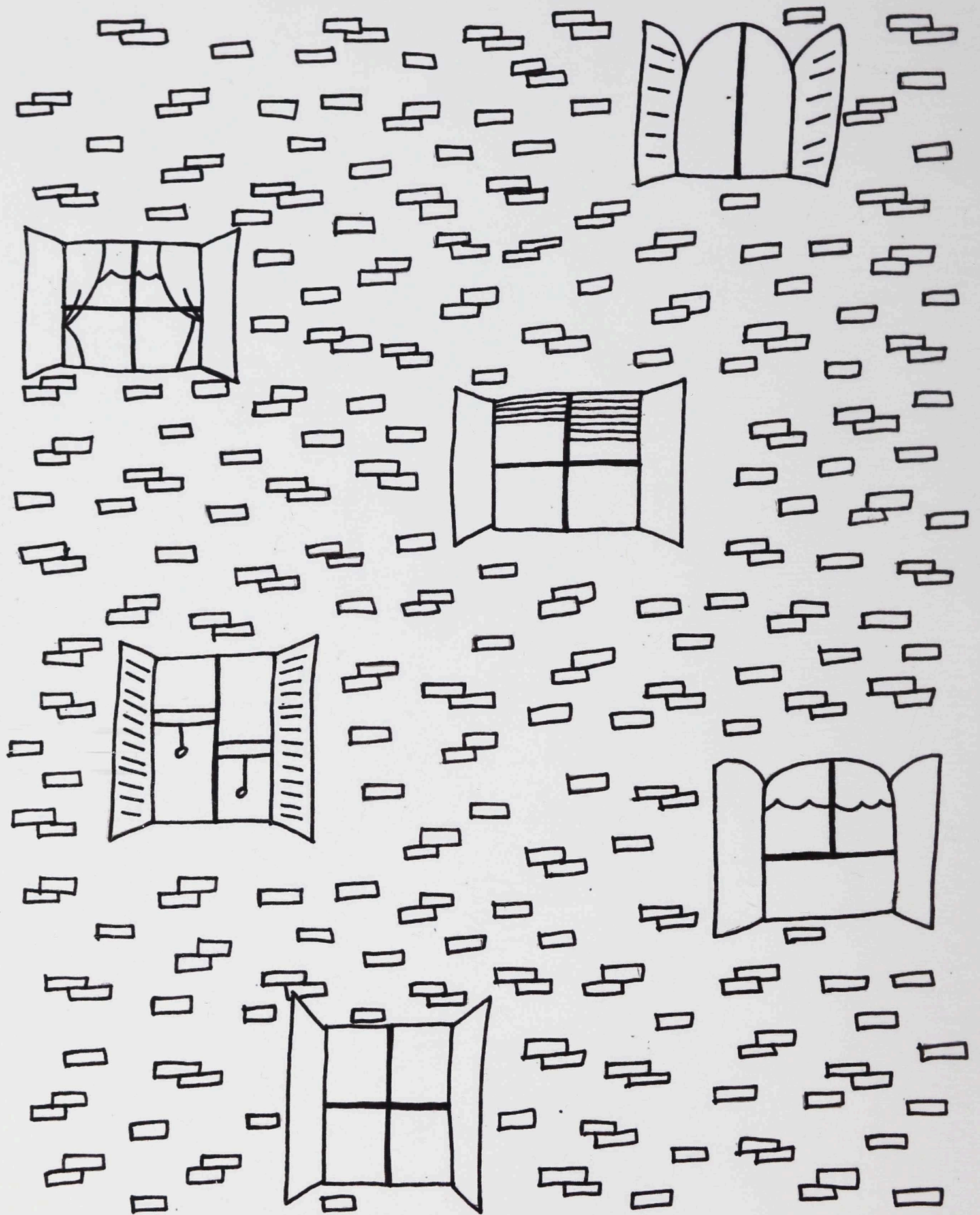


drops from brushed clouds
now dressed in cherry blossoms
grin silly with sun



EMBRACE
Your
softness
HEAL
YOURSELF

www.outsidecolby.com



OUTSIDE

colby