

THE MUDDRAKER

vol. 28, issue 3 february 2018



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read our PROFile on
Professor Noquez!



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check out love at
Mudd!



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learn about Tyson's
mission in Ghana!

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hi there! Rachel and Tiffany here! As Mudd students, we understand that it can be hard to make time for things that make your stomach flutter and your heart beat a little faster. And no, we don't mean midterms. Whether you're crushing on a classmate or working on loving yourself, we wanted to offer some guidance with our declassified guide to dating (or just having a good time). It doesn't have to be Valentine's day for you to treat yourself or those who are close to you. With this issue, we wanted to treat you, the Mudd community, with extra online content using QR codes. We hope you enjoy this issue and the new things we are trying. Thanks for making the Mudd community something to love.

xoxo,
Rachel and Tiffany

MUDD'S DECLASSIFIED DATING SURVIVAL GUIDE

Flaunt your knowledge

with Mike-amatical's fact



Even if you can't recite 27 digits of pi, you can still impress anyone with Big Mike Streinz's Fun Math Fact!

Tell a joke

from Zayra's puns

They say humor is the key to the heart, and nothing is funnier than original puns from The Muddraker's infamous pun expert, Zayra Lobo.



Dinner . . .

with Hoch Hacks



Looking for the hottest Claremont dining spot? The Hoch's romantic ambiance is the perfect setting to recreate William Teav's recipe with a special someone.

. . . & a movie

from staff Netflix picks

Nothing like a bit of Netflix & Chill to wind down after a date. Check out The Muddraker staff's recommendations, ranging from Dexter to DinoTrux.



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INTRODUCING: NEW MEMBERS

KATE SMITH When not stress-eating lemon curd, she loves DMing memes to people, especially those pertaining to doggos. Beyond that, she enjoys volunteering, reading biology textbooks, and writing!



SYDNEY WALLACE (SQUID) In her free time, she writes for The Muddraker and enjoys juggling actual objects as well as her schedule. She studies Geology and CS-Math, but is really enjoying her history class on journalism and learning about muckraking and the history of this newspaper.



PROFiles : Professor Noquez

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Professor Noquez has been a visiting math professor at Harvey Mudd for one year. She received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago. We met with Professor Noquez to learn about her hobbies outside of academia, including magic and swimming with whale sharks, and dispel the rumor that she graduated from college at 16 (she actually went to college at 16).



Hobbies outside of math and magic?

I run pretty regularly, although I'll never run a marathon again. I got into it during grad school for the stress relief. If you are a stressed college student (which I know you all are), try exercising. Everybody says it will help, and it sounds like bogus advice, but it's not-- it's a real thing. I will stand behind that for sure.

I [also] go to a lot of concerts. I used to go to a lot more shows in Chicago because I lived in a city. I try to see live music like two or three shows per semester. Live music's always been a thing that's really important to me.

Besides that I also play music. In grad school I was in a band with three other mathematicians, for a few years. We performed like twice-- we weren't a real serious group. It was mostly classic rock but we had a few originals. We couldn't settle on a name and somehow it turned into 'Victoria and the Lowlives,' which is terrible. The only people who call me Victoria are my grandparents and official documents. Everyone on the planet calls me Tori.



Noquez performs a Faro Shuffle. "You shuffle the cards exactly one in one," she said.

Would you ever reunite the band?

I would, but I don't know if they would. The band broke up before I moved away. It was like a breakup. It was awful. I just sat behind my drum set and was like, 'Oh my god. I'm not going to say anything, I hate this.' [One guy] said, 'Oh, but we could still play,' and [the other guy] said, 'No, I don't think we should anymore.' It was so brutal and the other guy was crushed and then we'd see each other around after that and it was unnecessarily awkward. It was just one guy didn't want to do it anymore. I was getting really busy too. I was trying to graduate. I had stuff to do. It was a slow slide out, but I let him take the lead on finishing it.

Favorite animal?

I love great white sharks, although I've never seen one. I really want to go cage diving at some point. I love all whales, just all the sea creatures. I love whale sharks. I really love otters-- I spent a lot of time working with otters. I think in another life I would want to be a marine scientist. I really like sea creatures, although I see a lot less of them living in California than I did in Chicago, which doesn't totally make sense. I volunteered with a marine mammal department at an aquarium in Chicago for a long time. It's a non-profit called Shedd Aquarium.

How did you become a mathematician?

I spent a lot of my childhood thinking I wanted to be an astronaut when I grew up. I went to space camp and did all the stuff. I realized at some point as a teenager that I get motion sick and I'm super claustrophobic. I was like, 'Why did I think this was the job for me?' I didn't really want to be a scientist in a lab either-- I just want to think in my brain about stuff, so that's how I wound up where I am.

How was your first semester at Mudd?

I really liked it! Okay, there were a few things I didn't like. I didn't like half semester courses. What are those all about? Everybody was super stressed all the time, which I feel like was a good introduction to just generally teaching at Mudd. A few things were really awesome. Students are more similar to how I was as an undergrad. Students are excited to be at Mudd and they really want to learn everything and are just trying and working hard. That was new for me to be on the other side of that, which was really exciting. That was a treat. Just the engagement and also the community. It was really cool. It was really nice to be much more involved in the campus community.

What might students not know about you?

I'm mixed race, which people wouldn't know necessarily looking at me. I'm half Filipino and half White. I'm in this in-between space where when it's convenient, I'm White, or when it's getting talked about, actually I'm not. I've become more aware of it in the recent social climate of America [and since] coming to a place that puts a big focus on diversity and inclusivity, and not only has conversations but takes action, both of which are kind of rare in an academic institution currently. When I reflect on my education both as a student and just being in any part of academia, especially in math, it's homogeneously male and white. So, even though I'm in a different role, still being in this environment and not being in the extreme minority has been a real treat for me. Hopefully I can role model it for everybody else like, 'Hey you can succeed at this and be a woman and be not entirely white, or whatever you are, it doesn't matter.' I know there's lots of diversity around this campus, which I really appreciate and I'm excited to be a part of.

Anything else?

Try to make me sound cool. Maybe don't write that I said that.

Interview by Sydney Wallace, Rachel Schibler, and Hannah Larson
Photos by Tiffany Madruga

How did you first get into magic?

I got into magic as an adult, which is unusual. I was living in L.A., and I was able to visit the Magic Castle for the first time, and I thought it was the coolest thing I've ever seen or done, so I immediately registered for classes and started learning and then became a member [of the Magic Castle] and started performing. I try to go once a week and perform pretty regularly.

What type of magic do you perform?

The branch of magic I work in is called close-up magic. It happens right in front of you, as opposed to big stage illusions where you saw a lady in half.

Any stories from performing magic?

One time I was performing in Hollywood at the Magic Castle, and one guy got in a fight with another guy, and they punched each other while I was doing magic. I've gotten to meet some famous people doing magic which is sort of cool. Ryan Gosling is kind of a magic groupie. I met Jack Black recently. Olivia Wilde was there the last time I was there. I met Neil Patrick Harris once and he was super nice. My friend and I had just become members and he shook our hands and he was like, 'oh this is great, we need more women in magic.'

What was it like becoming a member of the Magic Castle?

Honestly it was scarier than my PhD defense. For the audition, I was supposed to perform three tricks in a room with a bunch of really old stodgy white guys, and they don't react at all, they just stare. It was terrifying. [But] I got in! There's a lot of secrecy around [the field of magic], so it's hard to get inside and then once you are in, there's the human element in that it's sort of cliquy and there's egos and, as in any field, people can be jerks.

LOVE @ MUDD

Design by Tiffany Madruga

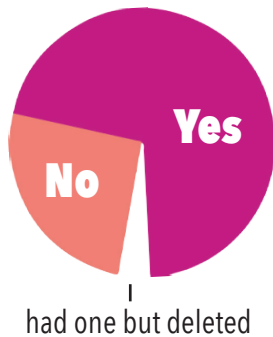
Since we just finished the month of February and Valentine's day has passed us, we want to share some stories and insights about love at Mudd. Relationships can be a big deal, and students have various levels of experience. We want to demystify some rumors and present some information that may help people feel more comfortable entering the dating scene. We sent out a poll to the entire Mudd community and received responses from 25% of the student body to acquire the data presented below.

AVERAGE RICE PURITY SCORE BY DORM

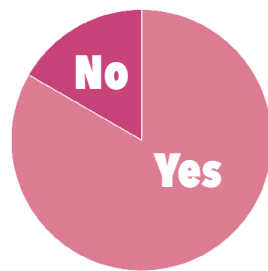


CIRCLES OF LOVE

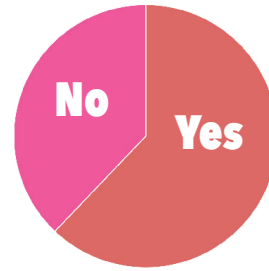
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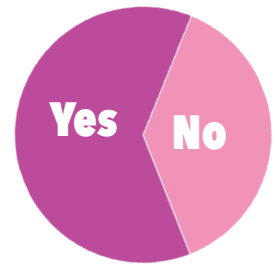
HAD YOUR FIRST KISS?



HAD CONSENSUAL SEX?



IN A RELATIONSHIP?



MOST POPULAR DATE LOCATIONS

PARSONS
MOVIES AND 21 CHOICES
THE FARMERS' MARKET
THE MOTLEY
TOCAJA, TPUMPS, OR T&JOY
MY BED

FUN PICKUP LINES

I want our love to be like pi:
irrational and never ending.

Can I have your significant
digits?

Are you a carbon sample?
Because I want to date you.

I wish I was your derivative so I
can lie tangent to your curve.

You must be related to Tesla
because you're electrifying.



MUDD FACT

Did you know that in the 80's Mudders would get priority in room draw if they were married or had a child? Room draw, a lottery based system for room placement, was made less painful since Mudders would get an entire inner-dorm suite to themselves if they were married!

How I Met Your Mudder

Some members of The Muddraker staff reached out to Eileen and Ben Giese, both class of 1991. Ben was an Engineering major with an emphasis on electronics and a concentration in music and Eileen majored in Engineering with an emphasis in chemical engineering and fluid dynamics and minored in Japanese at Pomona. They both lived in North Dorm for their Freshman and Sophomore years, and began dating November of their freshman year. Eileen and Ben graciously answered some questions which we have shared for your viewing pleasure.

How did you meet?

Ben: We met at the President's reception during orientation. Then we played ping pong and the rest is history. Be careful who you play ping pong with.

Eileen: We met at the President's reception during Orientation Week. I hung around with the dorm president (Tim Wendler '89) who introduced me to a lot of people. We started playing ping pong after dinner at the Muddhole (now Jay's Place) and we've been together ever since.

What was your most memorable experience together at Mudd?

Ben: One Spring Break, Eileen and I along with a few other 5C students were hosted by the Hagelin family (Paul '91, Julie PO '91) for a week. We packed in a lot of activities and we all were assigned one night to cook dinner.

Eileen: We are not drinkers so when we had dorm parties (and they were big, hard-alcohol-soaked affairs back then), we would head down to CMC with a couple friends and play tennis or basketball. Senior year, my bestie from Pomona (Ellen Suzuki née Fujikawa PO'91) who is still my bestie and I would cook big dinners in the New II (Case) kitchen on Fridays and invite people to eat with us. They were our "Friday Dinner" nights. Ellen was and still is a fantastic cook. To comment on Ben's memory, we were assigned dinner in groups. Ellen and I had one night, Julie and Caroline (PO'91) had one night, and the boys (Paul, Dean, and Ben) had one night. Ellen and I made Japanese food, Julie and Caroline made German food, but for the life of me, I cannot remember what the boys made. Ben just reminded me but I still have no memory of it. No offense meant but the guys still don't cook.

What was your favorite Claremont date spot?

Ben: We still talk about the dinner date we had at the Blue Moon Cafe in the Village. I don't think it is there anymore.

Eileen: Ben ordered the duck pizza (at Blue Moon Cafe) and the waiter wrapped his leftovers in aluminum foil shaped like a duck. I ordered Oysters Rockefeller and I think I grossed Ben out. He still won't eat stuff like that. Ben was also involved in the Claremont Chamber Orchestra and Pomona Symphony. I went to all of his concerts - he was dressed in his tux so walking back to Mudd felt like we were on a date.

What is your favorite thing about each other?

Ben: She's my best friend. She laughs at my jokes, even when they don't make sense, and we both had the same Snoopy lunch box when we were in elementary school.

Eileen: We grew up and matured into adults together. He always makes me laugh even though I don't get half the jokes. We also had the same Sesame Street record too.



Left: A photo of Ben and Eileen Giese from their senior year '91. Photo provided by Eileen Giese.

Above: A current photo of Ben and Eileen Giese. Photo provided by Eileen Giese.

What were the pros and cons of dating a Mudder during college and/or afterwards?

Ben: Being a Mudder while dating another Mudder meant we could get to know each other while just living life. It also helped that we both had to deal with the same workload so there was an instant understanding of what the other is going through.

Eileen: Ben is much smarter than me so he helped me with homework sometimes. Unfortunately, he understood concepts much better and quicker than I did, so I would end up staying up late many nights while Ben always went to sleep by midnight. I slept through quite a few 8 am lectures. Ben never missed class. Ben always kept his test scores and his GPA secret. He never wanted to compare how we did on anything. I didn't even see his Mudd transcript until [our daughter] Jacqui ('20) was a Freshman at Mudd. Ben graduated with distinction so I knew he did well but I didn't know how well until recently. I was just happy I graduated. But we shared the same academic and social experiences together so our understanding of each other, regardless of our grades, has been a big blessing and is probably a strong foundational aspect of our marriage.

Any relationship advice for Mudders?

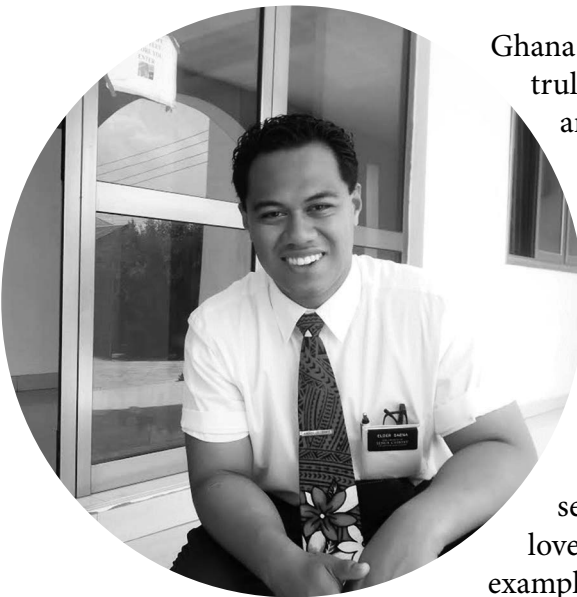
Ben: Spend the time to get to know each other and develop a friendship. Squeeze in a few fun activities when you can.

Eileen: The best part of our marriage is that we are best friends as well as life mates. We got to know each other really well - the good, the bad, and the ugly. Maybe this didn't happen initially, but over time, we developed a mutual respect. Mudd was and is still hard, so allow the other to deal with their stresses and be encouraging or maybe even be miserable together. These shared experiences strengthen your relationship. I think Mudd is a great place to meet your future spouse. It's a small, intimate environment full of like-minded, really smart people. You could work for a tech company or an engineering firm after graduation and be surrounded by smart people but the mix will be different, it won't be the same. I don't know how to explain this well - except to say that to this day, when I meet another Mudder from a different graduating class, we have this insta-bond even though we've never met before. I think that is pretty special.

Mudder on a Mission

Tyson Saena, a freshman at Mudd last year, is currently serving on his Mormon Mission in Ghana. Along with competing in Football and Track and Field, Tyson is best known around campus for his extensive use of puns and ukulele skills. During his time in Ghana, he communicates weekly with his CMS team.

Give us a quick summary of what you've been doing?



Ghana is a great place that is truly blessed! The people here are amazing and so friendly! Since 7 September 2017 I've been here as a Missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and I serve as such for a period of 24 months/2 years. I go around sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ seeking to serve the people of Ghana in love and humility after the example of Jesus Christ in the Christian beliefs. As a

Missionary, I hold the title of Elder, so for this time I serve, I am referred to as "Elder Saena." We go around either walking or biking in various areas of Ghana and provide service to those in need in hopes of sharing with them a special message about hope, love, joy, and the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

How does the Hoch food compare to food in Ghana? What meal do you miss most in the Hoch? What Ghanaian food should we have in the dining hall?

The Hoch is great and has some of the best food of the 5C's, for sure, but the food here in Ghana is all-natural and delicious! The meal I miss most from the Hoch was Monday Dinner Steak Night! Meat like that is hard to come by here in Ghana but all is well. One of my favorites here in Ghana is called Fufu. It is Plantain and Cassava mashed together in a ball-like shape and served in some sort of soup. Here in Ghana, however, the utensil of choice is the hand (specifically the right because of cultural reasons) and so that was a pretty big change for me. If we could bring anything to the Hoch, though, it would either be Banku with Okra Stew or fresh Pepe, or Jollof Rice or Waakye.

What do you miss most about Mudd?

Definitely the people. I love the people of Ghana, but I always think of the great times I shared at Mudd and especially those whom I shared them with. There are so many great things here in Ghana I wish I could share with the family that I've made at Mudd. From great/exotic foods to the great music playing at every turn, Ghana is a place that truly welcomes all and gives them an experience that many will never forget.

Biggest culture shock about Ghana? Hardest part about living in Ghana?

In Ghana, the official language is English, but almost every region in Ghana has their own local languages. I believe there is over 50+ different languages so that was definitely a big change, but the main ones that are almost as common as English are Twi and Ewe, depending on which part of Ghana you are in. Here, anyone who is not African is called an "Obroni" (or foreigner/'white person') so all of the little children, anytime they see me or other non-Africans around, they always shout "Obroni, Obroni!" But the hardest part is sometimes seeing the living conditions of some people. The truth is that some people really don't have much, but they are some of the happiest people on this Earth. What it really has done for me has helped me appreciate the little things we have back home. The luxuries like air conditioning, running water, reliable electricity, waste control, and others are things we take for granted sometimes because we live in a place that provides those things for its people. Not everyone is able to enjoy those blessings that make life comfortable, but they live a life full of joy and happiness because they have the strength and opportunity to rise into a new day and breathe in the breath of life.



If there is anything that my short time in Ghana has taught me, and I know that there is still so much more to learn, is that we don't need a lot to be happy. No matter who we are, where we come from, what religion we claim to be, and what we do in our personal lives, if we just take the time to show love to others and seek the happiness of others before our own, we will find so much more joy that will last so much longer than any amount of money can provide. It is my prayer and testimony that the work that I am doing now, Missionary Work, will yield unseen blessings to both the people I am able to serve during my time here in Ghana and me in my own life. I love this opportunity I have to be a servant of the Lord and hope that I will be able to take the things I am learning now and apply to my life when I return to Mudd. I love and miss everyone back at Harvey Mudd College and pray that the God I am serving continues to bless each and every one of you!

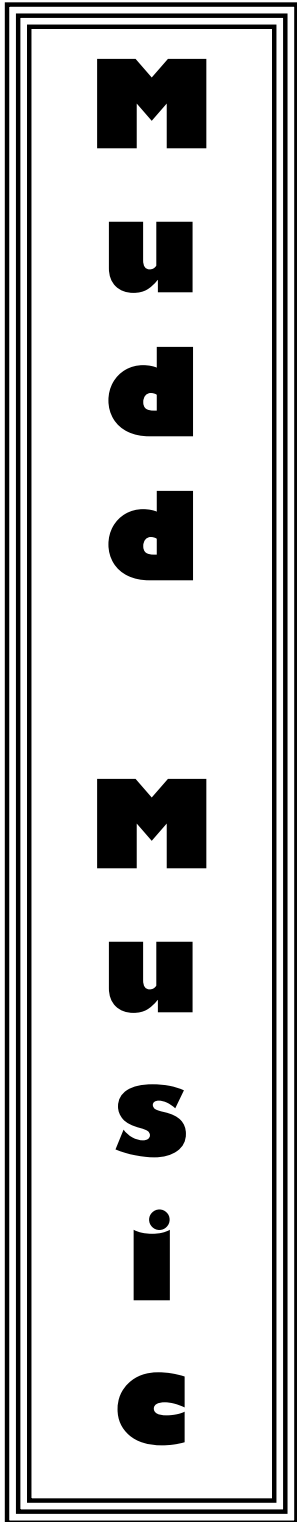
Women in Music

A Fresh(man) Look

Gabriella Teodoro is freshman at Mudd who always loved music. When asked about how she got into music she explained that her parents had always loved listening to music and playing a wide variety of genres for her as a child--along with some classic toddler sing-along TV shows. Additionally, she was raised Catholic and spent many a Sunday singing in church. Over the years, Gabriella grew to love singing and upon coming to Mudd joined Mood Swing, one of the 5C's acapella groups, as well as choir at Pomona. It was hard to pinpoint a favorite moment but SCAMfest has definitely been a highlight of Gabriella's music career thus far. As a young woman in music, I went on to ask her about the role she saw women playing in music:



"Women in music: there are so many badass women in music it's insane. There are famous artists, like Lady Gaga and Beyoncé that make kickass music that can have a positive social justice impact. Even in the non-famous realm of music, the choir director at Pomona is fantastic and leads us all so well and is both tough about making us learn our music but also nurturing and supportive and that shows that women can definitely be amazing leaders in music! Same with acapella, two of our music directors this year have been women and they've been doing such an amazing job--women both in mainstream and in my life are such amazing leaders and trendsetters in music."



A Look at the Hip-Hop Scene

Rap is hotter than ever; "Nielsen Music, incorporating streaming data for the first time this year, confirmed that hip-hop/R&B outpaced all other genres in consumption for the first time in its annual mid-year report." And anyone who knows me knows I'm obsessed with rap--whether it be from introspective lyricists or heavy-hitting "trap rappers". So when I stumbled across Megan Thee Stallion's STALLI FREESTYLE on YouTube, I was hyped. Her flow was impeccable; she went off on the beat. But as I replayed the track, I wondered why I hadn't heard of her in the rap scene before. Shortly after, I began to question how many female rappers I knew at all. As someone who swims in the underground, I often pride myself of finding more obscure artists. And I was shocked to realize only a handful of female rappers came to mind. Disheartened, I became curious about what this meant for the mainstream--the modern day highway for music consumption--and began looking deeper into the representation of women in common culture.

What I found was sobering. In the past decade, music award categories for female rappers within the Grammy's, BET, and VH1 have been eliminated; the number of women signed to major record labels has dropped from 40+ in the 90's to just 3 in 2010. Pitchfork's recent study of the top 15 major R&B/rap-centric record labels concluded the following: "all of these labels were founded by and are currently headed by men, none of their rosters are more than 36 percent female, and none have signed more than two female rappers. Three don't have any women signed at all." And we are all familiar with the misogyny at play within rap lyrics... well, that sexism unsurprisingly transcends the music itself and is reflected in these record labels. Maybach Music Group head Rick Ross stated, for example, that the reason he doesn't sign any female rappers is because "You know, I never did it because I always thought, like, I would end up fucking a female rapper and fucking the business up... I'm so focused on my business. I just, I gotta be honest with you. You know, she looking good. I'm spending so much money on her photo shoots. I gotta fuck a couple times." While Rick Ross' comments are undeniably gross they are far from uncommon.

Women in rap are caught in a Catch 22. They are often deemed

"too expensive" for multi-billion dollar labels due to "hair and make-up expenses" yet when they produce minimalistic rap, rap with pure substance and depth, they get little fanfare. Additionally, female rappers are often slut-shamed and objectified for being too provocative... yet at the same time are disregarded by the media when they fail to "stimulate" enough male attention. In short, it is incredibly challenging for female rappers to see the limelight of fame in the mainstream. And it is arguably impossible for a female to simply be a rapper, without in turn juggling the expectations associated with being female. Even Nicki Minaj, who has proven to be the exception to the exclusion rule this past decade, has noted, "I got to prove myself a hundred times, whereas the guys that came in around the same time as I did, they were given the titles so much quicker without anybody second-guessing... the culture never seems to want to give me my props as an M.C., as a lyricist, as a writer."

With all this being said, it really isn't a surprise that Cardi B's hit "Bodak Yellow" was the first solo female rap song to hit #1 on the Billboard Charts in 19 years. And that the artist before her, Lauryn Hill, is the only other female artist to do so. As in many fields, there is an image associated with rap: an image that discounts women as unsuitable, exploiting a sexual degradation of them instead. "We've gone backwards," MC Lyte, the first woman to ever release a solo rap album with a major label, in an NPR article in 2014. "This is pretty much what it was like when women weren't able to get major recording and release opportunities." And in all honesty, I'm not all that confident that these sobering statistics are really going to change--at least any time soon. However, with the rise of Soundcloud and independent artistry, I feel as though the doors for unsigned rappers are rapidly opening, resulting in an opportunity for talented female rappers to bypass the all-boys label club. Time will tell. But in the meantime, I would like to introduce all of you to some of my favorite female rappers, in all sorts of subgenres. Because even though the charts may say otherwise, there are plenty of badass female rappers out there absolutely killing the game right now.

By:
Mary Celestin



Read more about these incredible women in hip-hop/rap and listen to some of their music in an extension to this piece online!



JANUARY'S CELESTIAL EVENTS

Article by Max Maleno '20



Left: A plane flies by the Blood Moon the morning of January 31st 2018. Photo by Michael Guzman '20

Right: The 2018 Wolf Moon, the first Full Moon of the year, the night of January 2nd 2018. Photo by Max Maleno '20

January was a big month for space enthusiasts! To start, the New Year was welcomed by not only the Times Square ball drop, but also by a full moon. On January 2nd, the moon hit maximum illumination from Earth's perspective in what is called a "Wolf Moon." The Farmer's Almanac states that the first full moon of every year has been called a Wolf Moon since early American colonialism. Northeastern colonists associ-

ated this time of year with the sound of howling wolves, hungrily prowling the outskirts of their villages, on wintry nights.

In addition to the Wolf Moon, the West Coast was later treated to another full moon on January 31st. The second full moon within a month is called a "Blue Moon." This is the origin of the phrase "once in a Blue Moon" because it only occurs roughly once every three years! This Blue Moon was even more rare because it was a "supermoon:" a full moon that happens while the moon is relatively closer to the Earth in its orbit than usual. Due to the moon's elliptical orbit around the Earth, the moon appears 14% larger from our perspective at perigee, creating a supermoon, than it does at apogee. Moreover, this super-blue moon occurred during a total lunar eclipse! In a lunar eclipse, the Earth blocks the Sun from the moon's perspective, casting a shadow over the moon called an "umbra." This shadow gives the moon an eerie crimson color, aptly giving it the name, "Blood Moon."

To witness this Super-Blue-Blood Moon, some Mudders trekked down to Pomona's Brackett Observatory. Luis Martinez '19, President of Mudd's Astronomy Club, opened the observatory to students willing to get up for 5:30 am totality on January 31st. At Brackett, students were able to observe the celestial event at 100x magnification with a Celestron 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Additionally, Michael Guzman '20 seized the opportunity to use the telescope's finderscope, a 100mm Celestron refractor, to photograph the rare occasion with a Canon T3i.

Fortunately, this January was only the start of a spring semester filled with sky watching opportunities. From the end of February through the middle of March, Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter will all be collinear in the night sky. On March 7th and 8th, a Waning Gibbous, an almost full moon, will intersect this fleeting planetary line and pose another awe-inspiring scene. Additionally, we will see two meteor showers this spring. The first to occur is the Lyrids meteor shower, which will peak on April 22nd. The second show, the Eta Aquarids, will peak on the night of May 6th and is caused by debris left behind by the famous Halley's Comet. Let's hope for clear skies this Spring!

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