

# Purple Owl Press

VOLUME #17 ISSUE #1

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## National H-Day recap

Grace Bellamy  
Staff Writer

Last June six projects and ten OWL students traveled to the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland, with great success.

Seniors Grace and Sovigne Gardner won first place with their senior group website on Jacques Cousteau. "I knew that Sovigne and I had put in hours and hours of research, but it was still a surprise that we were recognised in that way," said Grace on her and Sovigne's win. "It was really great that all our work was acknowledged," Sovigne added. Of the five other projects



Grace and Sovigne with Katie and their gold medals



The OWL nationals team in front of the White House

that made it to Nationals, two made it to the final round of judging. 9th grader Theo Sage-Martinson, now going to Highland Park Senior High School, received 4th place and

*National Recap continued on page 6*

## The fall play

Helena Squires Mosher  
Staff Writer

Close your eyes and imagine the fall play. The lights flicker out, the crowd goes quiet, the curtains open, and you see... Hold on, what comes first? Who's the main character? What's the setting? Its name? These are just a few of the questions the cast and crew of the play are asking, because they are writing it.

The 20-something cast of the OWL fall play have been hard at work writing, dramatically moving, tongue-twisting, and monologue-ing on stage. Every day a group of actors are called from 2-4 pm, where instead of memorizing the script, they devise and perform small stories, which may end up in the final performance. "I enjoy being with like-minded people to share ideas and to create," says 8th grader William Moberg. Design crew is called on

*Theater continued on page 5*

## Welcome 6th graders!

Loren Vue and Veronica Rohde  
Staff Writers

During fall retreat week, the 6th graders were introduced to OWL through fun group activities including OWL boot camp, visiting the science museum and spending the night at Baker park.

At boot camp, the 6th graders spent the day at school learning more about the plans for the year and different things that will help introduce them to middle school.

Next, the 6th graders went to the Minnesota science museum and spent the day with their groups looking at different exhibits, watching live science shows and experi-

*6th grade retreats continued on page 6*



A 6<sup>th</sup> grader shooting a bow at baker park

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# OPEN NEWS

## Fraquetball winds up

*Sam Dale-Gau*

*Staff Writer*

Game point! The flying pickles, Daniel and Chua, Square off against their opponents and Daniel steels himself for an incredible serve. The Alpha Numericals, Tom and Damon, fortify at the other end of the hall and prepare to block whatever the Pickles send at them. Chua gives Daniel the secret nod and he lofts the ping-pong ball into the air. He steps up to the line and SMACK! His paddle collides with the ball and sends it hurtling down the hall, hugging the corner where the wall meets the ceiling and soar past the defenders in the blink of an eye. Victory!

Did a pair of bird-cucumbers just face off the embodiment of math? No, that was the championship match of the 2015-16 Fraquetball tournament. The Flying Pickles emerged victorious and dethroned the teacher's evil reign. They were immortalized in the Fraquetball trophy forever.

But it's not over yet.

Daniel and Chua graduated last year and the next season is about to begin. Who will be the next champion? Will a new student team rise to the challenge? Or will the teachers take the crown? How many rhetorical questions will there be? Three.

Sign-ups are open on the school website under "activities", but they close November 11th so sign up quick! Find a teammate. Choose an awesome name. Enter the game! For the regular season (most of the year) you will be scheduled games to play during your lunch, down in the hall in front of the gym. Your stats will be recorded but will only matter for your seeding in the end of the year tournament. The champion team will be awarded a ping pong ball with their name on it preserved in the trophy until the end of time.

See you on the field of battle!

## Frisbee winds down

*Simon Dungan-Seaver*

*Staff Writer*

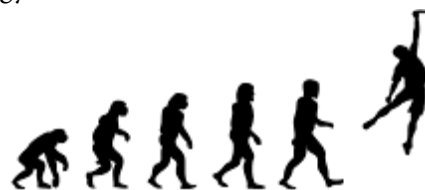
The fall ultimate frisbee season comes to a close November 5th, when the Manatee will compete in their last fall game at the Minnehaha rec center. Starting in late September, the Manatee have had fall practices, offering additional playing time to veterans and an opportunity for new players to try out the sport.

Unlike the spring season, in the fall the Manatees were able to play as a Co-Ed team with mixed genders against other mixed teams. This provided a new and enriching experience for the already seasoned players and was a lot of fun.

Practices were held throughout the first quarter at the team's usual spot

on Harriet Island, including a captain's practice on Mondays and a full coached practice on Wednesdays. These practices built towards a weekly Saturday game against other teams from the Metro area, including Como, Moundsview, and St. Louis Park.

The Manatee's final game on November 5th is the culmination of the fall season and will determine their overall standing in the league. The team's next step will be winter practices in the gym once or twice a week.



ULTIMATE EVOLUTION

# POLITICS

## Clinton 2016

Aurora Cordes  
Staff Writer

So now that the election is almost upon us, I think it's a good time to make one last political article about who should be the President of the United States. Now, some of you who were here last year may remember me advocating strongly for Bernie Sanders, whom I would vote for were he still running. But let me break down the candidates from the four parties I consider important enough to mention.

First, the Republican nominee, Donald J. Trump, or as I like to call him, DJ Trump. He's basically the worst DJ ever. There are numerous problems with this one, such as being a sexist, racist, xenophobic, and untrustworthy person, along with his lack of stamina and a bad temperament. If you've watched the debates, I'm sure that you will have seen his character. I mean, "Stop and Frisk?" I feel that most

people reading this don't need to be convinced that he's a bad choice, so I'll leave it at that. And if Trump's recently leaked statements about women don't make you run from the Trump train, then I don't know what to tell you.

Onto the third parties.

First, Libertarian Gary Johnson, aka Slightly Better Than Trump, has a chance of winning New Mexico at the time of this writing. That's it. Oh,



*Tim Kaine, her VP*

and also? Libertarians are basically people who say "government should be as small as possible, everyone should pull themselves up by their bootstraps, etc." Libertarians are the people who say "putting a fence on the edge of a cliff denies my freedom to jump off the cliff, so put an ambulance at the bottom instead." Except that you'd have to pay out of pocket for the insurance and copays, without government assistance at all, because who needs government-paid health care? We can just decide for ourselves if we want insurance,

*Clinton continued on page 4*



*Presidential Candidate-  
Hillary Clinton*

## The Election

Grace Gardner  
Staff Writer

Tuesday is one of the most important days in the next four years. Election Day! Although there are several candidates, only two are real contenders, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate, and Donald Trump, the Republican candidate. Everyone knows their character from the debates. But where do they stand on the real issues of policy? Following is a summary of a few key policies and where the candidates stand.

### Immigration

Trump has had very prolific views on this topic. Everyone knows his plans to build a wall between Mexico and the United States that Mexico will pay for, place a ban on Muslim immigration, and increase deportation. His view is that he must enforce the immigration laws of the United States and create new regulations.

Clinton wants immigration reform with "a path to



*Clinton and Trump square off*

full and equal citizenship," according to her Google Plus account. She will prioritize families and create a straightforward path to help people become naturalized if she is elected.

### Gun Policy

Protecting the 2nd Amendment is one of Trump's most important issues. According to his Twitter, by making it easier to get guns, law-abiding gun owners will be able to better protect themselves and their communities.

Clinton supports "common sense gun regulation," expanding background checks, removing loopholes, and keeping guns out of the hands of violent criminals and the

*The Election continued on page 8*

# Lip synch battles and transphobia

Aurorra Cordes  
Senior Sociologist

## Vocabulary:

**Cisgender:** denoting or relating to a person who exclusively identifies as their sex assigned at birth.

**AMAB:** Assigned male at birth. AFAB means assigned female at birth.

“Generally speaking, I think that lip sync battles can be a fun way for Crews to bond. The preparation process can challenge the group to make consensus-based decisions and work towards a goal together. Sometimes, competing as a group brings people together. I consider all of these things to be positive.” This is what Megan Hall, our Life Sciences and Biology teacher, as well as 2013-2014 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, feels about lip sync battles in general, and I would have to agree. Lip sync battles are fun ways to compete, much of the time, and I enjoy many of the things they bring with them.

Some of the things I don't enjoy that seem to have been brought by the lip sync battles include the sexism and transphobia in certain songs with cross-dressing cisgender males, which now seems like a sure recipe for victory, or at least a tie. “Sexism?” you may ask. Transphobia? How is it sexist? How is it transphobic? I'm glad you asked.

Let's start with how it's sexist. I could put it no better than Megan did: “When a man dresses as a woman to provoke an audience's comedic reaction, the reason he gets the laughs is because the idea that a man would debase himself by emulating a woman is laughable.” You may want to deny this, but search deep within your thought process, and you'll find that this is the reason you laugh. You don't laugh because it's “just funny” - because it's not. Do you laugh when a woman dresses like a man? No? Why not? Shouldn't that be “just funny” too? Women are viewed by our society as “lesser than” men - and that can manifest either consciously or unconsciously. For example, take Hillary Clinton. She's getting crap, as in people saying she's not fit to be president, because of her husband's infidelity - not even her own - whereas Donald Trump has married three times and had multiple affairs, but that doesn't seem to hurt his position. That sounds like sexism to me. (You know what else sounds like sexism? Donald Trump, especially his recently “leaked” remarks about women)

Now, transphobia might be a bit tricky for you all to understand. Let's start with the second root: phobia. Phobia denotes an irrational fear or hatred of something, like

*Clinton from page 3*

and if we don't, make everyone else's costs go up because we don't want to pay money up front to save a ton of money for ourselves and others in the long run. I could write a whole article on why Libertarians are irrational and impractical, but I won't - not today at least. Gary Johnson didn't know what Aleppo was when asked - and for those of you not running for president, Aleppo is the focal point of an ongoing proxy war between the United States and Russia. It's important.

Then there's Jill Stein, from the Green Party. She is probably the most progressive candidate running in some ways and one of the worst choices to vote for because of others. Her supporters are the ones who are anti-science, to the extreme of not vaccinating kids - and she won't call them out on it. Also going against Stein is the fact that she's not even on the ballot for many states, and she has so little of the popular vote that she is unlikely to make much difference in the election - except in ways that favor Trump.

Finally, we have the best candidate for president still running - Hillary Clinton. I may disagree with some of her policies and where she gets some of her money, but she has solid ideas about how this country should work - with some influence from Bernie Sanders - and has both the stamina and temperament to be President. No one else polling above .5% of the popular vote is both ready to be President and not objectionable in the extreme on their ideals. She's also running on the most liberal Democratic platform ever. I support her all the way to the White House.

In fact, I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that out of all the candidates to run this year, two were ready to be President: Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. That's it. Donald Trump has never been in office, Gary Johnson is a hardcore Libertarian, which shows he knows nothing of the needs of people, and Jill Stein is running a useless vanity campaign that will result in nothing. Ted Cruz was disliked in the Senate while he was in the Senate, so there's no way he could have succeeded as President, and John Kasich was anti-gay and pandered too much to the Trump supporters. Since Bernie Sanders is not running anymore, it is clear that Hillary Clinton is the best choice for President of the United States. Vote Clinton-Kaine 2016 - and even though I never wanted to say that, it is what I encourage you all who can vote to do.

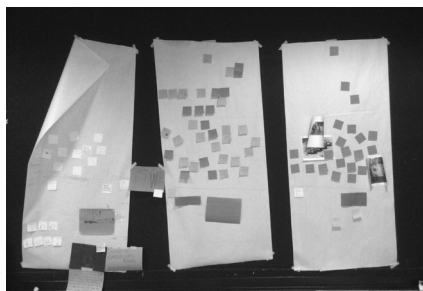


*Transphobia continued on page 5*

### *Theater from page 1*

Tuesdays and Fridays, where they watch the skits and sketch. This year is unique for them, usually they are handed a setting on a silver platter and let loose. Now they have to imagine what set comes out of the actor's stories. The process is free-formed, but still productive.

Here's a rundown of what the fall play may look like: Three different stories that include three different characters, with one central theme in mind. "We're trying to show what social justice is like now, why it's that way, and how we feel about it," says 7th grader Mae Wrigley. Passing around ideas and working through storylines is time consuming, but it is building up to be a unique performance.



*The students' plan for the play*

November is the final full month for rehearsals, so instead of rejoicing or cowering over the next president or stuffing themselves with turkey, the play cast and crew will be scrambling to put together a show. Show up at the theater on December 14-16 at 7:00pm, and witness a performance like no other. Be there or be square!

### *Transphobia from page 4*

arachnophobia means you're irrationally afraid of spiders, or, more precisely, arachnids. Now the first: trans. Trans, as in transgender, which means someone who doesn't identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. All you people who need more information can ask your parents, guardians, or teachers about what that means, or you could just use the internet. Let's put the two roots together: Trans + phobia = transphobia. Transphobia is the irrational fear or hatred of trans people. (FYI: many use trans as shorthand for transgender, and it is not offensive)

Cisgender males cross-dressing for laughs is transphobic because AMAB trans people see people laughing at the idea that "a boy would dress like a girl", and feel like they'd be laughed at too. And while they may not be laughed at to their faces, that doesn't mean the transphobia isn't there - just as it doesn't mean racism isn't there when white people don't call black people the N-word. I have been misgendered dozens of times, received that times a dozen or more strange looks, and had approximately 1728 (or  $12^3$ ) anxious thoughts about being trans within the month of September - and that's only at school. A large part of this is due to the lip sync battles, where cisgender males cross-dress for giggles, and in turn, make me feel that I am laughable. Not my actions, not my words, not my beliefs,

## Swim team

*Madeline Simon*  
Staff Writer

Last year, HumWOW (the varsity swim team that combines OWL, Humboldt, and Washington) won its first dual meet in 16 years. The team continues to build on that success in its development as a competitive swim team.

About 10 of the 30 swimmers on HumWOW are OWL students. The head coaches, Jojo White and Caitlin Gills, have been coaching the team for two years. Jojo has had a clear impact on the team, making hard but fun practices.

Many of the swimmers agree that the swim team is very supportive of each other, and everyone is extremely close. 8th grader Zoe Champion who is in her second year on the team said "when I swim, I feel like I am really a part of a team." Madigan Lodahl, another 8th grader, described the win against Harding as "bomb dot com," while 8th grader Frankie Buettner says "it feels great because all of our work paid off."

The season ending conference meet was another indicator of the team's progress. Last HumWOW came in last. This year, competing against the same teams, the team came in third behind Highland/St Paul Academy in first and Central in second. Many expect the team to continue to improve, based on the fact that many of the current swimmers are in 8th or 9th grade.

but the person I literally am intrinsically, is laughable.

It took more courage than I'd ever had in my life to come out at school. It took more to start dressing how I wanted. And it will take even more to feel comfortable riding the city bus dressing how I want. I never wanted to have to be this courageous. I never thought I could be this courageous. So I came out at school. And you know what happened the first community meeting? I saw people laugh at a caricature of people like me. I was hurt by that. It offended me that someone would just make fun of a group of people that included me like that - even if it wasn't intentional.

Because intention does not equal the outcome. You can say something you think is a joke and have someone be deeply hurt by that, and you can compliment someone genuinely and have someone think it's sarcastic. The examples go on.

I understand that this is a controversial issue, because the people who dressed up were doing it just for fun. It seemed like a harmless joke. However, even if your intent is not to harm, you can still harm. And that's what the transphobic and sexist cross-dressing in the lip sync battles does - it harms.



## Antonio reviews the summer's craze: PokémonGo



Antonio Carvale  
Staff Columnist

Disclaimer. One time I got Taco Bell and it gave me food poisoning. Then immediately after I was cured of my food poisoning I went and got me some Taco Bell to celebrate. Then I got food poisoning again. The moral of this story is Taco Bell is delicious. Disclaimer finished.

PokémonGo

review let's go nerds. PokémonGo was a new game 3 months ago but now it's old as hell, and just like a fine wine, cheese, and your mom,

got better with age. Nice.

Bet you thought you'd seen the last of me. Think again losers. I'm back with a vengeance and after years of waiting for a Pokémon game that wasn't boring as hell, I'm still waiting. And you know for a fact this is my opinion. Which is also fact. So shut yo face.

First things first, I'm the realist, second first thing first is how the only good Pokémon is torpedo shark and he's not even in the game which is pretty darn frustrating. The other only good Pokémon is a spider monkey after his good ol' cup of morning joe. I don't get how I can only catch like infinity zubats and ratattas while other dudes are catching like dragonites and stuff. Life isn't fair and just like all my problems I'm blaming god. Just kidding. I'm an atheist.

Listen up my dudes cause I'm only gonna say this once each article, follow my instagrams @the\_thunderbird\_ for a lit account revolving around PokémonGo, guitars and other musical shamalamadingdongs, suicide jokes, and me lighting random things on fire. It's not arson if you're not caught.

Back to the review, PokémonGo has this nonsense where you can go to some national landmarks and battle other players, and basically everyone's either using a flip-pin flopping diddly squatting dragonite or snorlax or some overpowered thing and you can't take these gyms without the only Pokémon that will help you in real life: wait for it,

*PokémonGo continued on page 7*

*6th grade retreats from page 1*

ments, and learning more about different things from each exhibit. Most of the students had a great time!

Thursday and Friday were spent at Baker park learning about different things such as the Native American culture, archery, nature photography, and orienteering, helping the students get to know each other and create new friendships. The overnight trip was spent in cabins with groups of about 8 kids in each. The days were spent going to different programs, having free time and enjoying delicious meals. But the most important part of the trip wasn't just having fun, it was learning more about each person that students met and spent time with.

*National Recap from page 1*

the Outstanding State Entry for his documentary on Sir Francis Drake, and senior Siena Leone-Getten placed 7th with a documentary on Ralph Nader.

The other projects consisted of senior Mae Goodrich with a website on Gordon Parks, a documentary on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project by 11th graders Leona DeRango and Sam Dale-Gau, along with former OWL students Eli Sage-Martinson and Bjorn Holm, 11th graders at Highland Park Senior High School and Blake respectively, and 8th graders Freya Ebbeson and Isabella Graziani with a junior group website on Margaret Sanger.

While in DC, students explored museums and monuments and spent time with other national qualifiers from Minnesota while living on the University of Maryland campus. National History Day provided students with a free passes to the Holocaust Museum, which all groups visited except for the Apollo-Soyuz team. Every night after dinner, there was a team meeting, which is unique to the Minnesota contingent. The meetings had a debrief of the previous day and included games, which brought the qualifiers closer as a team. Sam compared his experience to a summer camp. "You're immersed in the History Day culture for the week that you are there," said Grace.

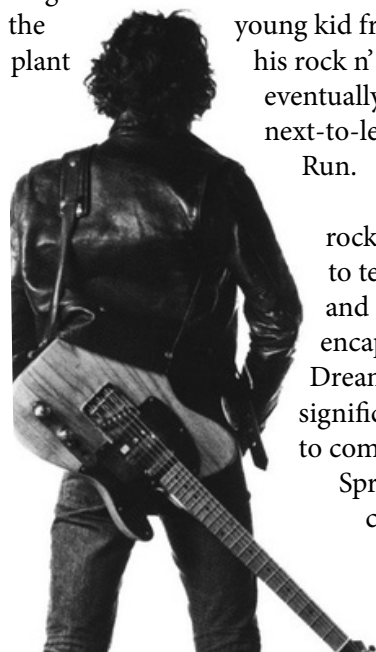
Another activity was button collecting. Every state and territory had a button. Depending on the amount of students from that place, the easier it was to find the button. The rarer the button, the more it was worth in other buttons. It's considered an accomplishment to find all of the buttons. Several people from Minnesota found them all, including Grace and Sovigne.

# Bruce Springsteen's *Born to Run*

Nik Logue  
Staff writer

In 2009, after rocking the stage in front of countless millions of people during the Super Bowl halftime show, a 59 year old Bruce Springsteen sat down and reflected about his journey to stardom. This was the first step to his new memoir, which details the artist's humble beginnings as a shy child in Freehold, New Jersey, his early reputation as the bar band king, his formation of the heart stoppin', earth shockin', hard rockin' E Street Band, to the writings of his most serious and down-to-earth musical performances. This book takes the reader on a journey to the singer's deepest thoughts during his highs and lows of life to his most meaningful moments, and how they shaped him as a person.

If you are unfamiliar with the general scope of rock n' roll, then it should be known that Bruce Springsteen deservedly wears his title as "The Boss" with pride as he doesn't necessarily write songs... he writes stories, everyone can relate to Springsteen's work, whether he sings about desperate young lovers who succumb to tragedy in "Jungleland," or the treatment of veterans coming home from Vietnam in "Born in the USA," Springsteen has reached the hearts of anyone who has ever had a dream. Like his songs, Springsteen's masterful writing style bleed into the final product in a near perfect manner. His first section of the book chronicles his time growing up amid "poetry, danger, and darkness" along with his growing passion for music after seeing Elvis Presley perform "Hound Dog" at the Ed Sullivan Theater, then follows the young kid from Jersey as he tries to plant his rock n' roll roots with his band, eventually leading him to release his next-to-legendary album Born to Run.



As the favored son of rock and roll, Springsteen had to tell his stories about sorrow and loss. His music perfectly encapsulates the American Dream amongst a world where significance is increasingly hard to come by. In his autobiography, Springsteen addresses this recurring theme in his songs and writes about how his concerts (one of which recently came to be

four hours long, his longest ever) are not so much concerts, but a reunion of fans and dreamers. Springsteen's book takes you on a quest of music, faith, loneliness, tears, long nights, and love as he reflects on his life. In the book, you develop a personal connection to Springsteen as he reveals things like the insane life of a folk singing hitchhiker, to his deeply emotional reaction to E Street Band saxophonist and long time friend Clarence Clemons. If you haven't listened to one of Springsteen's songs, you are doing yourself a disservice. The writings of his life certainly reflect the grand scale of this brilliant piece of rock n' roll history.

*PokémonGo* from page 6

wait for it:



Things called Pokéstops are straight up all around your city where you can get poke balls and trap cards and potions, this game encourages players to talk to one another and walk around their city and learn more about its history and get some exercise and it's by far the stupidest thing since my last article.

If I wanted to learn something I would sell my brain to science and ask for it back after they make me more smarter. Maybe I might care if there were hot girls playing it, But the only hot person playing Pokémon go is me. And this one girl at rice park playing Pokémon who was maaaaaad insanely ultrasonic superfine like hot dang zoo wee mama she was fine. Did I talk to her? Heck no. PokémonGo gets a solid 0/10 worst game ever made, because I'm shy and pretty girls are pretty.

And I bet you thought you saw the last of me. SIKE. I'm back and better than Ezra and I swear I will continue to write my dumb columns for the Purple Press until I get a girlfriend (never gonna happen). So keep your minds on the fresh because I only got one more year of this before I graduate to go to college or my rock star career burns out and I move back in with your mom. Nice.

Follow my instagrams @the\_thunderbird\_ and if the girl from rice park is reading this you should totally hit me up @ 7-(495)-633-8428 ;)

Catch you on the flip flop homies. Spartacus out.

mentally ill. She has stressed the need to end the nation's gun violence epidemic.

#### Economy

Trump believes in decreasing taxes, creating jobs, and cutting anti-growth regulations. He has cited his experience managing his many companies as why he will be able to reduce America's debt.

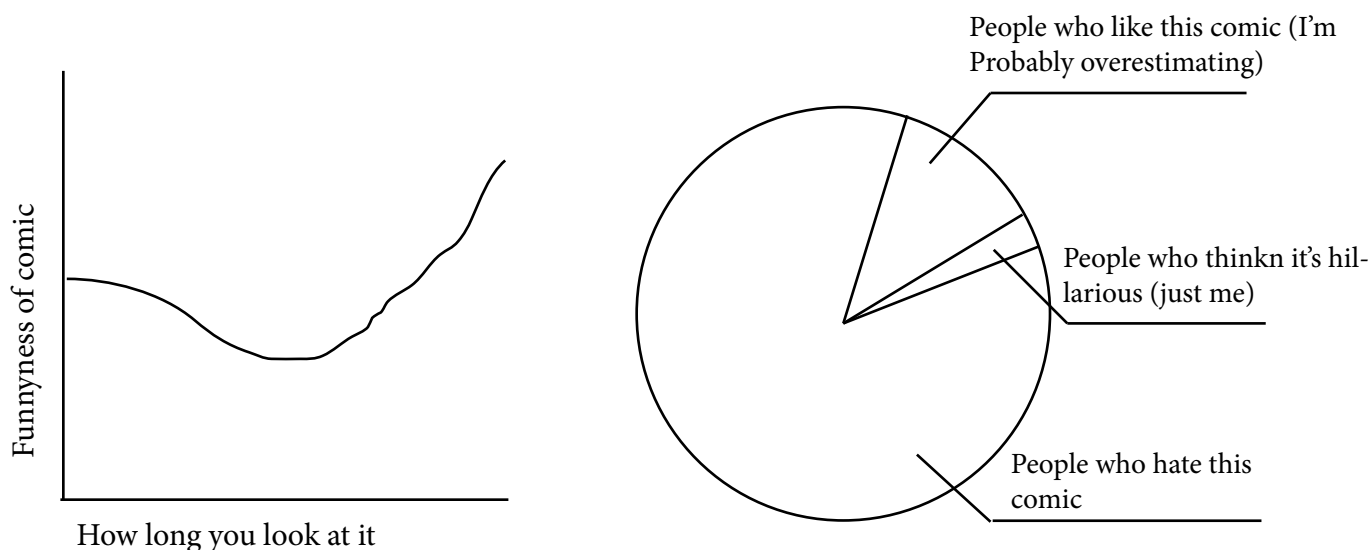
"An economy that works for everyone" is one of Clinton's taglines. She believes in more taxes for the wealthy, labor rights, taking on student debt, and reforming Medicare to truly make it affordable.

#### Treatment of racial and ethnic minorities

In the second debate, Trump stated his support of "stop and frisk," a controversial technique that resulted in racial profiling. He has often stated his belief that police officers are misunderstood, although he supports body cameras. His deportation plans have resulted in the loss of support of many minority voters.

By reforming the criminal justice system, which she believes disproportionately affects minorities, repairing the Voting Rights Act, and protecting immigrant's rights, Clinton positions herself as a person who will "fight for racial justice." So far, her support from minority communities has been consistent.

## COMICS!



### Analytical pair of Graphs

