

AMP

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FACT OR FISSION:

The Allure of Oppenheimer

Keep painkillers off our streets.

Gays on TV? Here's what to see.

Twitter will NEVER die.

AMP

Editors' Desk

The Stench of Musk



Welcome back, Comets! And to any freshmen, welcome and thank you for picking up a copy of AMP! We're excited to see plenty of new faces on campus (and at our pitch meetings, if you are so inclined). But before we can get into that toasty autumn vibe that comes with a new school year, we have to cover everything that went down this summer.

"Barbenheimer" (the simultaneous releases of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," which became a meme because of the films' totally different tones) ruled cinemas across the country, even spawning fun fashion trends along the way. Both movies have had some mixed reviews, but if nothing else, they both had distinct and intentional visual direction that made them interesting to watch even beyond their plots.

Elon Musk's latest stint was changing the name of Twitter, one of the most recognizable and (previously) well-designed social media apps, to X. Maybe he was trying to create the next "artist formerly known as Prince" moment. This actually isn't the first time he's tried this, as X was also the original name for PayPal before Musk was voted out as CEO and the name was changed. Not only is X arguably a much less recognizable name than Twitter, it was also probably a spur-of-the-moment decision, considering all the logistical issues that came up immediately after the announcement. X.com, which was supposed to redirect to Twitter, was not yet linked correctly and took users to an unrelated page. The company started removing the Twitter signage from their headquarters, but didn't get the city's permission to do so and had to stop halfway through. All in all this change was a messy one, and one that nobody asked for.

Former President Donald Trump has now been indicted four times, the most of any president in history. (We're starting to think he believes "most" is the same as "best.") Trump was arrested this August on felony charges for his attempts to manipulate the Georgia election results in 2020. This time, however, an official mugshot was released from his arrest, and it has quickly become a meme. Trump's expression, a mix between an angry glare and an almost flirtatious smolder, is so baffling it can't be taken seriously. Trump is now using this image as a symbol of his martyrdom that his supporters can buy on shirts and mugs, which only makes it funnier. Even now, Trump continues to deny his charges and has not dropped out of the presidential race for 2024. Maybe he sees all these accusations as just a toxic gossip train.

Finally, the issue of parking at UTD has reared its multicolored head once again. There have been reports across campus of lower tier parking spots getting painted over with more expensive pass colors, making it even harder to find parking for green pass holders. Additionally, much of the parking near JSOM has been completely covered by the construction for the upcoming art museum being built there. Parking is a necessity for many students, but their options are slowly becoming more and more limited. If, however, you manage to find a place to park, we hope you find something on campus that piques your interest this semester! 'Something' being the next issue of AMP, obviously.

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Have an opinion?

Think you're funny?

Write for AMP! Contact us at ampatutd@gmail.com and follow us on social media @AMPatUTD for more information.



AMP HOROSCOPES

• v i r g o •

8/23 - 9/22

Aries: Just try really hard not to fall down the stairs this month.

Taurus: Go ahead. Eat that sandwich off the ground. Your immune system can handle it.

Gemini: Your vibes are off. If you don't get this fixed, you will always mildly unsettle the fifth nearest person to your left. Seek out a vibe-ologist. Make sure they're board-certified.

Cancer: The stars are telling me...they're going to spray you with water guns. I tried to talk them out of it, but they've already made up their minds, so wear something waterproof I guess.

Leo: Get some sleep. I'm begging you.

Virgo: It's your time to shine! Go crazy with it! ...But not too crazy.

Libra: Eat an entire 5-layer cake by yourself. In one sitting. The stars triple-dog-dare you.

Scorpio: The hand of fate sees good fortune in your future, so long as you take up pickpocketing.

Sagittarius: Surprisingly ok aura coming from you this month. Like, perfectly average. The most precisely mediocre reading I've ever seen. So, like, don't expect much.

Capricorn: The constellation Orion will actually be looking over you this month, because Capricorn just really isn't feeling it right now. Orion wants you to go kill some scorpions, but I don't know if he's done his reading on how this will affect the local ecosystem.

Aquarius: This is the best time you will ever have in your life to make pasta. No other time will ever be as cosmically blessed as this one. Don't spend your life wondering what could have been.

Pisces: Love is in the air! But only for everyone else. You can just kinda sit and watch, I guess.

ETHAN WUU

sophomore | atec
Libra sun, Pisces moon,
Virgo rising

MOON MEALS

A UTOTV COLLAB

Moon Meals - On Wheels: recapping the best food from this summer! The top winners are Texas A1 Steaks and Seafood (Portland, TX) and Douceur de France (Marietta, GA)!

TEXAS A1 STEAKS AND SEAFOOD

I loved this spot so much that I went two nights in a row. The star of the show by far was the Seafood Stuffed Crabs: two fried crab shells that were filled with their signature seafood filling (10/10). It was incredibly flavorful and full of so many interesting textures and different types of seafood. It's the perfect dish if you like trying new things. I got it with a side of fried okra, and a bun that was fluffy and delicious. It also came with a side of lemon to squeeze on the crab (a must) and a cinnamon dipping sauce for the bread (a little too sweet for me, but still good). My mom ordered a fried tilapia fish sandwich which had a well cooked and properly battered filet on soft bread. The fries balanced out the tartness of the optional tartar sauce. The second night I tried their Shrimp Alfredo Pasta, which was so creamy, and the portions were massive. My dad got their steak and shrimp, and the steak was really tender and the shrimp was well seasoned. My mom got a grilled flounder filet which she enjoyed. I wasn't a big fan of the soup or salad options either night, but my parents liked the rice sides. Finally, I finished off the night with their homemade cheesecake that I demolished - soft, creamy and utterly indulgent. It had a chocolate and strawberry topping, and came drizzled with even more. Exquisite.



DOUCEUR DE FRANCE

I visited this little bakery once last year and made it the top priority of my road trip this year. Gorgeous pastries lined the display cases, heaped in aesthetic piles, golden and still warm. I tried an assortment and everything was phenomenal, but the star, and what brought me running back 365 days later, was their chocolate almond croissant. It's piled with toasted sliced almonds, doused in powdered sugar, and of all the almond croissants I've had in my life (MANY) this had the best filling by far. It was sweet and creamy, and the sharpness of the high-quality chocolate cut through perfectly, with no one flavor overpowering another (10/10). The next treat that blew me away was their rum ball. It was enormous and coated in chocolate sprinkles. The texture inside was smooth and light, but the taste of both rum and chocolate is so strong that it took me two different sittings to finish it, even sharing. It inspired me to make my own, but I couldn't master an outcome that was such perfection. We also tried two of their cakes, and their chocolate lovers cake which was so rich, decadent, and also incredibly filling. The pomegranate grenade sparkling drink was perfect to cut the sweetness with a hint of refreshing sour.



MINUKI MEDIS

senior | psychology
Your local bringer of chaos!

DJ SHOWCASE : ETHAN CABRERA



Taking the reins as this year's station manager, Ethan Cabrera has some fairly large shoes he's hoping to fill – but after only a brief conversation, I'd say they're exactly his size. Alongside his co-host, Katya Zakarian, you can tune into his show "Anima Sola" from 12-3 pm every Wednesday. He calls it "one of the weirdest shows on UTD air," and he goes out of his way to line up songs he hasn't yet played from a variety of genres for his listeners. The show creates a multifaceted, explorative approach to radio that matches the fluidity that helps him adapt to the many challenges that come with being the new face of the station.

Although his show features a plethora of different songs and styles, he certainly has his favorites: namely electronic dance music, followed by indie, jazz, and world music. For the most part, instead of matching his tracks by genre, he aims to go for a specific mood – whether that's upbeat, more relaxed, or something else altogether. It's not just music he shares in his show, however.

"I'M ALWAYS READING, LIKE, ARTIST BIOS ON SPOTIFY," HE SAYS. "I LIKE TO SHARE COOL TIDBITS THAT I FIND ON THERE ABOUT EACH SONG."

This tradition of exploring the quirky contexts of artists and music he plays began in his previous show, "Labyrinth," and he describes his part in "Anima Sola" as a continuation of his previous work. While "Labyrinth" was a solo act for him, he's planning on spending his time in the studio this semester expanding on the chemistry he shares with his co-host, providing more of a back-and-forth dynamic for listeners to enjoy. In both shows, he drives no central message or theme; just good vibes and good music. Even without knowing his approach to radio or his show, it'd be easy to link Ethan to "Labyrinth," and now, "Anima Sola." In his spare time, he listens to and even creates electronic dance music and has two new singles on the way, at the time of writing. He has a natural love of learning, to the point that he describes himself as a "Wikipedia dude," and he enjoys opportunities to share the breadth of his knowledge when he can. Something that might be a little harder to spot, however, is the way he seeks to push himself in his work, contrary to his otherwise low-key demeanor.

"It's so cool knowing I can put something thoughtful out there into the world. One thing I try to hold myself to with my show is to mostly play tracks I haven't played before... It's an extra challenge for me, but it keeps things fresh and builds up the catalog."

Ethan's passion for music started with his mother, with whom he would often listen to alternative rock, as well as classics from the '80s and '90s. It wasn't until high school that he branched out into other genres, but the chance to really explore his music taste through expansive libraries like Pandora Radio and Spotify redefined his perspective on the medium. Nowadays, he

showcase by: ethan wuu
design by: victoria bruno

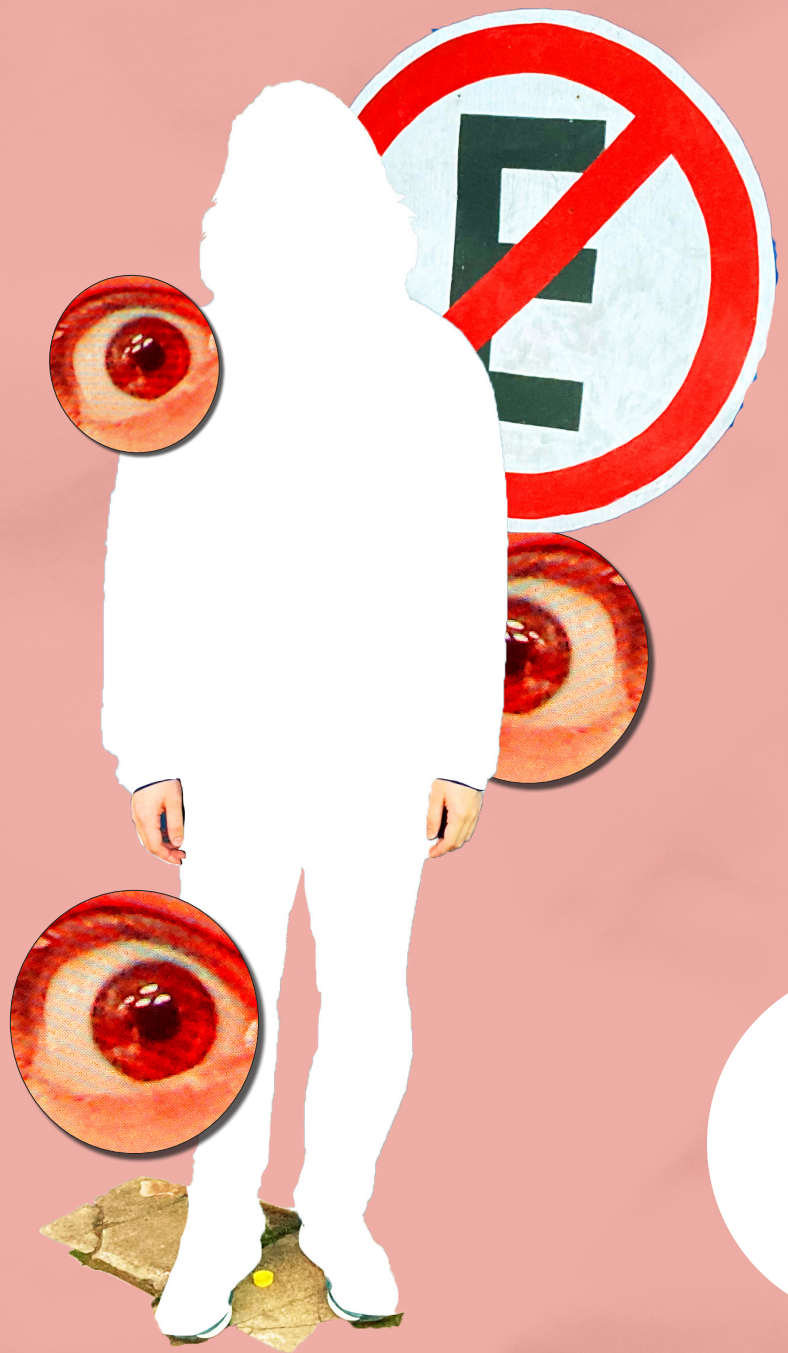
recommends artists and bands like Jai Paul, Machine Girl, and Women.

It would ultimately be this passion for music that defined a lot of his experience at UTD. As a senior in business this year, his college experience started with the pandemic, and he actually attended entirely online from Houston. Feeling the bite of that isolation, he stepped beyond his typical introversion to make connections through his interests for his sophomore year in-person.

"I applied for Radio super early in the summer, and I didn't hear back anything, and I was like, 'Oh, I guess they don't want me,' but I had just applied [too] early... From there, I just kept growing my relationship with the organization."

Within RadioUTD, Ethan found a community that he's been able to grow alongside for the past few years. The DJs have some differences, but Ethan gave me a little insight on what makes everything work.

"NOT EVERYONE LIKES THE SAME MUSIC, BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS AN ARTIST THAT SOMEBODY ELSE LIKES, SO THERE'S ALWAYS THAT COMMON THREAD. I FEEL LIKE THAT KEEPS EVERYONE IN RADIO PRETTY CLOSE AND ABLE TO RELATE TO EACH OTHER. IT'S BEEN A PRETTY GOOD PLACE FOR ME TO BE."



As for his responsibilities within the organization, Ethan's definitely stepping up to bat this year. He certainly wasn't slacking in the past – he played a pivotal role as programming director in maintaining a quality and diverse selection of music with the other DJs – but as station manager, he's focused now more than ever on keeping everything afloat and expanding the influence of the station (which is why you should follow their Instagram handle at @radioutd).

That said, Ethan has a lot of trust in his management team, and under his leadership, he says there's going to be a new style coming to radio this semester, as well as plenty of ideas he and his team have that they're excited to put in motion. All in all, the station is in fantastic hands with plans for an incredible fall semester.

RATFORD RETURNS



Q: I'm new to UTD, is there anything to look forward to?

A: UTD has a lot of things to offer! Food, video games, a gym, I practically live here! No, that isn't a joke, I literally live here!

Q: Skateboard or bicycle?

A: Skateboard! My little feet can't reach the pedals on a bicycle...

Q: I have an 8 am class, am I going to regret it?

A: Not if you sleep regularly you won't! I sleep 12 hours a day in two hour increments. Sure, I might not have time for friends, but it's better than being sleep deprived!

Q: How do I become besties with my new roommates?

A: The best way to make a friend is through their stomach! So get them cheese, And lots of it!

Q: What's your favorite place on campus?

A: I like the Taco Bell near the edge of campus! They have a lot of cheesy options and it's very quiet. I nibbled myself a little passageway to their food supply, but don't tell anyone!

Q: What food do you recommend from the dining hall?

A: I love the cheese pizza there, it's so gouda! I once finished two whole pizzas at the dining hall and got really sick. I still don't know why that happened...

Q: What should my first day outfit look like?

A: Wear whatever makes you feel comfortable! I'm most comfortable without any clothes on and this school has been very lenient about it.

Q: Best school club or organization?

A: There's a lot of really grate clubs around here, but my club is obviously the best. Sure, The Cheese Tasting Society only has one member, but it's the best!

Q: Tips for making friends on campus?

A: Surprise them with cheese! If you stuff their faces with it, they'll be speechless — because of how amazing cheese is, not because they're choking.

Q: I'm scared of Temoc, but I want to like him. What should I do?

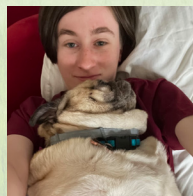
A: Imagine he's made of cheese, that's what I do! I brie-lieve that his body is made up of blue cheese. And his bright beautiful hair? That has to be made out of cheddar! Temoc has a restraining order on me now though, so I don't get to see him too much...

Q: How can I guarantee good grades this semester?

A: Eat your textbooks! They're really yummy and you can't have any homework if it's not there!

Q: How do I survive walking across campus in this heat?

A: Take a swim at The Plinth fountain! For whatever reason no one ever uses it, so there's plenty of room!



VICTORIA STEINER

junior | psychology

I love all scrunglies!!!!

Why Twitter Can't Be X-tinguished



design by: victoria bruno

At first glance, Twitter seems like a perfect app. While that may seem like an exaggeration, it was, at least for a bit of time. What started out as a simple way for people everywhere to share their random everyday thoughts in real time, quickly became one of, if not the most popular and well-known social media app. Even though it has been over a decade since its inception, the app is still able to stay relevant in more ways than one. I'm sure you've already heard all about how Tesla CEO and chronic Twitter user himself Elon Musk had bought Twitter last year, and though the app has gone through quite a few waves of change — even having moments where it seemed like the little blue bird might actually say goodbye — the app is still standing.

Before Elon was able to get his hands onto Twitter, things were good. Twitter was seen as something different and fun, allowing numerous users to express their every thought in real time, as long as it was under 140 characters or less. This approach to self expression was able to let users find and connect with people who share the same thoughts and interests as them, without having to really think about whether or not you knew them in real life, which gives people the opportunity to interact and share their thoughts with people that they probably wouldn't have had the chance to meet in the first place. Twitter has now grown into a place that allows anyone the chance to speak what's on their minds, with various celebrities and brands using Twitter as some kind of diary and giving fans and regular Twitter users alike the opportunity to see a more personal side to them.

Twitter itself has become a piece of pop culture, as I'm sure people know about the numerous memes and reaction pictures that have been made out of tweets and have become a part of our everyday vocabulary. (My personal favorite Twitter saga is from a pair of tweets that read: "This edible is taking forever" immediately followed up with "Sega Playstation"). Twitter has also made a tremendous impact on the culture of shows in the universe, as well. For instance, in the show *Victorious*, one of the main ways that the students communicated was through the website "TheSlap.Com," which lets characters share their thoughts with the other students who followed them, much like how Twitter works in real life. Even some of the characters would refer to their posts as tweets! In retrospect, it's kind of crazy to think about just how much impact an app with such a simple interface and function has been able to seamlessly integrate itself into pop culture, but I guess that's the beauty of it.

However, after late 2022, when Twitter was acquired through Elon Musk, the app has been through some very interesting changes. One change, which I think seems to defeat the entire purpose of Twitter would be the implementation of the Twitter Blue Subscription program. Promo for Twitter Blue started off easy, launching in the summer of 2021, and informed Twitter users that for the low price of 8 dollars a month they would have the ability to edit their tweets and change the color of their Twitter interface, among other things. Always on the lookout for the next Big Business Deal™, Elon quickly decided to relaunch the concept of Twitter Blue in early 2023.

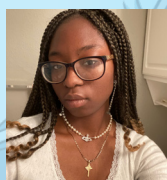
This version of Twitter Blue included the same features that were given in the first iteration of Twitter blue, with the added bonus of giving users the ability to gain their own version of a blue verification checkmark, a feature that was previously exclusive to celebrities, companies and various public figures. In order to get this paid verification system to work, the users on Twitter were stripped of their verification checkmarks, and wouldn't get them back until they had paid for Twitter Blue. Quickly, users everywhere began using this lack of verification as an

opportunity to impersonate real life companies and people, which went exactly as you would expect — some used it for laughs and others used it to spread misinformation, a consistent problem that Twitter is known for facing, which I'm sure reached an all time high once the concept of verification checks was briefly thrown to the wind.

Twitter also seemed to face a variety of small issues in the app, some of which are still ongoing, such as videos not being able to play all the way through, or having the audio be completely cut off, making it impossible for anyone to get through a single video. There was a brief moment of time where Twitter implemented rate limits, a system where Twitter users were only able to see an allotted amount of Tweets a day, and once their quota was reached, users were no longer able to see any new tweets on their timeline. A bit of an unusual idea, considering the fact that Twitter is an app that completely utilizes real time updates from people all over the app. And it would be completely counterintuitive to the function of Twitter to try and place a cap on the amount of tweets that a person sees since it ruins the whole appeal of the app in the first place. Safe to say, the rate limit concept was quickly over as soon as it started.

Now that Twitter has officially become 'X', it seems that Elon is doing everything in his power to rid Twitter of the things that made the app enjoyable and recognizable. Despite being at the helm of one of the biggest and most profitable social media platforms ever, it seems that Elon doesn't really understand the things that make the app so special, and it seems like he doesn't really want to, as he completely strips the app of the things that people love about, deciding to change the logo and branding to what he thinks is representative of Twitter, instead of knowing what it is that people love about the concept of Twitter as a whole.

Despite the fact that Elon is unable to understand the charm of Twitter, it is clear that people who use Twitter clearly know what it is that makes Twitter so great. This probably serves as a reason why the app is able to stay relevant, despite it seeming like Elon Musk is doing everything in his power to make the app crumble. It's clear that the charm of Twitter isn't something that can easily be replicated. For instance, Instagram's new Twitter dupe 'Threads' managed to gain some traction, albeit briefly, but it wasn't able to take off as well as expected, which shows that the Twitter formula, while easily replicated, isn't necessarily something that can be manufactured. The charms of Twitter, whether it be the people you follow on your timeline, or the ability to join different sectors of Twitter based on your own interests, are just two of the many things that Twitter has to offer, and part of the reason why the app is able to stay standing for so long and will continue to do so. While the app has changed in terms of branding and name, the ability to express yourself in any way you want while being able to meet and interact with different personalities across your timeline is something that can't be changed regardless of who is at the helm.



AGNES GARRET

senior | literature

i'm a firm believer in the fact that sam and mercedes should've ended up together on glee. yes, this is me admitting to being a gleeek.

FACT OR FISSION: THE ALLURE OF OPPENHEIMER



After two years of memes, marketing, and hype, “Oppenheimer,” the newest film from famous director Christopher Nolan, finally released this July. In a manner fitting for a story about nuclear bombs, it proceeded to completely blow up. In a good way. Like, in a “it’s one of the most popular movies of the year and one-half of a massive viral meme sensation” way, not a “it’s a box office bomb” way.

For those of you who still aren’t familiar with the film, “Oppenheimer” is an epic, dramatic three-hour-long biopic (short for biographical picture) about the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, “father of the atomic bomb,” known for running the Manhattan Project and its creation of the first nuclear weapons used against Japan in World War II. The story is framed in an almost reverse chronological order, starting with the perspectives of J. Robert Oppenheimer and rival Lewis Strauss in the 1950s, as their recollections and testimonies lead into the film’s retelling of the past. Said recollections span across several decades, portraying Oppenheimer’s studies in Europe as a young adult, his associations with the Communist Party USA, and his involvement with the Manhattan Project during World War II, before tying back into his present conflicts with the US government and personal enemies during the Cold War period. With such a lofty and ambitious historic narrative to tackle, there’s no doubt that loads of research and planning went into the creation of “Oppenheimer.” The film was primarily based on the contents of “American Prometheus,” a 2005 biography about J. Robert Oppenheimer written by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. Many of the scenes and ideas depicted in the film “Oppenheimer” stem from the objective details and accounts provided in “American Prometheus.”

That being said, the exact manner in which “Oppenheimer” goes about its portrayal of history has left some people confused and even outright upset. See, while the film is largely presented as a biopic about the true story of this individual, and follows a generally objective retelling of the facts, there are still certain characters, actions, and ideas in the movie that are rooted in speculation and revision. Indeed, “Oppenheimer” is subject to numerous instances of historical embellishment and subjective interpretations, creating a film mired in both fact and fiction. As audiences continue to debate the accuracies and ambiguities of J. Robert Oppenheimer’s

life, a provocative question has entered the bigger picture: what’s the deal with this “biographical” fiction, and is its presence in a film like “Oppenheimer” necessary at all?

It’s unwise to delve into this question without any prior points of reference. Fortunately for us, “Oppenheimer” provides many instances of historical embellishment to look at, starting from early on in the movie. In what is arguably one of the most shocking and dramatized scenes in the film, a young Oppenheimer impulsively laces his professor’s apple with cyanide as revenge for being barred from a lecture led by the brilliant and famous Niels Bohr. Fortunately, Oppenheimer eventually comes to his senses and returns to discard the apple, only to find it in the hands of Bohr himself. After a meaningful talk with Bohr, a tense Oppenheimer is able to quickly swipe the apple and throw it away, preventing the untimely and somewhat absurd killing of one of mankind’s most important physicists.

...Almost all of this was stuff the movie made up. In reality, Oppenheimer’s lacing of the apple was quickly discovered by the university and authorities alike, and while the actual substance used remains unknown, the authorities’ relatively lenient treatment of Oppenheimer suggests it certainly wasn’t as lethal as cyanide.

How about Oppenheimer’s interactions with a certain other famous scientist, Albert Einstein? In the movie, the relationship between the two men is given particular focus, as several key interactions depict Einstein giving his younger peer crucial opinions and advice. The most notable of these is their conversation at Princeton years after the Manhattan Project, the contents of which are deliberately hidden from the audience at first. What exactly the two spoke about is treated as a mystery throughout most of the film, with a paranoid Lewis Strauss believing it to be slander against him, while an unnamed Senate aide remarks that nobody truly knows what they said to each other. It isn’t until the final scene in the movie that the mystery is answered, as we are shown that Einstein had been imparting Oppenheimer with advice about handling the legacy and ramifications associated with his achievements, and how to live in a world that will continue to turn back and forth against him. Oppenheimer, in turn, confides to Einstein his fear that he has effectively doomed humanity. Cue credits.

Of course, there once again is no evidence whatsoever to suggest this exchange really took place. Similarly to the apple incident, this scene is somewhat rooted in the truth, as it is true that both Oppenheimer and Einstein worked together at Princeton at the time, and gradually became close colleagues. But the dramatic conversation that functions as “Oppenheimer”’s mystery and closing piece was entirely fictional. Even if it did take place, nobody else would have any idea what was said, as mentioned by the movie itself.

Finally, multiple scenes in the film depict Oppenheimer experiencing traumatic flashbacks and auditory/visual hallucinations, painting him in the sympathetic light of a man deeply haunted by his own morality and regret. The most notable of these, for example, occurs when Oppenheimer is giving a half-hearted congratulatory speech regarding the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while he in turn is bombarded with horrific visions of explosive light, charred corpses, and the heartbroken bereaved. Such scenes serve as deep dives into the increasingly fragile psyche and confidence of Oppenheimer, and convey the mounting guilt he feels over his actions.

The embellishment displayed here is plain to see. It is obviously impossible to accurately base such psychologically internal content on objective history alone. No historian or peer of Oppenheimer could ever have any confident say on what exactly the man did or didn’t see from the depths of his mind, or to what extent he felt remorse and regret over the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In fact, it is famously known that Oppenheimer explicitly, publicly stated that he merely regretted not making the bomb fast enough to use on the Germans.

Unsurprisingly with a biopic that has garnered as much attention as “Oppenheimer,” much scrutiny has been directed towards the film’s historical accuracy — or occasional lack thereof. Some have voiced critical, negative reactions to the changes seen in the movie, taking issue with what they perceive as unjust, unfounded accusations towards the character and principles of J. Robert Oppenheimer. Others are upset because they see the film as a more sanitized, embellished depiction of a very morally condemnable man. What both of these camps miss, however, is that by going off of just history alone, the exact specifics of Oppenheimer’s life are shrouded in inherent ambiguity and mystery. It’s impossible to know just what exactly Oppenheimer laced his professor’s apple with, or how lethal the substance was. It’s impossible to

truly understand what went on in his mind following the aftermath of the Manhattan Project or the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or to what extent any trauma or regrets reached. And it’s impossible to truly learn about every single word that had been said in private between him and Einstein, and if they really did have any dramatic, curtain-closing talks about the fate of humanity.

So, what would happen if Christopher Nolan chose to eschew any kind of subjectivity whatsoever? What would we have gotten if “Oppenheimer” purely stuck to nothing but the explicit facts and accounts known to the public, without any ounce of dramatization or speculation to fill in all of the blanks? It’s simple: we’d get a documentary. Without any of the drama, or embellishment, or even any of the acting and direction (because that too stems from a purely creative source), the epic biopic we have would instead be a documentary. And there’s nothing inherently wrong with documentaries, of course, but I find it needless to say that creating a full-fledged, dramatic biopic of the same epic caliber as “Oppenheimer” would be impossible without any means to enter the internal, private recesses of the titular man’s life. The embellishment is wholly necessary in order to create the film at all.

What “Oppenheimer” does is solidly attempt to accurately retell what is explicitly understood, and then use grounded speculation and creative interpretation for the rest. The film, already a three-hour-long biopic heavy on objective detail, incorporates a liberal usage of embellishment, but none of it stands out as overly unrealistic or historically revisionary. While the film’s depictions of Oppenheimer lacing the apple and his interactions with Einstein were dramatized, I’ve also mentioned that both instances were rooted in historical truth. What the embellishment merely did in these cases was serve as a means to fill out the unknown aspects that historians and the public never got to see and learn for themselves — while also spicing up the entertainment factor somewhat. And while Oppenheimer never publicly expressed remorse over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, historians and laymen alike have found it reasonable to infer serious regret based off of Oppenheimer’s assumption of responsibility over the bombings and following denuclearization stances. It stands to reason that Christopher Nolan would belong in this camp, and thus choose to portray Oppenheimer as a psychologically haunted individual.

I also take issue with the notion that the embellishment in “Oppenheimer” miseducates viewers, as the film itself

clearly distinguishes fact from fiction through its use of color, as well as Christopher Nolan's direction. See, "Oppenheimer" as a film is more or less cleanly split into two sides: the objective and subjective. Scenes displaying important historical and political events in an objective manner are shown in black-and-white, harkening back to the old black-and-white media common at the time. These parts of the movie also focus on Oppenheimer from a more external point of view, usually following the perspective of Lewis Strauss instead. This allows the movie to keep its audience at a distance from Oppenheimer, only showing what everyone else — and by extension, history — was able to see of him. On the flipside are the parts of the movie shot in color, and directed more closely in the style of a typical dramatic film. It is here that we closely follow the life and perspective of J. Robert Oppenheimer, and get to see close glimpses into his private life, mental state, burdens and responsibilities alike. This is the subjective side of "Oppenheimer."

Of course, an argument can be made that the methods employed by the film may not be entirely effective in execution. The aesthetic and directive choices shown on film are supposed to distinguish the objective and subjective parts of the movie, but that doesn't necessarily mean it'll register with audiences. What if it just confuses people even further? The answer, as ironic as it may sound, is that whether or not the film succeeds on this front ultimately comes down to the subjective thought process and interpretation of the viewer themselves, and their ability to grasp the concepts presented to them. In my book, however, what "Oppenheimer" does is nothing less than a wonderfully creative means of weaving together history and entertainment in an unprecedented manner.

There ultimately is no denying that "Oppenheimer" is guilty of mixing fact and fiction, but can it really be called guilt if the act isn't a crime? The film's use of embellishment and subjective interpretation is nothing less than vital to its foundation as a dramatic biopic. It allows "Oppenheimer" to shine as a masterfully crafted historical biopic, one that not only captures an extensive look at the life and work of its titular individual, but also shares a unique, dramatic perspective from which it can be viewed. Through its excellent script and clever use of filmmaking techniques to divide fact from fiction, "Oppenheimer" presents an enthralling, comprehensive story that is able to both educate and entertain audiences while averting the risk of misleading them.



RAYHAN YOUNAS

junior | psychology

Currently hard at work procrastinating



Look Mom, I'm on TV!

Summer vacation is a great time for young learners to sit back, relax, and enjoy uninterrupted hours in front of a screen to catch up on the lives of their favorite TV characters — who, regardless of their main plots, often seem to be involved in some scope of romance. In the midst of rampant portrayal of charming boys and pretty girls getting their happily ever afters exclusively with each other — parents beware. If you've kept a supervising eye on the entertainment world this summer, you'll notice that the Gay Agenda™ has been spreading like wildfire right in front of your precious child's eyes. Besides, what's a kid to do but indulge in the recent back-to-back second season releases of "Good Omens" and "Heartstopper," AKA a queer child's roadmap to binge-watching themselves into an emotional rollercoaster?

Dear queer kids, this summer's releases are nothing short of a love letter to you. Representation in media has always been valuable. Whether it comes from seeing yourself on a book cover or finding pieces of your life etched into novels and scripts, media plays a crucial part in putting a spotlight on the parts of the world that

design by: victoria bruno

usually live in the shadows. For those of you watching with family, a well-placed anecdote or a witty protagonist may also be your gateway to pointing at the screen and saying, “Heads up — that’s me!” But if your TV binge involves hiding in your room or staying up late to watch in the dark, that’s okay too. These representations are ultimately for you, after all.

Some shows are more subtle with this representation, where being queer isn’t the point of the story but the relationships between characters ultimately form the foundation for how the plot itself progresses. “Good Omens” portrays this dynamic through protagonists Crowley and Aziraphale. The fallen-angel-turned-demon and his angelic partner-in-crime spend season one on a mission to incur Armageddon, during which they end up building a secret life together on Earth and actually saving humanity from its end. The pair’s mutual dependency always carries an underlying note of infatuation that only becomes more obvious in season two, where their mission shifts to save both an amnesia-afflicted angel and a blossoming queer romance on Earth. While both seasons have an intense mission to solve, the real intrigue of “Good Omens” comes from Crowley and Aziraphale as individual characters and their dynamic with each other. The show flawlessly develops a relationship built on banter to mask feelings with just enough truth peeking through — in essence, the recipe for a queer kid growing up where their identity is less than celebrated.

While the average viewer may not experience falling from heaven or acquiring a set of angel wings, they can still easily see themselves in protagonists who are equal parts charismatic and vulnerable. Despite being attached to humanity, Aziraphale’s life is centered around the plans of heaven to work against hell, while Crowley has been estranged from both extremes and isolates himself in his Earthly life instead. This ultimate opposites-attract duo learns that they are far more attached to each other than their respective otherworldly origins, and those origins and expectations are exactly what ends up keeping them apart for so long. In the end, both characters miss out on what they want most — their life with each other — in favor of doing what they think is the right thing.

And that, dear viewers, is the most heart-wrenching realization of them all. “Good Omens” represents that your flawed experiences and others’ expectations for your life don’t define your ability to love. Seeing each character struggle to balance their hearts with what they’re expected to want provides a sense of comfort that feeling forced into a box of others’ perceptions isn’t your fault. The heart wants what it wants, and if you want better for your on-screen love stories, you deserve better for yourself too.

Raise a hand if that sounds familiar. It does? How’s that religious trauma and hyperindependence treating you?

Okay, don’t worry. Your daily dose of getting called out by your on-screen counterparts does come with compensation of sunshine and rainbows — and, in this case, a sprinkle of cartoon leaves. The long-awaited second season of “Heartstopper” was an immediate hit, with fans eager to see what high school loverboys Nick and Charlie would experience after officially becoming boyfriends at the end of season one. From showcasing the pair in a variety of classic teenage love moments, to developing their story through more heartfelt and vulnerable confrontations, “Heartstopper” skillfully

creates a gentle, fluffy romance with twists woven into the quintessential young love that everyone yearns for. Charlie’s history with bullying and its resulting trauma coexists with Nick’s struggle to come out to his community, and the tension from both of their lives are delicately incorporated into the show’s puppy love atmosphere to make even the worst experience an easier pill to swallow.

Beyond Nick and Charlie’s obnoxiously sweet romance, “Heartstopper” also makes room for a variety of identities to make their way to the big screen. The experiences of side characters, like Elle’s life after transitioning, Darcy’s unsupportive mother in contrast to Tao’s endearing one, and Isaac’s self discovery of asexuality are just some of many representations that create the underlying appeal of the show. Whether it’s by sharing your specific label or life with an on-screen twin, or by seeing a character articulate your thoughts with all the right words, every member of the “Heartstopper” audience will find some piece of themselves in the show. Each character creates a subtle but necessary incorporation of people from all walks of life, as a reminder that your ability to live isn’t defined by your labels or how you grew up, but rather by who you are and become.

So, whether you take your media dark with a healthy portion of fluff or vice versa, seeing representations of stories of all kinds provides an experience that goes beyond just enjoying a good show. “Good Omens” and “Heartstopper,” despite their vastly different plots, are both centered around developing relationships that are impactful to the people involved. These second seasons explore the struggle between giving in to love and facing the tension of vulnerability, and both stories end on a shaky note as the audience understands that their favorite lovers have left up more walls between them than they realize.

That dichotomy is a key part of reminding audiences that emotions are not as lighthearted as a fluffy, teasing relationship may seem. And, if you see pieces of yourself in shows like these, that complexity can help you realize that your emotions are not exclusive — especially in the case of queer romances. The contrast between happiness and vulnerability is essential to understanding and experiencing love for yourself. Often, this borderline existential crisis is significantly easier to comprehend when you have an on-screen counterpart to compare yourself too.

So yes, parents. TV may be making your children gay. Or, more accurately, it’s making your children considerably more comfortable with being themselves.

And kids, it’s not just you. It never has been. Go forth and binge-watch romances of all types to your heart’s content.



SNEHA RAGHAVAN

junior | its

On an adventure in this dungeon, and in need of chocolate for fuel.



The Ultimate Handbook to Strike Negotiation

Welcome, welcome! If you're seeing this, then you're a production or distribution company dealing with the consequences of the current writer and actor strikes, and either your internal affairs or one of your friendly competitors wants you to do your part in ending the SAG-AFTRA/WGA strikes! No judgment, these things happen. As always, your first step should be to politely tell your wayward employees to come back — a lot of the time, the lower class likes to imitate everyone else by pretending they're reasonable, which is both adorable and advantageous! Just let them know that you don't think anything needs to change, and that you're willing to forget everything if they just come back. Usually, that should be en— oh. Hm. That's not — that's not in line with the profile I have for union workers. Okay, so they said no. Sure. Well, obviously you can't agree to a good-faith negotiation, that'd be absurd. Lucky for you, there are plenty of alternatives. Let's look at some Guerilla Negotiation Tactics™©.

Tactic One: Change Their Environment

So you might not know this, but strikers, unlike your average Joe, actually don't have any servants to fan them with giant palm leaves. Truly, the poor put themselves through so much. If you trim back the trees they're striking under, there's no way they'll continue their little crusade without proper shade. Remember, these aren't people who've worked hard — they're likely to quit their strike as soon as it gets tricky, and then they'll go back to being grateful for everything you do for them. Ideally they'd be striking on your property and under your trees so you could trim them freely, but if not, don't worry! Really, what is public property if not property that isn't yet private? The fines for violating property laws are hardly of any consequence, truly a drop in the bucket compared to meeting the communist demands of the striker. If you can bribe nearby store owners to withhold service, making them travel further for water, that'd also work a treat, but often the working-class of other industries will

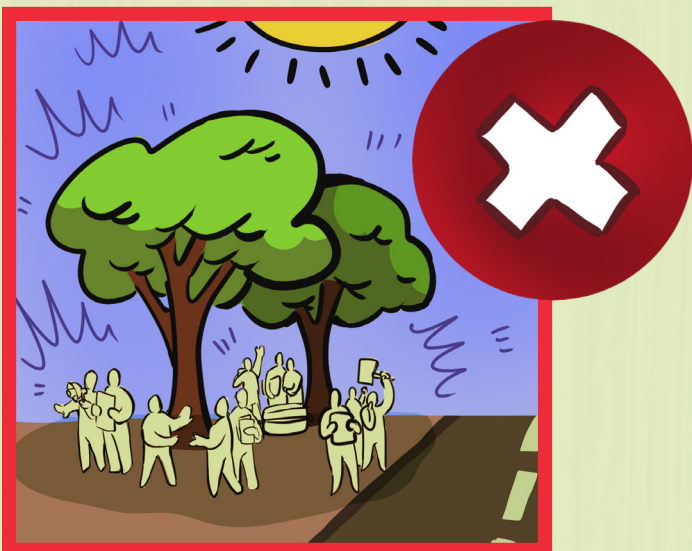
refuse you out of 'solidarity', which is what they call sticking their noses where they don't belong. Do what you can, and you're sure to take the wind out of the strike's sails!

Tactic Two: Start A Letter Campaign

It's alright if they're still out there, pithy signs and all — unions can be stubborn little pests! It's time to identify the leaders of the strike: even though it's partly an actor's strike, famous strikers are often just figureheads. You can't let your guard down. As middle- or lower-class citizens, union organizers are naturally greedier and more selfish than the majority of people. Your actors and writers may be on strike, but you should have plenty of paper pushers — use them! Find organizers' addresses. Don't worry about privacy regulations. It's like my mother always said: "If the punishment is a fine, then there's no need to whine!" Now, it's time to start a letter-writing campaign. Politely write to the leaders and inform them of the consequences of their actions. You may be forced to reach out to your brother-in-law in the medical industry and request that strike leaders' family members be moved to care more befitting of their station, or to your second cousin in real estate to ensure that when they lose their current home due to their own negligence, banks in the area may not want to give a mortgage to someone so flighty. Have some fun with it! Creative typography, singing telegrams delivered by increasingly buff men, there are so many fun and creative ways you can help union leaders come to the right conclusions.

Tactic Three: Employee Outreach

Every strike has a couple of people who want to get with the program. A few truly reasonable individuals understand that fighting for their rights to their own likenesses and fair residuals is wrong, and is theft from us, the good guys. Let them cross that picket line right back into our loving arms. And let it not be said that we don't



reward good behavior: keep your scabs employed through the strike with our series of intimate, avant-garde reality shows. Experimental, contemporary plays like “Your House Is Under Foreclosure” and “Burglar In The House” let your actors stretch their improv chops with feedback from small, intimate audiences. For those more intimidatingly inclined, reality shows like “Mugging People In A Dark Alley,” hosted in the alleyway on the way home for the strike organizers, present a great opportunity to really work on living in the characters they play. We understand that it’s difficult to pull off stage combat when one participant doesn’t know they’re on stage, so feel free to let your actors just straight-up whale on strikers to get the point across. Some line-crossers may be a little too recognizable to be believable for your audience, and that’s fine, but a little tricky. You may want to work one-on-one with them identifying personal details about other big names that might encourage them to come back into the fold — or, if that’s a no-go, famous faces are also great for changing public opinion! Press conferences, news slots, any opportunity to have them discuss the benefits of ending the strike and the absurdity of demanding more from us lovely, hardworking corporations.

Tactic 4: Hire An Outside Contractor

Right, so your strikers should be gone by now, but mistakes happen! I promised that you absolutely will not have to listen to what the union members think they want, and I intend to keep that promise. If they’re still bugging you we may have to get serious with a tried and true tactic for avoiding paying benefits and getting unsavory things done — private contracting. You have resources. It’s time to ask your assistant to find you a person of poor character. Assistants are middle-class, so they’ll know someone. Discretion is of the utmost importance for this tidbit. If word gets out about this genius bit of business strategy, you may find yourself in a bit of a legal pickle! So, take your person of poor character and hire them to organize an intervention between themselves and any large figureheads for the strike. It should be private and considerate of the organizer’s schedule — any time they may find themselves alone for an extended period of time. It wouldn’t do to catch them when someone else might be expecting them. Have your people move them to a second location, free of distractions — it’s important that for this time, the organizer be entirely alone with the person of poor character. And well, if it becomes clear that your interventee cannot be trusted to act in their own best interest by ending their involvement with the strike and the strike breaks down without its rallying point in their midst, then that’s just a handy bonus! For best results, multiple interventions at the same time will create concern in the group about who might need an intervention next, causing some to make the right decision and come back to our happy, healthy, and safe work environment.

Tactic 5: Get Back Into Having Henchmen

Now, I know what you’re thinking. “Don’t henchmen have a union too? Isn’t that why we switched to having minions?” Yes they do, but they can’t strike until 2027 when their current contract expires, so until then go crazy! Invest some extra cash flow into teams of large henchmen with guns to solve your strike problem, permanently! You’ll want them to kidnap strikers for the sake of throwing them into your giant volcano. For cost efficiency this works best if your private island has its own volcano, but if not just buy another one that does, or pay to install a giant lava pit. Strikers can be disposed of via lava one by one, or if you can hack it, a skilled enough private security henchman team can round them up into groups. Don’t stress about subtlety. Your attorney general’s son wants a new Spider-Verse movie ASAP, and he isn’t up for reelection for a while, so a solid enough donation and the law will be on your side. This should only be used as a last resort, because it is a lot of staff to replace. But on the flip side, it ends a strike very neatly! No muss, no fuss, no strikers. And hiring new staff should be a pinch— with AI, you don’t need those pesky employees anyway. Just plug ‘Star Wars sequel military propaganda in the style of Wes Anderson’ into ChatGPT and let the internet do the work for you.



ELLIE MAGUIRE

sophomore | neuroscience
geek who went greek

Concerned Women Against Ibuprofen



As both a wife and a woman, I have considerable insight to offer on any given topic. My areas of expertise include feminism, politics, the environment, a comprehensive history of the American industrial rock band known as Nine Inch Nails, and so forth. A particularly important subject has been brought to my attention as of late, and I've found that I can remain silent no longer. We as uterus owners need to start addressing the painkiller epidemic.

Now, you may think I'm referring to instances of fentanyl abuse that are often covered in the news, but we're ignoring a far more insidious killer on our streets... and that killer is Advil. That's correct. Those inconspicuous little tablets add up after a while, and where exactly do they add up? Eating away at your stomach lining, clogging your liver, exploding your kidneys and many scenarios even more horrifying than that. It's the truth! See, your stomach, liver, and kidneys don't actually process anything if you're born a woman — nothing inside of a capsule anyway. Every little pill you take courts death and invites doom upon your doorstep. After all, your reproductive system affects your body to a degree that no other set of organs could. You are Built Different, and thus your ability to make babies should dictate the entire trajectory of your health and wellness. Take it from me, a person who hasn't chosen to have any babies yet but could at any moment. It'll happen. Probably. Maybe.

You may have heard the warning "Do not take while pregnant" which is commonly associated with several classes of medications, some of which happen to be painkillers. Through our research here at Concerned Women Against Ibuprofen, we've discovered that this warning is quite misleading. A more accurate warning would read: "Do not touch, breathe near, or think about if in possession of a uterus." Women were designed to feel pain! Feeling pain is practically our job! To deprive ourselves of that is an insult to the natural world itself. Consider for a moment why childbirth is so painful: the leading theory is that the human body is inefficiently designed to give birth and that we suffer complications seldom shared by other mammals as a result. We here at Concerned Women Against Ibuprofen refute that theory and offer our own. Childbirth is a trial, a test if you will. Like tasks presented to Hercules, childbirth feels like literal hell on earth because we're being tested! That pain is a signifier of how much you love your child. If you consider asking for an epidural for even a single moment it means that you've failed the test, and one day your child will find out that your love wasn't as strong as they once thought. Excruciating, mind-numbing pain during labor is a privilege, and it's one that I and all other people in possession of uteruses should accept with open arms.

Other than a fear of insulting nature's plan for our bodies, why else should we avoid painkillers? Are these drugs not tested and vetted extensively for the public to use safely? The answer is yes, but they haven't been tested with our organization specifically so none of that data matters. What matters is that we are afraid of it. It is for this reason that I exclusively take my health advice from middle-class white influencers on TikTok spreading the good word about how Tylenol will give you 50 stomach ulcers and cause your kidneys to crumble into dust and float away on the wind. Instead, you should consider ingesting sizable amounts of turmeric, raspberry leaves, ginger, and magnesium, which are natural remedies that work far better than a substance specifically designed to interact with your nervous system to eliminate pain and inflammation. If you're lucky,

these may simply take the edge off — which is all that you need! A nice, constant undertone of aches and pains keeps both the mind and body sharp. There's also no need to contemplate using both methods simultaneously and/or alternating between the two. Our trusted allies over at Concerned Researchers Against Painkillers (CRAP) condone two methods of pain relief only: natural or bust. Preferably our members and followers would have the good sense to know that seeking relief for pain is unnecessary and insulting to our physiology, but if they choose to do so it should only come in the form of a root or a leaf. No exceptions.

If you require an eyewitness account to believe the claims listed above, then so be it. I wasn't there to witness this myself, but someone else probably was: one day, the sister of a good friend of mine took two Advil on an empty stomach and met a fate worse than death... the fate of a mildly inconvenient stomachache. This pain was likely from her stomach acids melting through her abdominopelvic cavity and scarring her horribly forevermore. One might suggest taking the tablets with food next time, but you don't understand! There is no next time! If she risks taking another Advil, she could lose her entire lower intestine. We cannot allow that to happen. Because of this, I'm proposing a call to action on behalf of uterus owners everywhere: the medical community cannot be trusted! These products are not safe for us in any amount. You may have heard that most adverse side effects only happen with frequent use of these drugs over lengthy periods of time, but this is untrue! Painkiller dependence is a slippery slope. It only takes one time for you to think you're safe, and before you know it, you're an example. But worry not, because we care about you. We're here for you. And for only a small monthly fee of \$29.99, you can join our ranks and achieve the enlightened state of a concerned woman.

Please consider what you've heard here today and spread the word. I will not have our women and girls believe that pain relief is a realistic expectation for them and that they won't have to silently put up with more pain than the average person. Being a woman is pain! It's how we should define our existence, and Concerned Women Against Ibuprofen will fight tooth and nail to make that a reality. The truth hurts, and it's our job to make sure that it hurts women more disproportionately than any other group.

STOP



MICKEY DOLPHIN

junior | atec

Bloodborne (2015) made me transgender but not in a way that's comprehensible

DESCENT INTO MADNESS: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FNAF

After years of being passed between studios like a casserole that everyone is too scared to eat but too polite to officially turn away, the “Five Nights at Freddy’s” movie will finally be releasing next month, and it actually looks promising. This is a momentous occasion for fans of the franchise who have been watching it grow for nine years now. When I first heard about this indie horror game in middle school I never thought it would find a mainstream audience, much less through the medium of film.

However, that means many people will need a refresher on the major plot points of “FNAF” before they go watch the movie. Maybe you’ve never heard of it and have no idea what you’re getting into. Maybe you were a fan of the first few games but haven’t kept up with the lore since then. Well fret not, I’m here to be your guide! Let’s go through a quick and simple recap of everything you’ll need to know about the story of “FNAF” before the movie releases on October 27th.

The Premise

First, let’s lay the foundation. The “Five Nights at Freddy’s” games are set in an old pizza restaurant franchise, similar to Chuck E. Cheese. You play as a night guard, watching security cameras to make sure the creepy animatronic mascots aren’t acting strangely. We soon find out these animatronics are haunted by the ghosts of dead children, and they’re hunting you down.

Great, that’s creepy enough. Kids’ laughs and screams are used pretty often in horror, and here those sounds float ominously out of hulking metal shells. But we must dig deeper. Where did these kids’ ghosts come from?

The Killer

So as you obviously guessed, a serial killer has murdered countless children inside of this series of pizza restaurants. As one does. He is at the center of “FNAF’s” story, so understanding his character and motivations will be key. You see, he kills children because... um... let me find my notes. No, okay, we actually don’t know. That’s fine. But I can still tell you more about him, because thanks to the books and graphic novels — what? Yes, it’s a video game series, but if you really want to understand the story you have to do some light reading. It’s only five series of novels and short stories, just stick with me here.

In “The Silver Eyes” the killer’s name is revealed as William Afton. At the time that book was released some fans dismissed this information as non-canon, but his name was later confirmed in the fifth game. Afton is the co-founder of the pizza franchise, and he used the mascot suits there to lure in victims for his murder spree.

However, the suit he wore had a fatal design error, and one night it trapped him inside. No one found him for years. Except you can’t just kill off your main villain like that, so even though Afton is still stuck in that crusty old mascot suit, he’s stayed alive all these years... somehow. Honestly, it seems more like he’s undead, or even like he’s possessing his own corpse. Unclear. So he continues stalking about the restaurants smelling like feet, and you have to stop him before he can do... whatever he’s planning to do. Kill more kids but as a zombie now, I guess?

The Killer’s Children

By the way, Afton is also a father. In fact, in some (if not most) of the games it appears you’re playing as one of his sons, Michael. However, all three of Afton’s children have undergone some horrific fate, though surprisingly not because he murdered them like all the other children he comes across.

Afton’s youngest son, who we don’t have a confirmed name for, is of course the victim of the infamous “Bite of ‘87” — shoot, no, the “Bite of ‘83.” Sorry, it’s easy to get the order of all these frontal lobe incidents mixed up. Actually, some people argue this kid may not

have been Afton's son at all, but seeing as his house is built directly above one of Afton's hidden business locations it makes perfect sense to me. Feel free to turn to your neighbor and start a debate about it!

Afton's daughter, Elizabeth, was killed by one of Afton's crazy murder robots he built with the express purpose of killing children. Shocker. No, seriously, he expected her to be safe and was shocked when this happened. Now she possesses the animatronic that killed her, which you can tell because its eye color changed. (Eye color is about the only way we can tell who's who in these games.)

Afton's eldest son, Michael, was killed by a group of animatronics who mixed together their endoskeletons so they could use Michael's body as a meat suit disguise. It's really gross. Except, just like his dad, Michael didn't properly die. He managed to get the robot guts out of his corpse and kept walking down the street like nothing happened. He's purple now.

People Can Be Robots

In the first series of books it's revealed that the main character, who thinks she's a human — who eats, sleeps, and grows older like everyone around her — is actually a robot who was trained on the memories of the dead child she was built to replace. It's very "Astro Boy."

So, since it's been shown that many things from the books have carried into the games as well (not always directly, they're technically different but parallel universes of course), that probably means someone in the games is also secretly a robot. No idea who though, so just keep an eye out for any oddly metallic children.

Digital Consciousness

Afton uploaded a digital scan of his consciousness into a computer. When viewing it in virtual reality the virus appears as a digital avatar that's still in the mascot suit that nearly (or completely?) killed him, which seems cruel. But at least it's a cleaner, newer version of the suit instead of the one that's been rusting for decades with a living corpse inside. This digital Afton acts like a computer virus that spreads between devices, and is able to brainwash and control people through their VR headsets, including your own! With this power, Afton will take over more and more minds so he can... shoot, right, no known motivation. But he sure does look creepy wiggling his fingers at you.

Possession Can Happen Without A Ghost

Agony is not only a feeling in this world but a tangible material created from the negative emotions of someone experiencing trauma

or tragedy, including death. If that Agony is isolated it can be injected into objects, which will act possessed — despite the lack of a soul. They can move and attack things just like an angry ghost, but there's no ghost there. This all means it can be hard to tell which robots in this series are possessed by a ghost, which are just programmed to be mean/outright murderous, which are hacked by a virus, and which are filled with a person's negative emotions from their moment of death (but no actual ghost).

Faz-Goo

Faz-Goo is not a machine, nor is it even remotely ghost-adjacent. It's an organic substance created by Fazbear Inc. that uses your DNA and steals your organs to turn itself into a copy of you. It just looks like pink goo before it's activated. You can't even trust the bubblegum under your desk in this world.

This substance is important enough to appear in multiple books. I don't know what purpose it serves in this story about ghosts and robots.

Conclusions

Okay, now you're all caught up! Those were all

the most important things you'll need to remember before watching the movie, probably. Of course, that was far from everything the "FNAF" series has to offer. How could it be, with five incredible book series to go over, ranging from novels to short story collections and even graphic novel adaptations? There's also the many guidebooks which add even more contradictions and confusion to the story. Oh, and the nine video games I suppose. Heck, we didn't even mention the Emily family, who are arguably just as important as the Aftons, but I'm sure their tragic story will be covered in the sequel-prequel movie coming up next. (It has to be a sequel-prequel, or else why make a second movie at all?)

The biggest takeaways from this refresher course are that nothing is what it seems and no one dies forever. They always come back, no matter how much we wish they wouldn't. While watching the movie, also be sure to keep your eyes peeled for any easter eggs! You'll surely see some men in bunny suits, surprisingly non-lethal fires, and a giant shark animatronic if you're lucky. And please tell me if they so much as hint at what Afton's end goal is. Please. I'm desperate.



GAVIN ARRIAGA

senior | marketing

I'm being so normal right now

by: victoria bruno



Welcome to Temoc's Mojo Dojo Casa House.

AMP

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