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HALDANE WELCOMES CONGRESSMAN MALONEY FOR TOWN HALL

Catriona Fee

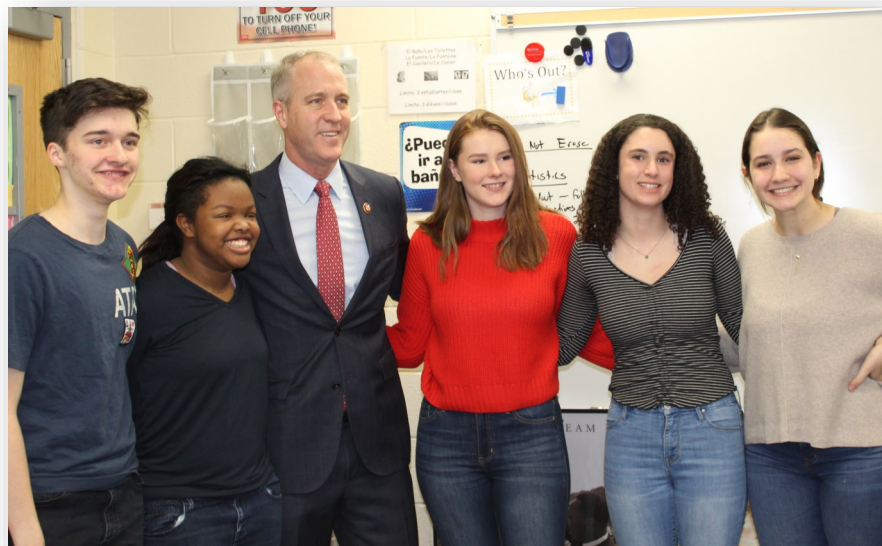
By the time the second bell rang for the start of the lunch period on Monday, February 4th, high school room 126 was packed with students, teachers, and members of the local press, all gathered for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney's first student town hall. Representative Maloney briefly talked about the day-to-day functions of Congress, before opening up the floor for student questions.

Students asked their Congressman a wide

variety of questions, from the recent government shutdown to the importance of youth involvement in politics today. He talked about how our generation is taking the reins on political activism and change in our country, and the importance of civic involvement. He said, "There's a lot of things we need to do better in this country, and it's not all on people like me, it's on people like you. People like me are only as strong as the people who send them to Washington. This is a team sport".

The first question asked was on the government shutdown, and Representative Maloney explained how the shutdown occurred, and what he was doing as a member of Congress to limit the shutdown. He elucidated students on how budget bills and funding for the Federal Government are passed, in this recent case, through 12 budget bills, one of which contained the controversial element of border security funding.

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TOWN HALL CONT.



Sean Patrick Maloney also told students that he, along with several of his Congressional colleagues, refused to accept payment for the thirty-five days of the partial federal government shutdown. Maloney said that by this action, he was “standing in solidarity with those who were furloughed”. In more recent weeks, Sean Patrick Maloney voted in favor of a spending bill, H.J.Res. 31: Making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year 2019. The bill prevented another government shutdown,

and fully funded border security, but only provides funding for additional fencing at the border, rather than a border wall.

He then answered a question about Trump’s tweets and discussed how social media, particularly Twitter, has become a medium of political announcements, rather than the traditional press release. He responded, “Tweeting is obviously a new thing in Presidential history, but it’s not that weird when you think about it; The President’s tweets are weird..”, stirring up some laughter in the room. He proceeded to answer questions about current legislation he is working on, including reform of Congress, campaign finance, and even the current Mueller investigation into the current administration, considering that Representative Maloney was just placed on The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Overall, Congressman

Maloney talked the most about student civic involvement, emphasizing its importance in improving the state of our nation.

The event certainly procured great excitement from many, students and teachers alike. Government and Politics teacher Ms. Seidman, who organized the forum, said: “I was really excited to have him (Sean Patrick Maloney) as a guest speaker, and I think he did a really good job running it as a town hall, and I think it resonated with a lot of students”.

Senior Reid Sandlund remarked, “It was great to have the opportunity to receive direct answers from him. He was articulate with his points and had an interesting perspective on current politics, so I’m glad he was willing to come in and speak with us”.

Junior Anneke Chan commented about the event, “It’s really important for adolescents

to be exposed to politics and the way in which it can affect their lives. Having accessibility to knowledgeable and experienced individuals like Sean Patrick Maloney can be greatly beneficial to this which is why I’m grateful he came in and spoke with us”.

“It’s spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you’ve got it, you want—oh, you don’t quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!”

- Mark Twain

PLAY LIKE A GIRL

Elizabeth Nelson

This upcoming spring there will be a girls lacrosse clinic for high school students at Haldane, along with a Girls Modified Lacrosse Team for seventh and eighth graders. Chuck Twoguns is subjected to coach the clinic, while as of now there is no coach for the Modified team. Talk about a girls lacrosse team has been going on for a few years now, and after several girls in the high school have shown interest, Twoguns was happy to

get a team started.

The clinic is being held in hopes to attract a wider range of players, which will allow for an official varsity and/or junior varsity team in the future, along with help from the Modified team. In the clinic Twoguns will teach the fundamentals of lacrosse. As of now the clinic will allow for the girls to compete in scrimmages with other teams to give a feel for what it's like to play. The "season" will culminate at the Annual Roscoe Tournament in June, where girls will

be playing games with official teams and referees.

Although Chuck Twoguns has wanted to start a team for quite a while, he knew this was not possible due to the lack interest, experience, and funding for a new sports program. His intentions are to help amass more interest and knowledge of lacrosse to get the girls ready for a team. When asked about the program Twoguns stated, "my intention is to teach any girl interested in this great sport the basic

fundamentals and to share my passion of it in hopes they will develop their own love for the game... We make the game fun to learn and hope the girls develop their own passion for the game that will enable them to encourage themselves."

There are a group of eight to ten high school girls interested in the clinic, and of course more numbers are desirable. New and experienced players are welcome.

HALDANE WARMS HEARTS

Elizabeth Nelson

On March 6th, the LEO Club came together in efforts to make blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus is a non-profit organization that collects old blankets as well as distributes materials to make

blankets for charity groups to donate to misfortunate children whom have been hospitalized. The LEO Club has been engaging in this charitable act for the past three years. The blankets have gone to children whom are fatally

ill or traumatized by personal experiences. "The LEO Club spent their lunch period giving back," says LEO Club President Olivia Olsen, who has been a member since the club started partnering with Project Li-

nus. "It was a great way for the club to get together and get involved in an important issue." This years LEO Club made twelve blankets that will be put into the hands of deserving children.



WINTER BASKETBALL RECAP

Julia Rotando

For years basketball at Haldane has been one of the most successful and popular winter sports. The basketball teams always tend to make a run in the off season, leading to the many section championships and postseason successes. Within recent years, the girls team has won six straight section championships (2014-2019) along with the boys having three consecutive wins from years (2014-2016)

This year the Haldane boys basketball team ended their season on Thursday February 21st in a tough sectional semi final game against Alexander

Hamilton. The boys had a very successful season ending it with a 14-7 record. As the season slowly came to an end, players Mame Diba (Junior), Kyle Sussmeier (Senior) and Matt Champlin (Junior) all received awards and were selected for All League. Matt Champlin was selected for the All Conference team as well. The boys have high hopes for next season and believe they will gain back the Class C Section 1 title. Haldane is saying goodbye to four graduating seniors: Kyle Sussmeier, Devin Siegel, Kyle Kisslinger, and Peter Rodriguez all whom will be missed next season.

The Haldane Girls Basketball team did not have the best record going into the postseason this year. Losing more than twice as many games as they won, not many believed they would be able to bring the title home again. On February 21st the girls beat Alexander Hamilton in the section semi finals 62-37. Junior Bela Monteleone led the team with 26 points, followed by junior Olivia McDermott and senior Julia Rotando both adding 11 each. The girls then went onto the sectional final and won yet another Gold Ball on February 23rd defeating Keio Academy 53-22. Along with receiving the gold ball juniors Bela Mon-

teleone and Olivia McDermott both got named to the All Tournament team, along with Bela receiving tournament MVP. Following this win the girls took on Millbrook High School in the regional semi-finals on March 5th. Millbrook had defeated Haldane in the previous year in the regional finals and the Haldane girls had high hopes of getting revenge this year. But, Millbrook once again got the best of Haldane and defeated the girls 60-44. After the season ended, juniors Bela Monteleone and Olivia McDermott were selected for All League. Haldane is only losing one senior this year, Julia Rotando, and have high hopes to surpass their success next year.

POETRY OUT LOUD

Natalie Sandick

The annual the Poetry Out Loud competition took place on January 7th in the Haldane Middle/High School library. A total of eleven high school students participated, each reading two poems of their choice in front of a panel of three judges. Students are judged on accuracy, physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, and overall performance.

Juniors Noah Bingham and Andrew Nachamkin were victorious and went on to participate in the region-

wide competition at SUNY New Paltz on February 7th.

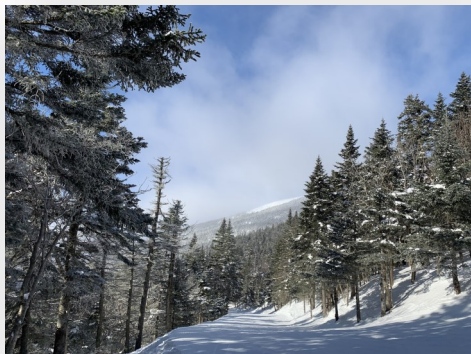
To prepare for this contest, Bingham says he tried to become familiar with the words, and wanted to put his own personal touch when reciting them. He also felt it was important to watch for speech patterns and mesmerize the rhyme and rhythm.

This was Nachamkin's first year participating in the competition, "I never [thought about doing] Poetry Out Loud until Dr. Richter approached me, and I ended up winning the Haldane contest. I really enjoyed this experience and learned a lot about public speaking."



SKI TRIP

Katelyn Pidala



at Stowe Mountain Resort. Stowe is located on Vermont's highest mountain, Mount Mansfield, at 4,393 feet. It was a little colder this day, reaching a high of about 20 degrees. During

On February 17 through 19, 48 Haldane students attended this year's overnight ski trip to Vermont. Starting at 6 a.m. Sunday morning with a 3-hour coach bus ride to Bromley and ending late Tuesday night after a long day of skiing at Stowe. This year, like almost every year, they stayed at the Round Hearth at Stowe which is only a 15-minute drive to Stowe Resort.

The first day of skiing was at Bromley, "Vermont's Sun Mountain." The bus arrived at around 9 a.m. to the mountain. After the long bus ride, the ski trip was finally able to begin. In the morning there were a few clouds, but it cleared up for the rest of the day. The temperature was in the 20s all day, you could never tell with all the sun. For many, this was their first time to Bromley because last year the ski trip went to Okemo the first day.

The second day of skiing was

this day, some chose to take the risk of adventuring through the glades to go to a cave. One of these participants was Maura Kane-Seitz who said: "we almost died." The glades were a challenge, but in the end it was worth it for the view. This was also her last trip, so she had some sentimental thoughts about it as well including, "This year's ski trip was extremely fun, but it was sadly my last one. We had really nice conditions at Stowe, and it's always fun to spend time with others at the Round Hearth."

The third, and final, day of skiing was at Stowe again. This was also the coldest day with the temperature remaining in the single digits to negatives almost all day and 12 MPH winds. The cold was made bearable while many chose to take advantage of the upscale

lodge only a gondola ride away at Spruce Peak. The students had access to skiing at this smaller ski area that was accessible by a gondola that went over the parking lot. There was also a small ski village with shops, eating, and ice skating that could be enjoyed if students were tired from skiing or snowboarding all day. The first two days ended with fun at the Round Hearth. For people who've been on the ski trip multiple times, the Round Hearth is a very familiar place filled with fond memories. Here students ate dinner and slept. There were also tons of activities to keep them occupied, including air hockey, pool, board games, a movie room,

and even a hot tub. Freya Wood-Gallagher, a member of the ski club for many years, said "once again the Round Hearth gave us a warm and welcoming experience."

On the last day, the bus departed Stowe at 4 p.m. with a 6-hour trip ahead. Halfway during the ride home, the bus stopped for food where the students could pick from Taco Bell, KFC, or McDonald's. After eating for about 30 minutes, the ride continued home, and the bus returned to Haldane around 10 p.m. This was the last ski trip for many of the Seniors, some of who've gone since eighth grade.



INTRODUCING MRS. KAHAN

Sophia Scanga

Mrs. Kahan is the new 9th grade guidance counselor at Haldane. Many of you may know her from her quick visits to Mrs. Cordaro's classroom to work on schedules for tenth grade. Mrs. Kahan has been a High school guidance counselor for 12 years and a middle school counselor for three years. If you need to speak to Mrs. Kahan you can easily find her in Mrs. Story's old office. She can help all students create a job resume and talk to them about any problems with their schedule. I interviewed Mrs. Kahan about the 9th graders making their schedules for the next school year. Here are some important information that all 9th graders should know regarding their schedules.

If a student wanted to change/work their schedule how could they contact you?

The best thing to do is email lkahan@haldaneschool.org or stop in and see me when they have an elective class but, they would need to get a pass from their teacher first.

If a student has not made their schedule yet what should they use to make their schedule? Is there a certain paper or form they need to get

from somewhere?

They can pick up the blue form in my office.

Are there any specific classes you recommend students take?

I recommend students get their required classes out of the way such as fine arts. I also recommend students take classes in an area of interest. They can talk to me and we'll sit down and come up with a 4 year plan as outline for classes. Although I can't guarantee that they are going to get the courses.

Currently where should students be in the process of their schedule making?

All 9th graders should have their form finished since we did them in Mrs. Cordaro's classes. Students should also always be updating their resume on Naviance.

SPREADING KINDNESS AT HALDANE



Kat Buslovich

During the week of the February 11th, students at Haldane High School participated in Random Acts of Kindness week. Each day of the week was assigned a random act of kindness to encourage high school students to do something helpful and kind to someone. Each student was given a "tic-tac-toe" styled grid in one of their classes, each square had a good deed such as, "give someone a high five" or "hold the door for someone." Students filled out hearts with nice messages

for their teachers and staff members.

Ninth grader Shea DeCaro and 10th grader Arden Conybear were awarded a prize for being the two students who completed and submitted their tic-tac-toe square of good deeds.

On February 14th, Valentine's Day, Haldane's International Club held their annual carnation sale. Students could have a carnation and a card delivered to a friend for \$1. Some interesting statistics of Valentine's Day is that the total spending for the holiday is an estimated \$18.2 billion, the average American will spend, \$146.56. 58 million pounds of chocolate were purchased during the week of Valentine's Day and 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate were sold.

NEW YORK SEES RECORD LOW TEMPS

Betsy McBride

This year's polar vortex caused record chills that affected people all over the country. Although New York State experienced harsh temperatures during the January months, we did not get the worst of it. In fact, we weren't even close. In Chicago, 72 hours of sub zero wind chills and 48 hours of sub zero wind chills so low that "we're going

to hear buildings and outdoor objects creaking" were predicted. Schools and workplaces (including ones all around Putnam county) were closed due to the weather. More than 1,600 flights were cancelled around the country and social service agencies, local governments, officials and landlords raced to warn and help the elderly, disabled, and homeless, and

make sure no one was stuck in the cold during these times.

Very cold weather during the winter months is common, especially in New York State, but this year's temperatures were definitely some to go down in the books. Not only did this weather affect people's daily lives, but it was dangerous in some areas as well.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Katelyn Pidala

On Friday, March 1st, the Spanish and French students of Haldane High School embarked on their annual immersion trip. This year the trip was to Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill. The day began with a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, fruit, and cereal. Students were also introduced with folders that had different information like the itinerary for the day, bracelets, and sheets to go along with the presentations. The first activity was a “Cultural Dance” by Fred Astaire, who taught the students how to

waltz. They were taught each step in small parts and then combined it all together at the end with music. After the dance, the Spanish and French students split into two groups and attended language-specific presentations. For Spanish, the students learned about Costa Rican culture, grammar, and sayings with teacher John Schepisi. The French Students learned about the culture and history of Haiti with Jerrice Baptiste. The students joined together again for a

cultural lunch of plantains, rice, French onion soup, cheesy potatoes, and pulled pork fajitas. Lunch was followed by performances by the students of a variety of songs, poems, and immersive dances. Once again, the students divided into two groups. The Spanish students listened to a presentation about Spain from Mercedes Burke. This presentation highlighted the different sites and customs of Spain. During this, French students went on a walk through the woods for a “Maple Syrup Program” by

Sharpe where they learned about this important component of Canada’s economy. Later on Pentagrama arrived with a full band and showed students the Cumbia. Students were invited to learn about the history of this dance and take part in the musical performance. After, dinner was provided by Sharpe before the students returned home. The students of this year’s Immersion Program enjoyed their experience at Sharpe Reservation and look forward to next year’s program.



2019 AWARDS SEASON

Riley Bissinger

As February 2019 draws to a close so does this year's awards season, the season of the Golden Globes, Grammy Awards, and Oscars. This season has been an interesting one, especially with the controversy surrounding the director of nominated film *Bohemian Rhapsody*, as well as the absence of a host at the Academy Awards following the controversy surrounding Kevin Hart. However, despite this, this awards season has brought recognition to many deserving movies and acknowledged to deserving music. Here are some of the most notable songs and films, all of which received numerous awards.

Movies

Bohemian Rhapsody (dir. Bryan Singer; star. Rami Malek) A musical celebration, *Bohemian Rhapsody* follows the rise of Freddie Mercury and Queen as they achieve worldwide success. The movie itself has been successful as well, winning Best Motion Picture Drama at the Golden Globes and awards for Film Editing and Sound Editing at the Oscars. The star of the film, Rami Malek, received much critical acclaim for his performance as Freddie Mercury, winning awards for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture Drama at the Golden Globes and Actor in a Leading Role at the Oscars.

A Star Is Born (dir. Bradley Cooper; star. Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper)

The story of a famous musician who discovers and falls in love with a struggling artist, *A Star Is Born* is an uplifting drama that ends in tragedy. Lead actors Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper received Best Actor / Actress nominations at both the Golden Globes and Oscars, and the movie itself was nominated for Best Picture at both shows as well. The drama received a total of eight nominations at the Oscars and five at the Golden Globes, but only won a total of two awards for its chart-topping single, *Shallow*.

Black Panther (dir. Ryan Coogler; star. Chadwick Boseman)

The first Marvel movie starring a black superhero, *Black Panther* is the story of the prince of Wakanda returning home to become King following the death of his father. The movie received awards for Costume Design, Original Score and Production Design as well as a nomination for Best Picture at the Oscars. Although the picture did not win in any categories at the Golden Globes, it received nominations for Best Motion Picture Drama, Best Original Score, and Best Original Song.

BlacKkKlansman (dir. Spike Lee; star. John David Washington, Adam Driver)

BlacKkKlansman depicts the true story of the African-American who attempted to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan with his white colleague during the early 1970s. Although it only received one award total, the award for Writing - Adapted Screenplay at the Oscars, the picture received two Best Picture nominations and ten nominations across both shows. Actors John David Washington and Adam Driver were both recognized for their performances, with Washington receiving a nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture Drama at the Golden Globes and Driver receiving a nomination for Actor in a Supporting Role at the Oscars. Spike Lee was also recognized through two nominations for Directing.

Music

This is America (Childish Gambino)

Although Donald Glover did not attend the Grammys, his song *This Is America* won him four awards, including record of the year.

Invasion of Privacy (Cardi B) Also nominated for album of the year, *Invasion of Privacy* made Cardi B the first solo female to win the award for best rap album.

God's Plan (Drake)

Attending the Grammys for the first time in years, Drake took home the award for best rap song for *God's Plan*, also nominated for record of the year and song of the year.

Sweetener (Ariana Grande)

Despite her absence from the show following controversy regarding her cancelled performance, Ariana Grande won best pop vocal album for *Sweetener*.

THE WRITER'S BLOCK

Riley Bissinger
Katrine Buslovich
Arden Conybear
Alden Dobosz
Catriona Fee
Riley Johanson
Liam Marinar
Ada McBride
Elizabeth Nelson
Katelyn Pidala
Julia Rotando
Natalie Sandick
Sophia Scanga
Damian Vladimiroff

Faculty Advisors:
Ashley Linda & Jenna Isabella

PATRIOTS DEFEAT RAMS FOR SIXTH SUPERBOWL TITLE

Alden Dobosz

The 2018 NFL season came to an end on February 3, 2019, with the New England Patriots beating the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3 in Super Bowl LIII. The game, played in Atlanta, GA, featured the perennial contenders, New England Patriots, and the Los Angeles Rams, appearing in their first Bowl since 2000, when they defeated the Tennessee Titans. The Rams had a very successful regular season, finishing with an impressive record of 13-3, clinching the NFC West. The Patriots had a somewhat substandard record, compared to previous seasons, finishing at 11-5, clinching the AFC East for the tenth

consecutive season, an NFL record.

New England Patriots quarterback, Tom Brady, earned his sixth Super Bowl championship, along with head coach Bill Belichick, also earning his sixth. However, it was a different Patriots player that ultimately led his team to victory, earning Super Bowl MVP: wide receiver Julian Edelman. He totaled 10 receptions for 141 yards, becoming just the seventh wide receiver to be named Super Bowl MVP. "It just matters that we won," Edelman said. "It was a crazy year. We had a resilient bunch of guys. It was unreal. I'm pretty ecstatic," Edelman

added. "I'm physically and emotionally pooped", saying this during a post game interview, with NESN. Edelman's strong showing, as well as the defense playing stellar, limiting the NFC's highest scoring team, the Rams to just 3 points. Reporters, cameras, and other members of the media immediately swarmed Brady as soon as he took one final kneel to end the game. "We made the plays when we had to, and did just enough to beat a really good football team over there (Rams)."

Super Bowl LIII had fewer viewers than in recent

years, drawing 98.2 million people to watch the big game. In fact, it was the lowest watched since Super Bowl XLII. Many people called this year's game "boring", as was the Pepsi halftime show, featuring Maroon 5, Travis Scott, and Big Boi. This game almost certainly defined Tom Brady as the greatest quarterback of all time, solidifying his legacy in NFL history along with the greatest coach of all time, Bill Belichick. But not to be overlooked are the Los Angeles Rams. Even though they're coming off defeat, they look to have a bright future in the years to come, as is the case for many more NFL teams in 2019.

A TRIP TO THE MOVIES WITH LIAM & RILEY

First Man (2018)

Review by: Liam Marinar

One of the greatest achievements of mankind, *First Man* tells us the story of The Apollo Missions and the first moon landing through the eyes of Neil Armstrong. But is not the feel good movie of the year by any standard. It's true to the story it tells and that is one of constant trial and error. During the film we go through Armstrong's selection and meet other astronauts such as Ed White. We see as these men risked their lives in a program that was under incredibly pressure from Congress and

protested by the American people. It takes us through Armstrong's previous mission Gemini 8 and through the tragic Apollo 1 mission where all astronauts on board died. In the movie, the astronauts are not perceived as these glorious hero's, they are seen as real people with families and lived outside the space program. While on the Apollo 11 mission *First Man* puts you right into the action as we see how astronauts like Neil Armstrong, played by Ryan Gosling and Buzz Aldrin, played by Corey Stoll going on their daring mission

to the moon. Ryan Gosling's performance as Neil Armstrong is fantastic and is definitely a focal point of the film. Without his strong performance *First Man* would not nearly be what it is. He provides a great Neil Armstrong and portrays Armstrong correctly, showing viewers the insurmountable amount of courage it took these men to make it to the moon. The other actors portraying Buzz Aldrin, Ed White etc are also fantastic and the really make it seem like this is a crew who train for years togeth-

er. But the most impressive part of the movie is it's fantastic special effects. *First Man* won best visual effects for the 2019 Oscars and it's no surprise. The effects really make it look like you are floating through the emptiness of space with the crew. The surface of the moon also looks incredibly realistic and elevated the movie to another level. *First Man* is a fantastic movie and I would definitely recommend giving it a watch. It is no wonder *First Man* was up for 4 Oscars, winning 1 and can really be seen as one of the best movies of 2018.

A TRIP TO THE MOVIES WITH LIAM & RILEY

Vice (2018)

Review by: Riley Johanson

Love him or hate him, the story of Dick Cheney is one of great intrigue and his effect has shaped our modern world in a peculiar way. Written and directed by Adam McKay, *Vice* is a satirical take on the life and career of Cheney and his role in altering the future of American politics and in turn global events. Starring Christian Bale as Cheney, Amy Adams as his wife Lynne, Sam Rockwell as George Bush and Steve Carell as Donald Rumsfeld, the performance of the cast stands out as one of the best of the year and their acting alone provides an entertaining film experience

(Christian Bale's mind boggling transformation in order to play Cheney can't be emphasized enough). McKay makes no effort to hide his disdain for his film's protagonist and portrays him as one of the great villains of modern American Democracy. Using satire and comedy to convince the viewer of his feelings regarding Cheney as the film follows Cheney from his years as a directionless utility man in Wyoming to his term as the most powerful Vice President in United States history. The journey through Cheney's life is divisive and thoroughly politicized resulting in a film experience just as polarizing as anything else in today's world.

Fighting with my Family (2019)

Review by: Riley Johanson

For those interested in fake wrestling, cookie-cutter inspirational stories, and low quality film making, this movie knocks it out of the park. For everyone else, a better use of their money would be wasting it on arts and crafts, setting in on fire, or simply throwing it out when compared to spending it on a movie ticket to see this film. Unlike *Vice's* political commentary, *Fighting With My Family* starring Florence Pugh, Jack Lowden, Vince Vaughn and Dwayne Johnson is the perfect escape from today's polarizing climate. No matter what your beliefs are, I think we can all agree that few other movies have such a startling ability to cause regret among ticket pur-

chasers than this one. The actors are commendable in their willingness to allow themselves to be recorded repeating the atrocious dialogue and the director for attaching his name to such a film and still being able to take himself seriously. Hyperbole aside, *Fighting With My Family* is another throwaway, studio cash grab that provides just under two hours of simple entertainment defined by crude jokes and predictable plot points. The film is a dramatized retelling of the rise of female WWE star Paige from her humble beginnings in England to stardom in the States and all the troubles he must overcome to achieve it. I would definitely recommend waiting for this to come out on cable before giving it a watch and even then only if nothing else is available.

Penguins of the Madagascar (2014)

Review by: Liam Marinan

Love them or hate them, they are undoubtedly the greatest animated penguin spy hero's of our generation. To put it bluntly, this is one of the best movies I have seen in my long and distinguished six month career reviewing movies. Everything about it is impeccable and it is truly flawless. *Penguins of the Madagascar* shows the brotherhood of four penguins, a brotherhood that

can only be forged in the Central Park Zoo. I would highly recommend watching this movie multiple times to truly understand its complexities. Coming out in 2014 with an impressive 73% on rotten tomatoes, *Penguins of the Madagascar* remains a timeless classic celebrated by film critics, as it will for centuries. Through purely perfect direction, the movie communicates in a playful tone while still sharing an important message that's promotes the important ideals

of courage and leadership, and teamwork. The voice acting in the movie should be the gold standard for later renditions. Skipper, who is voiced by Tom McGrath is done to perfection. The respect Skipper gets from the rest of the team gives Skipper the ability to command the team precisely and ensure his orders are followed out perfectly and they complete the mission. Tom McGrath is the physical embodiment of Skipper and is one of the greatest

voice actors of our generation. Esteemed actor Benedict Cumberbatch plays classified, a secret agent wolf and I couldn't think of anyone better to do the job. Cumberbatch truly took some time to nail his role as a talking secret agent wolf. This is not an easy role to perfect but somehow he performs it flawlessly. Overall, It is a must watch and cannot recommend it enough. **11/10 Stars**

OP-ED

The Power Grab: How *Janus vs AFSCME* is the continuation of a conservative takeover

Damian Vladimiroff

In February of 2019, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ken.) described a bill to redefine election day as a national holiday as “a power grab” for the Democrats. This was not incorrect as of course the bill would empower millions of busy voters to head to the voting booths every November—further constructing the Democratic base. However, the irony in this statement is that, systematically, the conservative movement has sought to root out all liberal and democratic causes within the government. Look no further than our judiciary. Ignore the nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch-- the high seats of Trumpian politics; look to court rulings like *Janus vs AFSCME* which seek

daily to lessen the power of unions and their constituents across the country.

Janus vs AFSCME was the suit that ruled that, on a first amendment basis, Union members are not required to pay their dues if the Union supports a cause or candidate that doesn’t align with their personal values, and overturned the Supreme Court ruling in the *Abood vs. Detroit Board of Education*, which granted such. This was reflective of President Trump’s power within the Judiciary. His appointment of clearly partisan Judges and Justices, like Brett Kavanaugh, (who misleadingly accused the Clinton family and the Democratic Party of scheming against him in front of a Senate panel, a clear breach of judicial nonpartisanship) shall leave a legacy on the American Judiciary; a legacy that could affect teachers.

Leisa Lundberg, a special education teacher from Queens and a card-carrying UFT member, (the United Federation of Teachers) said in an interview that “public-sector unions across the country, could lose tens of millions of dollars and see their effectiveness diminished.” She went on to quote Justice Elena Kagan’s dissent for *Janus vs AFSCME*: “[the ruling] prevents the American people, acting through their state and local officials, from making important choices about workplace governance. And it does so by weaponizing the First Amendment, in a way that unleashes judges, now and in the future, to intervene in economic and regulatory policy.”

However, ironically, Ms. Lundberg continued by stating that the ruling has had little effect on New York teachers and the UFT: “Ultimately, what this ruling

does is allow non union members, who don’t pay their dues, to reap the same benefits as due-paying members. The intention of the conservative groups who funded this lawsuit was to bankrupt Unions by allowing people to not pay their dues... This ruling seeks to debilitate public employee unions and take away their power to advocate for their members by undermining their funding structure.” She finished by saying that “the UFT is standing strong and is well positioned to fight this. They won’t be backing down.”

Janus vs AFSCME is only the edge of a long string of court rulings that reflect the ultra-conservative policies of the present presidential administration. It has become clear that the Trump Administration has become presumptuous in its attempts to radically change the liberal foundations that were constructed by previous administrations.

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