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Ferguson: A Marist Perspective

On Monday, December 1st, 2014, Marist students demonstrated outside buildings in reaction to the grand jury ruling in Ferguson, MO. Here are some photos and quotes documenting the thoughts that Marist students have on the issue, and the larger discussion about race that it spawned.

“Protests like these should make us reflect on how to change the system in place that is promoting all kinds of unfair treatments through our current actions and our future positions of power.”

-Daniela Fanelli
"The fact is that it isn’t a matter of opinion, or of liberal vs. conservative. It’s a matter of valuing the lives of black people. ... In order to destroy injustice, we ALL need to speak out against it. Silence is compliance.”

- Will Vrachopoulos
2014 has been a great year for Harmonix. The video game company that brought us Guitar Hero, Rock Band, and Dance Central is still going strong with a bunch of new projects.

First, they created a Kickstarter campaign to reboot their fan-favorite PS2 game Amplitude. Four days before it was set to end, they had not passed the goal, but a surprisingly successful last-minute social media campaign (and a very helpful donation from the president of Insomniac Games) netted the required funds. Amplitude will be coming to the PS3 and PS4 sometime in 2015, with a brand new graphics and music update, for a new generation of music game fans.

Next, Harmonix is stepping up to pull off completely new kinds of games with their recent Steam release, a bullet hell shooter called A City Sleeps. Bullet hell games are pretty divisive; you either love their manic pacing and excitement value, or hate the difficulty curve and stressful gameplay. Once again, Harmonix took a gamble with jumping into this kind of territory, but by bringing their rhythm-gaming prowess to the genre, they made what I consider to be an excellent game. The game is pretty self-contained in only a few stages with multiple difficulty levels for each, but the soundtrack makes the replay value unbelievable. Your gun’s flying bullets form the beat, your power-ups can remix the song’s instrumentation, and everything flows so well that it feels like you’re creating a music video.

Finally, Harmonix’s most extravagant recent project is Fantasia: Music Evolved. By striking a deal with Disney, Harmonix undertook the mission of contributing to one of Disney’s most beloved film legacies in video game form. The game plays like a sandbox: using the Xbox 360 or Xbox One Kinect motion controller, you as the player get to transform a blank canvas into a musical and visual landscape. Much like the beloved Sorcerer’s Apprentice sequence from the original Fantasia film, the player gains the power that sorcerer’s hat Mickey used, but applied to a mix of pop and classical music that shows off Harmonix’s unmatched ability to assemble a kickass soundtrack. I am personally most impressed with how the company managed to inject fresh ideas into the world of motion controls. Instead of simply dancing or moving something around a screen with your hand, the player in this game gets complete command over a sonic and visual experience that simply has not been seen before.

Three projects, each one showing off something that Harmonix excels at. Firstly, Harmonix is staying relevant in a brutal and ever-changing game industry by rebooting one of their beloved early games. Secondly, they are jumping wholeheartedly into a brand new game genre without compromising the company’s passion for rhythm gaming. Finally, Harmonix continues to impress and innovate in new ways with exciting and original video games. It does my heart good to know that my favorite game company is never slowing down and always improving themselves, giving me more reasons to spend my money on good content.

### Movie Releases
Over this Winter Break

**December 12**
- Exodus: Gods and Kings
- The Gambler
- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
- Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb

**December 19**
- Annie

**December 25**
- Big Eyes
- The Interview
- Into the Woods
- Unbroken

**January 2**
- The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death

**January 9**
- Taken 3

**January 16**
- Blackhat
As the words, “Je suis prest” come out of Jamie Alexander Malcolm Mackenzie Fraser’s gorgeous mouth, I die a little bit inside. This hunk-a-man with his hot French sentences is in my new obsession- the new TV series on Starz called Outlander. It’s a historical romance that extreme girly-girl fangirls like me squeal over on a daily basis.

The show originated from Diana Gabaldon’s book series, which had been a bestselling series since the 90’s. I recently found the book and poured over its beautiful contents with unadulterated happiness. When I heard of the show, I was so excited because I believed Sam Heughan and Caitriona Balfe would do the characters and book justice. So far, I have not been disappointed.

The show begins with Claire Randall, a nurse who is celebrating the end of WWII. She is reunited with her husband Frank, who had also been active in the war and had been absent for eight long years. They have a second honeymoon in the Scottish highlands, where they discover Craig na Dun, which are pagan standing stones. One fateful day, Claire ventures out to the standing stones, and is immediately sucked into it! She unknowingly tumbles into the 1700’s, where the lands are filled with dangerous Highlander men in kilts and British musket-happy redcoats. She runs into a man who looks suspiciously like her husband but turns out to be Frank’s ancestor Black Jack Randall, who attempts to attack her.

Confused and scared, she escapes but is intercepted by a rag-tag team of Highlander men, one of which is the illustrious James Fraser (cough bae cough). Once Claire is stuck with caring for Jamie’s injuries, they slowly begin a companionship that ultimately, inevitably, becomes a burning attraction. Their interactions at first are small and tender, but they quickly become more intense and happy squeal-worthy once their mutual attraction is obvious. When Black Jack finds Claire and threatens to take her with his gross grabby-hands, Jamie makes an insane attempt to save Claire and marry her. Although they’ve had intimate moments, like eating lunch together in the stables or flirting in the infirmary, love had not been an option.

I cannot express the level of fangirlness felt the night of “The Wedding”. Finally the love story begins! A night of intimacy (and plenty of kilt-dropping) leave Claire and Jamie genuinely on the road to love.

The growing respect between the two is palpable in the show, and I feel myself falling in love with their story all over again.

Although the marriage was last minute, each discover that the other is a real, beautiful human being. I love reading about them and watching them on screen because each’s best self comes out when they are together. Their love is completely genuine because there is just respect and honesty, both of which are hard to find in just anyone. Their love story is not just a fun story to read or watch, it is something to aspire to, and I have imagined more than once finding my own Jamie Fraser someday.
Top, Middle: Photo by Francesco Galletti

Bottom: Photo by Camille Ennis
AMC received a lot of backlash after posting spoiler photos pertaining to the Walking Dead’s midseason finale of season 5. Angry fans left countless amounts of hateful comments responding to AMC’s post before it was taken down and an apology was issued on their social media. So as a forewarning, if you haven’t seen up to the season 5 midseason finale, “Coda,” yet, go watch it and then continue this article. I don’t want to “pull an AMC” on you.

If you’re still reading then you have seen the spectacular first part of the 5th season of the Walking Dead. As you know, so much has happened already in this jam-packed season, so let’s go over a brief recap of what’s going on.

The season kick-started with an explosive premiere entitled “No Sanctuary.” Rick and his group start off imprisoned at Terminus, about to be slaughtered before Carol heroically saves them. As a side note, I couldn’t stand Carol’s character until this episode, when she made a huge turn-around by showing her tough, strong side and loyalty to her group. Her character has really developed well and this was revealed in “No Sanctuary.” Anyway, she ends up blowing up a propane tank and shooting Terminus’s snipers. Eventually Rick’s group defeats the others at Terminus and they escape to be reunited with Tyreese and Judith, and Carol is officially let back into the group.

In episode 2 we are introduced to a priest named Gabriel who is saved by the group. Gabriel leads them to a church where he has been living in and they decide to stay for a few days. Desperately needing food, Rick, Sasha, and Bob are escorted by Gabriel to a nearby food bank. After fighting off walkers here, Bob ends up bitten but keeps it a secret from the group (you can tell he doesn’t want to worry Sasha). One of the show’s most horrific scenes takes place in this episode: Bob was knocked unconscious in the woods and taken by the survivors of Terminus. When he awakes his leg is gone and the people of Terminus stand around devouring him, leaving him to watch.

The next episode, “Four Walls and a Roof” starts off with Bob laughing hysterically as he tells them that he has been bit, so his meat is tainted. After this, they drop Bob outside the church, screaming for the group. Rick plans an ambush and as they leave, the Terminus group invades the church. Rick’s group ends up killing them and saving Carl, Judith, and the others left at the church.

A heartbroken Sasha and the others say goodbye to Bob as he lay dying, before Tyreese shoves a knife through his head to prevent the deceased Bob from turning into a zombie. Glen, Maggie, Tara, Abraham, Eugene, and Rosita all board a bus to continue on to Washington DC.

Episode 4, “Slabtown” focuses on Beth in a hospital in Atlanta where she meets those who “saved” her (mostly police officers and doctors) and are now keeping her in the building. They make subtle comments pertaining to her owing them a debt, and this concerns Beth. She meets a young man named Noah with whom she attempts an escape. After a good attempt, Noah is freed while Beth is caught and taken back inside. The closing scene shows Carol being brought into the hospital on a stretcher.

In the next episode, Eugene shockingly reveals that is not actually a scientist and Abraham beats him unconscious for lying and leading them all this way for nothing.

In a flashback in episode 6, Noah ambushes Carol and Daryl and takes their weapons but it isn’t long before they save his life. Now the three of them together, Carol gets hit by a car that belongs to the Atlanta hospital and this is how she is brought in on the stretcher.

The group splits again: Rick, Michonne, Daryl, Tyreese, Sasha, and Noah decides to go to Atlanta while the rest remain in the boarded-up church. Back at the hospital, Beth saves Carol by giving her the proper drugs she needs to survive when no one else would.

Finally, the much anticipated midseason finale lived up to its hype. Gabriel escaped by himself and left the church only to be forced back because of the walkers outside. Michonne and Carl save his life but the church becomes overrun.

Back in Atlanta, Rick’s group captures two officers from the hospital and wants to use them in an exchange to get Carol and Beth back. Maggie and Glenn’s group arrive just in time to save Michonne, Carl, Gabriel and Judith from the walkers in the church. After a few interactions between Rick’s group and the hospital’s crew, they agree on the hostage exchange. Everything goes smoothly at first – Rick gets Carol and Beth back. But then Dawn, the leader of the hospital, argues that she wants Noah back. Rick tries to resist but Noah says it’s okay as he walks back towards Dawn. After Dawn says she knew Noah would be back, Beth snaps and walks up to her. With tears in her eyes, Beth pulls out a pair of scissors out of her cast and plunges them into Dawn. Instantly, Dawn shoots Beth in the head. As her body falls, Daryl shoots and kills Dawn. At a very emotional ending, the group mourns over the loss of Beth and Maggie sees her sister’s lifeless body.

At the very end of the episode we see Morgan, Rick and Carl’s friend from season 1, go into the abandoned church and reads a note, “Come to Washington. The new world’s gonna need Rick Grimes.”

Many people, myself included, agree that this was one of the best seasons so far. The plot and action was outstanding as well as the new twist on flashbacks. This season has weaved time between past and present in an interesting way that no other season has done before. For all these reasons I will definitely be watching the rest of season 5 when it returns in February.
In an interesting development this week, Frank Darabont, the current show runner for AMC’s mega hit “The Walking Dead,” has just announced that another episode will be added to the show’s 2014 run. A month after next week’s mid-season finale, AMC will air a live broadcast Christmas special, on December 24th. While the creator was candid about the details surrounding the special, cast regular Andrew Lincoln (Rick Grimes) discussed some of the plot points of the new episode and what fans can expect on his Twitter page.

“Basically it’s the story of Rick just trying to bring back some of the joy and innocence of the holidays you know? He just wants his kids to just feel happy again.”

Lincoln announced that the special would feature the journey of Rick, Daryl, and a magically revived T Dog as they scour the ruined Atlanta shopping district looking for a remote control robot that Carl has asked Santa for. The special will reunite many former stars of the show, with The Governor, Andrea, Meryl, Hershel, and even Dale returning to the screen. “This is a really exciting opportunity for us,” touts David Morrissey (The Governor). “During my time on the show the whole crew, writers included, would always talk about how we wanted to just take a break from the melodrama and really switch up the tone. This is our opportunity to do just that.”

All of these former stars will be joined by a special guest that has already proved to be a controversial choice. Stone Cold Steve Austin has been tapped to play the villain in the new episode, an intelligent zombie named Andre Baritone. In an even more controversial twist, the voice of the new villain will be provided by a composite of several audio journals recorded by infamous serial killer Ted Bundy.

Both critics and fans are stunned by these announcements. Noted internet critic Seymour Esses describes the planned episode as both “flagrantly offensive to pretty much everyone” and “preposterous.” More details to follow.

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**Top 5 Things to Look Forward to in 2015**

1) Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens
2) Avengers: Age of Ultron
3) Better Call Saul
4) The Legend of Zelda Wii U
5) The Rotunda construction being finished

**Top 5 Things NOT to Look Forward to in 2015**

1) Katy Perry as the Super Bowl Halftime Show
2) Fifty Shades of Grey, the movie
3) 2016 presidential campaigns
4) New Years Day hangovers
5) The Rotunda construction potentially never being finished ever
Feeling stressed about finals? Missing your furry friend from home? Just looking for a genuine good time? Have no fear Marist students, for Puppies and Kittens is here! (Well, actually it’s not here, it’s a few blocks past the Poughkeepsie Galleria so, if you don’t have a car, make friends that do.)

This store is famous for having frazzled college students strolling in to give their fluffy friends some love. Homesick animal lovers like me find Puppies and Kittens comforting and fun, although be warned, you may have to drag your friends out kicking and screaming. I have absolutely no personal experience with that whatsoever.

Not only is it a great place to go with a couple of friends to have some good, clean, and free (keyword there, college students) fun with some adorable animals, but just being around these fur-balls is actually proven to minimize stress. Who doesn’t love puppies and kittens? And if you don’t, you better be deathly allergic, or I highly question your judgment. Large schools, like Boise and Mizzou for certain, actually bring in rescue and trained dogs to come and cheer up stressed students during finals week. And I mean, if Boise and Mizzou are doing it, it has to be clinically proven.

As qualified as these college’s judgments are, I took the liberty of actually researching the topic on PsychCentral and found the article “Pets Relieve College Stress,” which states many college students have a difficult time transitioning during their freshman year, and go through many stressful events that often make them depressed. Students enjoy having pets because they believe that their pets can help them get through tough times.

That’s why the cuddle cannon is brought out during finals week at larger schools: because puppies and kittens are a safe and precious stress reliever. It’s healthy for us to take breaks during stressful times, but instead of partaking in illegal activities, why not snuggle your face into an adorable and soft teddy-bear terrier instead? (Be warned, the black and white one is mine and you cannot have him.)

So if you ever question your mental health, make your way over to Puppies and Kittens, where some purebred is waiting to steal your heart. You won’t regret it.
I Dig Shovels and Rope

By Sophia Todeasa

It was mid-October and I had traveled all the way from Poughkeepsie to Boston, gotten lost in the city due to a shitty GPS, and had even figured out city parking when I finally turned down the last street to the Royale venue with boyfriend and co-worker friend in tow. Considering I had paid for a super cheap ticket, I was surprised by how large and nice looking the venue was, with a balcony and two bars right on the floor. I also hadn’t expected how big and crowded it was with people of all ages, eighteen to fifty. Because I had gotten lost and had to park, etc., I had missed part of the opener but I was there to see who I had come all that way for: Shovels and Rope.

I first heard Shovels & Rope on a folk/Americana radio station broadcasting in Worcester over the summer. It consists of two members only: husband and wife team Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent. I immediately fell in love with their bluesy, folksy, croony sound mixed with rock and country with a dash of gospel thrown in. Their sound gratifies both the hillbilly and punk rocker in you, which culminates in a whole bunch of plain ole fun! Standing in the crowd pressing to the front, I was overtaken by the energy and volume of their performance. It was impossible not to dance for at least 3/4ths of the songs they played. It even felt appropriate to softly headbang for the majority of their songs. Their music just stirs up the latent backwoods, hard rocking, soul music lovin’ hillbilly in you, and it’s an incredible feeling.

What makes their music so incredible to draw such a diverse crowd and having them touring all over the U.S. is how they combine fantastic rocking beats and home-grown American folk with meaty lyrics, all sung in duet with Cary Ann’s South fabulous Tennessean twang. In my favorite song, Birmingham, they have the somewhat autobiographical verse, “Making something out of nothing with a scratcher and our hope/ With two old guitars like a shovel and a rope,” in which, of course they say the thing! This song is sung so fast, like many in their repertoire, that it takes a practiced ear to make out what they’re saying. I prefer to just lean back and enjoy the onslaught.

The performance was one of the most engaging ones I’ve ever experienced. Hearst and Trent like to keep it spontaneous, switching instruments like hot potatoes in between songs depending on their mood, and sweating bullets as they stand under the hot lights singing their lungs out. Their energy is non-stop and they try very hard to keep each concert an experience. As a team, these two are adorable. Trent is more of the silent, serious type, and Hearst keeps it light with jokes and southern colloquialisms that were refreshing in a northern city setting.

The whole concert experience was ideal: smaller, nicer venue with full bars and plenty of standing room, a supportive and fun crowd there to enjoy good music, a masterful and energetic performance, and I got to spend it with some of my favorite people. Shovels & Rope is one of my favorite band discoveries of 2014, and promises to remain in my Spotify queue for a good long time. They just came out with their new album Swimming Time. It’s full of harmonica and kickdrum, as well as haunting lyrics about addicts and “Fish Assassins,” as well as a song called Mary Ann & One-Eyed Dan, a really beautiful, bittersweet song about the title characters’ lives and relationship. It’s definitely an album worth checking out. And if you ever get to see them in concert, I hope you have as much fun as I did...I can’t see how you couldn’t!
Anna and The French Kiss:
A Young Adult Masterpiece

By Emily Hathaway

I shamelessly say that I am in love with Paris, so seeing so much of the city I love through an awesome protagonist can make the worst kind of day a little bit brighter. Anna is so smart and funny, I feel like I can relate to her in a lot of ways. I like that her personality shines through this book in so many ways through her various relationships, her neuroses, and her love for films. Of course, my favorite part of the book was Anna and St. Clair’s blossoming romance. Even from their first meeting in the dorm hallway, the attraction was instantaneous. Throughout the book, they begin with a friendship because St. Clair is already in the clutches of another girl. However, the attraction is constantly brewing and inevitably turns to love.

One of my favorite scenes was when St. Clair brings Anna to Point Zero in front of Notre Dame, where each stands on the golden star and wishes for their heart’s desire. It is the moment when the readers just know that the two are meant for each other, and that Point Zero, from where all distances are measured, will bring them together some day. The overwhelmingly warm and fuzzy feelings while reading this book increases with every page-Seriously. Their relationship heats up slowly over time, and by the middle of the book, readers must wonder why Anna and St. Clair aren’t married with babies already. I know that’s what I was thinking. Another adorable scene is when the lovable and utterly breath-taking St. Clair shows his growing love for Anna by giving her Pablo Neruda’s love poetry (every girl’s dream!). By the time I read these scenes, I was utterly obsessed with cemeteries, golden wishing stars, and Neruda poetry. A conglomeration of love, friendship, and adventure all under the Parisian skies make up this gorgeous and unique book, and I would recommend it to anyone I know.

Captain Swan: The Ultimate Couple

By Emily Hathaway

They say opposites attract, yet the love between Emma Swan and Captain Hook begs to differ. On the fantastically popular show Once Upon A Time, Emma and Hook have been together since Season 2, but their relationship has not always been a romantic one. The incredibly sexy, kohl-eyed pirate Killian Jones swaggered into the scene when Emma, Mary Margaret, and Mulan are searching for a portal back to Storybrooke. Despite his “devilishly handsome” looks, Hook is not the greatest of guys because he only wants to kill Rumplestiltskin and is willing to use Emma to do it. The ever-clever Emma can see through his bad-boy facade and refuses to give into his charms.

Over the latter half of Season 2 and most of Season 3, we see the lighter side of Killian Jones. When he takes Bae under his wing in Neverland or saves David from dream shade poisoning, my heart, and every swooning Hook-lover’s heart, goes pit-ter-patter when his sweet side comes out. Everyone loves the bad boy, but only if he has a sensitive side too. His advances on Emma and her blunt refusal bring romantic comic relief to the show, but I was always itching for her to realize that Hook is the one. After many episodes of too-long looks between the two, and me screaming, “Kiss! Kiss!” at the TV, they finally do in Season 3 episode 5. Thus starts Emma’s slow-building love for Captain Swan.

Despite the Emma, Hook, and Neal love triangle complex, I was honestly happy to see Captain Swan win out in the end. From the moment Hook and Emma met, I loved them together. Many OUAT fans fight furiously for Swanfire (Emma and Bae), but that couple always seemed so bland to me. With Hook, I don’t think Emma has to ever hold back on herself and her fierceness. She is the epitome of a strong independent woman, and she can be that with Hook. However, he still manages to bring out her softer, more vulnerable side. Neal had brought that out of Emma too, but in my opinion she lost part of herself in that. He was so sweet that she was always worrying about him even in dire situations.

Hook is the type of person who is on. He’s stalwart and never needs someone to baby him like Neal did. Hook supports every part of Emma, and I am always amazed how each character can make the other stronger. Their power couple image brings heated romantic moments during the episodes, yet when there is a serious situation, they have complete trust in each other’s endurance.

Season 4 just began several weeks ago, and Captain Swan is in full force. When they go on a date, and Hook is dressed as a normal hot guy with a normal hand and gives Emma a red rose I pretty much died inside. Hopefully, their relationship grows even more during this next season.
Farewell, Demigods:
The Blood of Olympus Review
By Meghan Jones

It’s sad that it’s been so long since I’ve found a book that’s kept me up late at night reading, and it’s almost sadder that the book that finally did it is one intended for middle school audiences. Oh well. The Blood of Olympus, the final book in Rick Riordan’s Heroes of Olympus series, was worth it.

Overall, I think the book was great. As always, Riordan has combined awesome battle scenes and tension with humor and heartfelt moments. In this book in particular, I think some of the cliffhangers at the ends of chapters were very intriguing, like when Orion caught up to Reyna or, of course, when Gaea woke. But, as usual, I think the best aspect of the book was the characters, their relationships, and their personalities. I like how, in this installment, Riordan devoted nearly half the book to developing the personalities and backstories of Reyna and Nico, characters who, until now, have been very ambiguous and enigmatic. He even let them play an extremely pivotal role in saving the camps, rather than letting the seven demigods of the prophecy do all the work. And I absolutely loved the way Nico’s story ended: he is welcomed by Camp Half-Blood, finally accepting it as a permanent home rather than dissolving into shadow or becoming an Underworld recluse. I was predicting one of these grimmer fates for him for the majority of the book.

However, other than that, I didn’t enjoy the ending as much as I expected to. It was a little bit anticlimactic, especially the part when the gods dove through the clouds and saved the demigods’ skins while they were battling the giants. Confusing, too, was Octavian’s death scene: did he intend to sacrifice himself to save the camps, or was it an accident that he was fatally shot into the sky with the catapulted explosives? That scene was very rushed, and perhaps I missed something, but that was unclear.

The “loose end” of Frank’s fiery lifeline, and the suggestion that his life will “burn bright and short,” is never tied up. In fact, Frank and Hazel hardly play any role at all in the final battle, even though the entirety of The Son of Neptune, in my opinion the strongest book of the new series, was devoted to them. The disappointment of the final battle resulted, for me, in the fact that only Jason, Piper, and Leo were part of it. For that matter, those three characters ended the entire book—and therefore series—too. Maybe I’m a traditionalist, but I’m partial to Percy and Annabeth, the only characters of the seven to carry over from the original Percy Jackson series. Therefore, I was disappointed when the only wrap-up for these two characters was a brief blurb in one of Nico’s chapters, explaining how they were going to attend college in New Rome. Percy was never even reunited with his mother, who was a pivotal (and awesome) character in the original series but who didn’t even show up in this one. Since those characters started the original demigod saga, I think it’s only right that they should end it.

The Lightning Thief and The Sea of Monsters, the first two books in the original series, remain my favorite Riordan books. Those books had a charm, humor, and cleverness resulting from the mixing of aspects of mythology with the normal world, something that the new series, taking place mostly at the camps or on quests, didn’t really do.

However, the finale was good overall, and it was sad to have to say goodbye to the demigods. That doesn’t mean that fans will be saying goodbye to Riordan, however. Knowing his tendencies to make connections between his series, I have a prediction: Annabeth’s briefly mentioned Bostonian cousin is more than just a sentimental plot detail. He’s Magnus Chase, the protagonist of Riordan’s upcoming Norse-mythology-based series, which will debut in fall 2015. Will I read it? Yeah…probably.
Thanks for Reading!

~ Generator Staff