



## BSU Presents Safe Engagement Activism Lesson in Honor of Black History Month

BY TATSUYA HONDO

As protests against the current U.S. administration continue every weekend and beyond, on campus students from Black Students United (BSU) organized a discussion in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 7 at 6 pm. Maya Faison, who is president of BSU, and vice-president Kindeya Chiaro, made the focus honoring activism and its role in society. The event was titled “Let’s Get in Formation” with the goal to present information about activism in a safe space. The night consisted of a discussion about safe spaces, educational discussions and a slideshow. A major emphasis was the concept of organized activism and training before protests so demonstrators know how to conduct themselves in the event that they are harassed.

The presenters focused on safe engagement. Did you know you don’t have to show any ID to police during a protest with permit? You’re also allowed to protest on a public sidewalk without a permit.

Faison, who has been attending demonstrations since before she was 16, is experienced about protests. “It’s your right to demonstrate regardless of where you are,” she said.

Kendall Garrett, executive board member of BSU, added, “Stay in the mindset, task and message you’re trying to convey.”

Audience member Brian Stanley, a second-year Adelphi student, provided additional tips for safer protesting. “People should leave to protest with contact information on their body because there’s the possibility of broken, dead or missing phones.”

Additionally, Chiaro said, “Make sure your phone is charged. And make sure you have a water bottle.”

Students who wish to organize demonstrations on the Garden City Adelphi campus should first contact Public Safety and the Office of Student Affairs in order to notify them about the time, location and nature of the protest.

## Administrator Explains Positive Progression Toward ILS Safe Zone Protest Procedures



Panelists spoke to a crowd of Adelphi students at an immigration forum discussion. (L-R: Navpreet Gill Esq, Amir Byatt Esq, Marsha J. Tyson Darling, Ph.D, Omar Ghetrify, Muhammad Ali and Wendy Badala)

Photo provided by Claudio Papapietro

BY DANIELLE MCDUGALL

“Even as you read this, our nation moves not only into its next great civil rights struggle, but into a battle for our future existence.” These are the initial words of a letter released to the Adelphi public via social media, then addressed personally to multiple administrators and President Christine Riordan by an emerging social justice group on campus, the Inner Light Society (ILS). The purpose of the letter is a demand for the establishment of “protest zones” in three heavily-populated locations on our Garden City campus.

Broadly speaking, this demand is for the sake of expanding the protected spaces in which our students can passionately advocate for their beliefs. Specifically speaking, these zones would serve as a space wherein, as the letter explains, students would be allowed to protest without having to notify Adelphi staff beforehand or anticipate the possibility of being shut down if the size of the demonstration proved obstructive. The second caveat stems from the fact that there is currently no formal protocol for protests that, even when followed, can prevent the dispersion of a demonstration if it disrupts foot traffic in its location. Neither can it prevent the legal ramifications a student can possibly face for their protest.

The implications of this fact are disconcerting. As the authors and signatories of the letter (see the February 14 issue of *The Delphian*)—all members of the ILS, assert, spaces for political discourse

play an instrumental role in the personal development of students, the advancement of Adelphi’s own mission to become a “great, modern, metropolitan university,” and have historically been a pillar upon which functioning democratic communities rest.

The ILS is not alone in holding this belief. There have been a slew of demonstrations across campus in recent years that have propelled conversations about racial justice, women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights and intersecting civil rights forward. If any of these actions were unable to happen, what would become of this discourse? Would it stagnate? If so, how then could students achieve our university’s mission of becoming a “model” for a socially just and inclusive school?

With these questions in mind, *The Delphian* spoke with the Perry Greene, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, one of the administrators addressed in the letter, for his insight.

**Delphian:** Over 50 students in this letter have united under the banner of “justice, liberation, human rights and dissent.” This mission appears to coincide with the interests of multiple existing organizations on campus, and this goal only seems to become more common each day. Of what significance is this movement for social change to you as an administrator?

**Dr. Greene:** If people cannot dissent in a university, cannot share ideas, cannot test their ideas against others, I think it’s fair to say, where else could they do that? The university is a unique place for that to occur. In some ways, our students are finding their voices, and what

better place for their voices to be heard but at a university? We not only share the goals and objectives, but we think the university is the very place where it’s part of the educational mission for students to voice whatever views that they have.

**Delphian:** What phrase or concept in the letter has struck you as an administrator most viscerally?

**Dr. Greene:** The ILS says that having the freedom to stand up for what they believe is an element critical to our development as “life-long learners.” That’s something that I think everybody can agree to. This is important and sometimes—all the time—the students have a right to express themselves. For many students, this is their home. So they have a right to do this, and this will have an influence on them for the rest of their lives and guide many of the decisions they make. In fact, you cannot have a democratic society unless you have avenues for people to express themselves. And that’s what this is all about. I’m personally proud of our students. I’m proud of these 52 students who have decided to have their voices heard. It’s not only their right, it’s their responsibility

**Delphian:** What is the current procedure a student must go through in order to demonstrate on campus, if they decide to?

**Dr. Greene:** In the past, the process has been informal. What has usually happened is that the people who were interested in demonstrating reached out to Public Safety and [the Office of] Student Affairs and informed them that they were interested in doing so. The response from Public Safety and Student Affairs was to find ways that they could do it in a way that was safe, and in a ways that did not obstruct the activities of others.

Right now, we are in the middle of conversations with students about how to make those arrangements more formal in the sense that everybody knows what needs to happen. Our overall policy is to support student demonstrations and to allow them when they want them—if possible—where they want them. Because of safety issues, they can’t always be in certain places; the case is the same if they’re disrupting classes from functioning. But we believe that in a vibrant university, students have the absolute right to demonstrate.

(Continued on page 2)

## A Word from the Editor

It's hard to believe that February has come and gone already. Those few less days really do make a difference in our schedules. However, despite the short month, which included a snow storm that saw the cancellation of one day of classes, the university itself and the students who attend it all kept quite busy as always.

In the previous edition of *The Delphian*, the first issue of the semester, we published a letter that had been written by a group of students calling themselves the Inner Light Society or ILS. In the letter, ILS outlined some requests that included the university's support in future protests, including reassurance that students will not be subject to punishment and protest zones will be established where students of all different beliefs and opinions can let their voices be heard. For this issue, our features and entertainment editor Danielle McDougall had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Perry Greene, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, who shared his take on the letter and how the university plans to respond to it.

Members of Black Students United (BSU) were also very busy during February, designated as Black History Month, organizing events and speaking to some of the same sentiments of productive demonstration. One of their events, "Let's Get in Formation," specifically focused on presenting information about activism in a safe space and encouraged students to know their protest rights.

All of this is of course at a time of great division both on campus and off. Staff writer Geselle Maldonado ventured to explore this in an article called "Political Tensions: State of the Adelphi Campus." She spoke with Dr. Stephanie Lake of the sociology department and a few students to help take the pulse of the campus post-presidential inauguration.

Further, Adelphi students met on Feb. 7 to discuss issues facing the environment in an event called "The Campus Climate Crusade." They had the opportunity to sit in on panels and presentations promoting information about climate change and a screening of the film "Before the Flood." The university has been recognized in the past for its dedication to green efforts, being named in "The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges of 2016."

February was also a busy month for some of the major organizations on Adelphi's campus, including Greek Life and the athletic teams. Early February was the hectic period of time known as fraternity and sorority recruitment, where each of the Greek organizations tried to bring in more students and grow their families by doing so. Many of the sports teams, including women's softball, had the opportunity to travel to a warmer climate while the rest of us got to put up with the fickle weather here. (Lucky them!)

Now that it's March, there is something for us all to look forward to: Spring Break! In this issue we have a Roaming Reporter featuring five Panther students we tracked down to see what they'll be up to during their week off. Since there's less than a week and a half to go and our next issue won't be out until just after, I'd like to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable break. Get in all that sleep now as you prepare for the push towards May!

-Bryan Grilli  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Positive Progression Toward ILS Safe Zone Protest Procedures

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**Delphian:** What can you tell the Adelphi community about any developments that are occurring regarding the demand in the letter—the one for "protest zones"?

**Dr. Greene:** One of the main concerns of the ILS is that there be at least a place, if not multiple places, where students would be allowed to peacefully demonstrate. I think it's fair to say that the university supports that request. We will make available spaces that the society wants to protest at. We understand that the demonstrators want a space that is visible and we're happy to provide that. We're also happy to provide safety for the demonstrators, and so far the conversations have been in agreement as to those issues.

Let me just review them: 1) The university will make available acceptable spaces for the demonstrators to demonstrate, and 2) with notice, we will provide a safety net for demonstrators via Public Safety; and we will try to ensure that everyone is respectful in terms of not being subject to harassment, bullying or any type of hate speech aimed at anyone, including the demonstrators.

While on the subject of combat-

ting harassment, Dr. Greene discussed Adelphi initiatives that have been created in order to address recent political happenings. These happenings include the executive order released on Jan. 27, which has since been struck down by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on account of the Trump administration's inability to prove that the seven predominantly-Muslim countries affected produced any individuals who staged a terrorist attack in the United States. The other concern addressed was that of students' security on campus for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in light of a U.S. president who vows to repeal the measure that has allowed, as of 2015, 665,000 child immigrants to work and study in the country without fear of deportation or detention.

**Delphian:** This letter invokes the words of Adelphi's own mission statement regarding diversity. What initiatives are being taken by our administration in order to ensure that Adelphi is "a model for a socially just and inclusive institution?"

**Dr. Greene:** One of the things that Adelphi is trying to do every day is meet the goals, objectives, mission state-

ments in the strategic plan, and we take the parts regarding diversity very seriously. In the recent national events, we find that members of our community feel vulnerable; they feel a great deal of anxiety. So we've worked very hard to reduce that feeling. In light of trying to make the lives of immigrants and DACA students free of anxiety and the feeling that their permanence in the community is jeopardized, we worked to inform the Adelphi community with the Immigration Forum held on Feb. 15. Additionally, we're reaching out to such places as Hofstra University's Center for Children, Families and the Law to see what kind of support might be available to students.

The Immigration Forum took place in the University Center Ballroom and was partly organized by the DACA, International and Immigration Task Force. The Task Force came about because there were faculty and students who expressed concerns about the immigrant and DACA community on campus. The administration met with those faculty and students, and out of that discussion came the decision to form the group.

The Adelphi administration has three principles that guide it during events such as these: The first is to support and protect our community. The second is to inform our community; and the third is to provide whatever resources we can to help people navigate these difficult times. As soon as the executive order came out, in fact, soon after President Trump was elected, we reached out to all students, faculty and staff who we thought might feel anxiety and might feel vulnerable.

On this note, our discussion with Dr. Greene concluded. Only time will reveal what Adelphi's demonstration spaces will look like, but until then, keep in mind the abolitionist notion from which the Inner Light Society derives its name: every person has within them a "divine light" and is thus equal. Further, there's the right deigned to each of us by our own Adelphi student Bill of Rights. It states that each of us reserves the right to exercise our civil rights without "interference" by the investigative, criminal justice or disciplinary proceedings of the University.



## Political Tension: State of the Adelphi Campus



Former President Obama shaking hands with President Trump at the latter's inauguration.

Photo provided by www.tvom

BY GESELLE  
MALDONADO

From the growing social movements in the form of rallies and protests to the heightened awareness of both national and global politics amongst Americans, social and political tension has hit new heights ever since the 45th U.S. Presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. The increasing social unease has hit countless communities nationwide, especially those on college campuses.

Adelphi is no exception. There have been packed events such as the Feb. 15 Immigration Forum organized by the DACA, International Immigration Task Force, and the Center for Student Involvement, held mere weeks after Trump's travel ban was put into action, and similar events like the Undocumented Refugees Advocacy workshop. Many Adelphi students participated in the Women's March on Jan. 20 and numerous other marches since then.

Senior anthropology and CMIS major Tiani Moore is one of those students currently participating in such movements, such as the LGBTQ Rally, and is planning to attend the Climate March and the May Day march later this spring. As a woman of both Indonesian and Jamaican descent, Moore commented about how her friends now fear for their lives. "All of my friends from diverse backgrounds are scared whether they are on campus, off campus or simply trying to get to [Adelphi]," she said.

Brian Stanley, a sophomore political science major, said that some of his friends, many of whom have various cultural and racial backgrounds, who share the same liberal view as he does, "spent their time reading and researching a variety of issues."

There were many on campus who are absolutely devastated by the final electoral decision in November. Moore, Stanley and a few of their friends were among the students that expressed their dissatisfaction with the result. Even Adelphi faculty, such as sociology professor

Dr. Stephanie Lake, said she "felt frankly stunned and disoriented, but also that the outcome was partly a result of frustration of a system so obviously rigged and corrupt, and of economic frustration emphasized by politicians throughout last year's Presidential campaign."

Dr. Lake explained that this specific type of tension on campus is only increasing due to broken expectations of what was the norm. "The frustration I feel is further fueled by the failure of social institutions we thought had evolved to serve as a buffer for false information, false populism. ..."

No matter the students' political views, gender or race, the sudden shift in the political game has been causing a transition amongst Adelphi students. Dr. Lake believes that because hope for justice is no longer guaranteed in the rest of the government, people are now realizing "they have to rely on themselves; hence the marches, spontaneous gatherings, the petitions and the calls and letters to their representatives."

This growing interest in taking action is what Moore thinks is absolutely important for communities on campus. "Even the smallest contribution makes a difference in bridging the gaps that rift us apart," she said. "With tensions sky high, and protesters' signs even higher, I feel that it is important to voice your opinion."

Moore said: "Attending the BSU, LSA, Mosaic, NAACP or other diversity clubs on campus, in addition to the Immigration Forums and The Inner Light Society, a campus-wide protest group, will allow you to grow and challenge one another in this atmosphere."

Added Stanley: "Participating in the protests and marches has been a tremendous release. No matter which side of the political spectrum you're on, attending a protest will allow you to grow as we learn from and challenge one another in this atmosphere."

"Academia has a long storied history of being the cornerstone of protest," says Dr. Lake about the effectiveness of protests, "which remains, incidentally, the most patriotic thing anyone can do."

## COMING SOON!

16-17  
SEASON

### NEW MUSIC XII: THE PARHELION TRIO

Saturday, March 4 • 8:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • AU Students: \$5

### ADELPHI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Thursday, March 9 • 7:30 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • AU Students: \$5

### THE HABANA BOYS

Sunday, March 12 • 3:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • AU Students: \$10

### THE HILLBENDERS: THE WHO'S TOMMY – A BLUEGRASS OPRY

Friday, March 24 • 8:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • AU Students: \$10

### MUSIC HONORS RECITAL

Saturday, March 25 • 8:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • Free Event

### BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

Written by Neil Simon  
Tuesday, March 28—Sunday, April 2  
Olmsted Theatre • AU Students: \$5

### THEATREWORKS USA'S THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Featuring Adelphi Alum Ani Djirdjirian ('16)  
Sunday, April 2 • 3:00 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall • AU Students: \$5

### CILLA OWENS

Friday, April 7 • 7:30 p.m.  
Westermann Stage, Concert Hall  
AU Students: \$10

### TAYLOR 2 DANCE COMPANY

Tuesday, April 8 • 8:00 p.m.  
Dance Theatre • AU Students: \$5

#### STUDENT RUSH TICKETS

One hour before all performances, including Guest Artists, full-time Adelphi students are eligible to get a Rush ticket at no cost. Arrive prior to the performance with your Adelphi ID, get in the Rush line and receive one remaining unsold ticket. Subject to availability, not available for every performance. Cannot be reserved in advance. Rush tickets will stop being distributed 10 minutes before the start of the show, so get your tickets early.



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## A Glimpse Into the Annual Sorority Spring Recruitment Process

BY JESSICA WINANS

Morgan Luibrand, a freshman at Adelphi University and a new member of the sorority Delta Gamma, was one of the 207 young women at Adelphi University who went through Panhellenic recruitment this semester. Currently, there are six sororities on campus: Tri Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Phi Sigma Sigma, Delta Gamma, Sigma Delta Tau and Alpha Epsilon Phi.

"I decided to go through sorority recruitment because my older sister, who attended St. John's University, was in a sorority and I saw the bond that she shares with her sisters," Luibrand said. "The bond that the girls in my organization share is something that is definitely unbreakable and is the main reason I wanted to join this specific organization."

Potential new members sign up for formal recruitment during the spring semester, usually around the time of winter break. The first day of recruitment was held on Feb. 4. During the event, Round Robin, the potential new members were split up into groups and given two rho-gammas. A rho-gamma is a sorority woman who gives up her letters (hides her affiliation) and assists Adelphi students in the recruitment process. During the first



The Sisters of Delta Gamma Sorority celebrate their annual spring recruitment.

Photo provided by Jessica Winans

round the potential new members spent about 40 minutes with each sorority to attempt get to know them on a personal level.

The following day was the Philanthropy Round. During this round, the potential new members spend around 40 minutes with four out of the six organiza-

tions, assigned by preference, to learn about their philanthropies.

"What we look for in a potential new member is definitely leadership qualities. We want to try to add involved girls into our sorority, that would love to contribute to the chapter, to our campus and to our philanthropies," said Taylor Miklus, the recruitment chair for Alpha Epsilon Phi. "We also look for girls that share the same values as we do. We want each girl to feel right at home."

After the philanthropy round there was a week of normal classes before the final round later that week called preference night. On preference night, each potential new member goes to either one or two preference parties with one or two different sororities. Each sorority does preference night differently, providing the potential new member with what she needs to make her decision as to what organization she wants to sign a bid from.

"If you're thinking of going through recruitment, I would 100 percent recommend it," said Miklus. "Being in Greek life has changed me as a person. I went from being someone who was so shy, with zero leadership qualities, to someone who is so much more outgoing and comfortable with myself."

## Changes to Executive Budget May Affect University Student Scholarships

BY GABRIELLE DEONATH

If the new executive budget proposed by Governor Andrew Cuomo is approved, several changes to university scholarships and tuition could take place due to his Excelsior Scholarship program. While the proposal would allow greater scholarship opportunities for New York residents attending SUNY or CUNY schools, any university or college that pushes tuition above a set threshold regulated by the government would lose its Tuition Assistant

Program.

"This action would affect the portability of aid and add an additional unintended complication for students in the college selection process," said Sheryl Mihopulos, Assistant Vice President of Adelphi's Student Financial Services. "In short, it might discourage students from selecting their 'best fit' college."

According to Mihopulos, there are other measures that could be taken that would be more beneficial for university and college students. These proposals include increasing the maximums and

minimum of the Tuition Assistant Programs, pushing the New York State net taxable income ceiling to \$125,000, forming a program for Graduate Tuition Assistance, and further promoting existing New York State aid programs.

Mihopulos scheduled a meeting for Monday, Feb. 27 with the Student Government Association Executive Board to brainstorm ways for students to help fight the executive budget proposal. *The Delphian* will report on the outcome of this meeting in an upcoming issue.

The Excelsior Scholarship is set

to be approved around April 1. In order to prevent this proposal from negatively affecting students, Mihopulos urges students to take action as soon as possible. At [LimitlessLearningNY.org](http://LimitlessLearningNY.org), students will be able to find a video of students from Adelphi and other New York universities discussing the effects of the proposal and the problems it presents. Also on the site, students will have the resources to find the names of New York State policymakers and obtain a template for emails that can be sent to them to voice concerns about the new proposal.

## Campus Climate Crusade Makes an Impact Despite Low Attendance

BY JAMI GLATTER

The Campus Climate Crusade, a program organized by sociology professor Deborah Little to inform students about climate change and what they can do to affect it, took place in the University Center ballroom on Feb. 7. The Crusade was divided into three sections: a room for panels and presentations; a room for various organizations and groups to promote information about climate change, possible solutions and the services they provide in order to mitigate and take action against climate change; and a room where the climate change documentary "Before the Flood" was screened.

Though attendance was low, bringing in a little over 100 people, groups that were represented in the second room included Prof. Margaret Gray's American

Congress class, which hosted a panel that featured six students' individual research on different aspects of climate change and how it is affecting our lives. Some of these topics included the Dakota Access Pipeline and the endangerment of bees.

The softball team talked about their effort to raise awareness about the University's approach to recycling. The 16 teammates went to each building on campus to see if there was a sufficient amount of recycling bins. Their conclusion was that campus needed more recycling bins and more labels and advertising where and how one can recycle.

The student organization, the Environmental Action Coalition, presented their collaboration with the Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (C.O.R.E.), a program that collects donated oyster shells from restaurants and uses them to

make beds for oyster growth affected by overfishing.

Crossroads Farm, represented by Steph Kane, Leanne Russell and Professor Mary Jean McCarthy, stressed the importance of growing food untouched by chemicals and pesticides. It is the last farm on the south shore of Nassau County.

"Having this last remnant of open space is important," McCarthy says. They rely mainly on volunteers and host volunteer training sessions, two of which are coming up on April 8 and April 22.

Operation SPLASH, a nonprofit reducing water pollution, hosted a panel. Beth Christensen, director of Environmental Studies, talked on a panel about climate change. There was also a panel about veganism.

Christensen brought to light the realities of making effective change.

"Marching is good, but it's not going to fix anything," Christensen said, in reference to the planned Climate March on Washington D.C., on April 22. She advised audience members to "get involved at a governmental level."

It was the poor attendance at the veganism panel that prompted Little to make a statement on the lack of response to the event. "One hundred faculty were personally invited or asked to give extra credit to their students and only four got back to me," Little said. "People are denying reality. We live on an island!"

However, Little refuses to let this be the last the campus hears from her on the issue of climate change. She plans to bring "No Impact Man" by Colin Beaven on as the book for the 2017-'18 Adelphi Community Reads program.

## Roaming Reporter: What Are You Doing for Spring Break?

BY LAUREN REDFORD

Spring break is stereotyped as the time that college students travel and party, but those at Adelphi are breaking this stereotype with their various plans for the vacation. For many, it is a chance to go home, visit friends and family, but for all of us, it's some much-needed free time away from our rigorous studies. We asked five students what their plans are for spring break. This is what they had to say:



**Priya Patel**

Freshman  
Biology Major

"I'm just going into the city to explore."



**Eric Vonzerniewicz**

Freshman  
Biology Major

"One of my friends has a house upstate, so for spring break my friends from high school and I decided that we should spend a week in rural New York. We plan on doing everything from fishing and swimming in the nearby lake, to spending a day hiking through the forest."



**Lila Woodbridge**

Freshman  
Psychology Major

"I'm going home to Massachusetts to spend time with my friends and family. In the springtime we spend a lot of time walking to the beach, and I'm looking forward to visiting my favorite spots in my town."



**David King**

Freshman  
Psychology Major

"Over spring break I'm going to be spending time back at home with family and friends, doing as little work as possible, and spending time with my roommate who can't travel back to his country for the week."



**Lynne Rader**

Senior  
Biology Major

"I'm going to be on duty as an RA and I'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with my family."



## Donald Trump Wages War Against the Truth and the Media

BY BRIAN JENNINGS

Just over a month into his ghastly administration, the wheels of the President's golden elevator are flying off the tracks. The Trump team has made common practice out of lying to the American public about everything from the size of the inauguration day crowd, a Bowling Green Massacre that never happened, and a disastrous raid of Yemen orchestrated over dinner by the President's son-in-law Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon and the Donald himself. These works of fiction were all prize-worthy both in their ability to dull the senses of the public and their terrific irony considering the tenor of the campaign run against Hillary Clinton, one which deemed her as an untrustworthy, lying crook.

But the past few weeks have given birth to an even uglier love-child of deceit that has duped even the most gifted ministers of propaganda currently masquerading as the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. News broke that Michael Flynn, Trump's National Security Adviser, was resigning after reports leaked that the General and his haircut had not been forthcoming to Vice President Mike Pence and others in the Trump administration regarding phone calls with Russian Ambassador to the United States, Sergey I. Kislyak. The first of these conversations is reported to have taken place on Dec. 29, 2016, nearly a month before Trump was sworn in as President. Flynn reported to the Vice President that none of these conversations were in regards to sanctions levied on Russia by then-President Obama as a response to tampering in the American election. The phone calls were recorded and intelligence has since shown Flynn's assertions to be a complete and utter fallacy.

This is all old news and house-keeping. Reports state that Flynn was forced to resign because Trump's trust in him had been permanently compromised, a most believable story if it were coming from an administration that wasn't built from the top-down by pathological liars and comic book-esque super villains. But these exceptional weasels cannot be taken at face value any longer if we the people are to salvage any semblance of rational truth. The very idea of



Major media outlets, including CNN, BBC, Politico, BuzzFeed News, "The New York Times" and "The Los Angeles Times," were banned from Press Secretary Spicer's briefings on Friday, Feb. 24.

Photo provided by news.xfoor.com

a "fact," to them is an object to be perverted and molded into whatever it needs to be in order to blend the line between legitimate news and fictitious garbage.

The Trump administration has made it clear to the media that the press is now the target of a witch-hunt that hopes to see all competent reporting terminated with extreme prejudice. Venerable news outlets like "The New York Times" and CNN were barred from attending certain White House Press briefings on Feb. 24, while organizations like Breitbart and other pro-Trump conglomerates are being buoyed into positions of political power because of their favorable narrative towards the President. This, after all, is a President who is consumed by the narratives surrounding his every move, who constantly places his needs regarding his press coverage far above the needs of the average American taxpayer.

Yet, what Trump doesn't seem to grasp is that any self-respecting journalist who gathers an inkling of suspicion is going to sift through the smokescreen billowing out of our President's paranoid mouth sooner rather than later. It won't be long until the most gifted reporters start asking what does the President know about Russia and when did he know it?

So, the question now becomes what do we, the American people, have

at our disposal that might help us learn the non-alternative facts about what's going on inside the belly of this brutal beast? What clues has this administration left in its trail that might help us bring down this unholy union we entered in with a greasy con man and his merry band of looters?

Perhaps most damning of all clues is a tweet straight from Trump himself. On Dec. 30, a day after the first phone call between Russia and Flynn took place, Trump tweeted his applause for Vladimir Putin's decision to delay repercussions against the United States regarding then-President Obama's sanctions.

If Donald Trump knew on Dec. 30 that Putin had decided to delay retaliation against the United States a day after Michael Flynn's first conversation with the Russian ambassador, then it gradually becomes fair to assume that Flynn was not acting as a rogue agent attempting to breach a peace with a foreign agitator. Putting this tweet in context, it becomes uncomfortably clear that it could very well have been Donald Trump who ordered Flynn to try to calm the seas with Russia. If this were to be the case, it would open up a new line of questioning regarding the Trump administration's continuous collusion with the Russian empire that saw to the take-down of Hillary Clinton and his eventual election to the office he now holds.

The moral quandary of a U.S. President becoming a subservient to Russia's every whim is obvious, and if proven true would render Trump compromised beyond the point of no return. But it also digs deeper into the lies that the Trump team is concocting in order to stay in power. Take for example Sally Yates, the acting-Attorney General who was fired by Trump in January amidst reports that she would not follow dutifully along with the President's immigration ban. Recently, "The Washington Post" reported that Yates informed the administration that Flynn had indeed put himself in a compromising position regarding Russia. Under the Logan

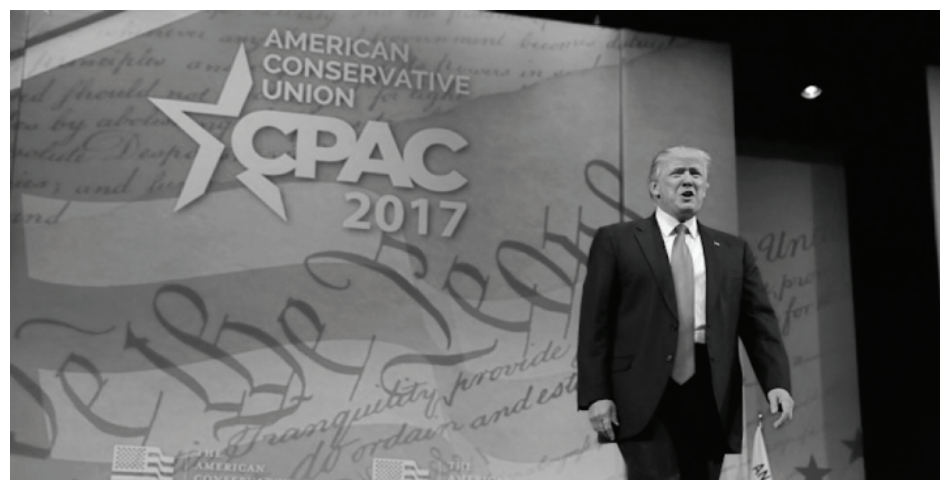
Act, it is illegal for any private citizen (regardless of whether or not they are part of an incoming administration) to negotiate with any foreign government having a dispute with the United States. If Yates did in fact inform the Trump administration that Flynn might have been in violation of the Logan Act, then it is absolutely possible that Trump would have sought her removal in order to preserve Flynn, a longtime supporter and confidant of the President.

While these are reasonable assumptions, it is also important to note that it has been historically difficult to convict anyone of a crime under the Logan Act. The President has long been deemed fiercely loyal to those who are undamaged politically, and given the aforementioned technicality, it begs the question as to why the President might be so paranoid? It was Flynn, not Yates, who exemplified horrific judgement and put himself in a compromised position with a foreign enemy. Yet, Trump chose to protect Flynn.

Some are beginning to wonder whether or not it was Trump who ordered Flynn to normalize relations with Russia prior to him taking office. It is indeed possible, if not probable, that the President saw this as an opportunity to silence the truth that might lead the American people, or a theoretical impeachment committee, to find that Trump is indeed a compromised President who was gifted his position by a foreign agitator. None of these assertions are provable, yet the methodology of this decision seems simply moronic if the President himself had nothing to hide from the jump.

Now we are dealing with two separate, but equally as troubling possibilities. Either the U.S. President is a clinical moron who exemplifies terrible judgement when tasked with a difficult decision, or he is the center cog in a larger conspiracy that saw to his election as a means of turning the USA into a puppet serving the desires of the Russian Government.

In response to these charges, the President held a most-bizarre press conference where he deemed the leaking of this information by the U.S. Intelligence Community to be real, but the news media's take on the matter to be "fake." While it is easy to be skeptical of big-box news corporations after this most recent election-cycle, it is clear that Trump feels far less beholden to the truth than any cable news program. It is even more apparent that Trump has shaken the confidence of our intelligence agents to the point where they would feel more comfortable leaking damaging information about a sitting President than sitting idly by and trusting the judgement of the mad man holding this nation's highest office. Whatever charges come next, it is clear that the President will not take them lying down. What is not clear is why the President is so afraid to stand under the microscope of the people who, for better or worse, elected him to be our leader.



President Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference held last week.

Photo provided by www.commondreams.com



## Transgendered Students Face the Removal of Guidelines That Protected Them

*What does this really mean going forward?*

BY MONROE MARSHALL

Throughout Donald Trump's campaign and the first weeks as president, he made statements vowing to protect the LGBTQ community, as recently as the end of January when he announced that Obama's protections of LGBTQ workers will be maintained through his presidency. Despite this, much of the LGBTQ community and their allies did not trust Trump, and still felt that acts of discrimination and hate were imminent. These worries and suspicions proved to be well-warranted, as on February 22 the Trump administration made a decision that has already begun to harm the LGBTQ community, specifically transgender people, and even more specifically, transgender youth. Less than a year after the Obama administration put forth federal guidelines that said public schools are to allow students to use school bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity (rather than their sex assigned at birth), it was announced that schools were to disregard these rules.

As a transgender person myself, I cannot emphasize enough how much being able to feel comfortable to use the bathroom matters not only to the mental health, but the physical health of transgender people. Picture this: a transgender boy is in a school where he is prevented from using the boys' bathroom because he was



**“When trans people can’t access public bathrooms we can’t go to school effectively, go to work effectively, access health-care facilities — it’s about us existing in public space. And those who oppose trans people having access to the facilities consistent with how we identify know that all the things they claim don’t actually happen. It’s really about us not existing — about erasing trans people.” --Laverne Cox**

*Photo provided by www.thewrap.com*

“assigned female at birth.” He refuses to go into the girls' bathroom because (1) he is not a girl and (2) he experiences severe gender dysphoria (distress caused by one's assigned sex not matching to their gender,

how they feel on the inside) to the point where he has panic attacks. But he also does not use the boys' bathroom because he has been written up and sent to the principal's office for it. He is told to just

use the bathroom in the nurse's office, but when he usually has to go to the bathroom the nurse happens to be on lunch and the office is locked, and other times his classes are far away from the office (while the other bathrooms are close). So he usually ends up not going to the bathroom, but his parents are unaware of this and therefore are very confused as to why he gets frequent urinary tract infections, which if left untreated, can lead to kidney infections.

Although the situation above is hypothetical, what is not hypothetical are the 31 percent of over 27,000 transgender people who did not eat or drink in order to avoid having to use the bathroom or the 8 percent who reported having a kidney-related issue due to avoiding bathrooms out of fear or discomfort (according to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey).

And then you have the people who say transgender people are safer in the bathroom corresponding to their assigned sex, because they may be attacked in the bathroom of the opposite sex.

The thing is, bullying and harassment of transgender people has never been about bathrooms, but about hatred towards and fear of trans people. We face discrimination every day and having to worry about being punished for just using the bathroom immensely intensifies our daily struggles of being ourselves.

## Repealing Obamacare: The Past, Present and Future

BY MATTHEW SCHROH

In a nation of protests, it is time to face the facts: Barack H. Obama is no longer the American president. However, it can be called into question how his presidency will be remembered. History will obviously remember Obama as the first African-American president, but which of his policy decisions will become historic?

Many wager it will be Obamacare, and it isn't hard to see why. The former president touted his plan for easy healthcare access from before he was president to his last day in office. The Affordable Care Act has been bemoaned by the Republicans in Congress since it first became a popular idea, but with the help of Obama's party allies on Capitol Hill, it became law in 2010. From that day forth, the Republicans in Congress — popular ones including former House Speaker John Boehner, current House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell — vowed they would see Obamacare, which they viewed as an expensive attack on the American freedom to choose one's own healthcare plan, destroyed.

As the 2012 election came and

gone, Obama handily winning reelection, it began to become evident to both parties that Obamacare was spreading. Millions of people signed up, and the number of Americans uninsured plummeted. Still, Republicans felt their complaints about the system remained unanswered and continued to work to dismantle Obamacare.

Though many may not be willing to admit it for fear of seeming weak, plenty of Republicans soon found that repealing Obamacare would be incredibly difficult. Matt Bevin, current governor of Kentucky, ran on the promise to end this perceived “nightmare.” He won the election, but found he could not adequately maim the Affordable Care Act coverage in a way that would not simply replace the state coverage with federal government coverage. Even worse for Bevin, the new governor found that his approval ratings suffered when he messed with the Kentuckians' healthcare, so he eventually backed off. This is why though 33 states have Republican governors, no news has been heard about the repeal of Obamacare coverage by these men and women — it is virtually impossible.

Downtrodden Republicans got a bit of a boost when Obamacare premiums rose in autumn 2016, on the eve of a



**Republicans targeted Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act for years.**

*Photo provided by www.advocate.com*

presidential election where an Obamacare critic and Obamacare advocate would face off. This aided the right's argument that the Affordable Care Act was more harm than good — and, in fact, many have speculated that this premium rise was a factor in the election of Donald J. Trump.

But Donald Trump was not a typical Republican candidate. During the primary season, the billionaire was at odds with his rivals, such as Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, on the subject, because he did not call for the total repeal of Obamacare. He brought up replacing the healthcare plan to help as many uninsured Americans as possible. Around the same time, House Speaker Paul Ryan got

#ABetterWay trending on social media, to let Republicans nationwide know that the party's focus remained intent on helping them find a better healthcare plan, not disregarding free healthcare completely.

Now the country is at an impasse. Donald Trump is president, and agrees with Republicans on Capitol Hill, who now have the majority in both legislatures, that Obamacare shall be repealed. But the Republicans have expressed unease, even meeting behind closed doors to voice their concerns. Worrisome questions plague them. How can Obamacare be repealed? Can it be repealed at all? How long will a replacement plan take?

Trump has made the Republican party a populist party for the time being. He focused his entire inauguration address on unity and helping the people. The ability of Trump and the Republicans to ease America out of Obamacare and into a new plan, keeping Obamacare-covered Republicans (of which there is no shortage), Democrats and Independents content, will be one of the new administration's biggest tests. Only time will tell if it can be successful.

For the time being, America's uninsured and federally covered will be guinea pigs.



## California Dreamin' With the AU Softball Team

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

Waking up at 3:30 am isn't usually easy, but on the morning of Feb. 18 the Adelphi University women's softball (AUSB) team was as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as 16 girls can be at that hour of the morning.

We were ready to be out of cold and snowy New York and heading to California to play ball on dirt for the first time of the 2017 season. When we hopped off the plane at the Los Angeles airport, it was raining, but we hardly cared because we could practically smell our season opener only a day away.

That first day we practiced at Concordia University at Irvine where we would be playing later in the week. Despite a little rainfall, the squad was happy to be outside, sans underarmour.

Our first games had been scheduled for Feb.19 against the University of California at San Diego, but due to some maintenance problems having to do with the uncharacteristic rain, the field was unplayable. After another switch and some calls made, our first games were to be against Azusa Pacific University on Feb. 20.

AUSB took the first game of the trip in an extra inning game, eventually winning 6-5 after 9. We dropped the second game and came away from our first double header 1-1.

The next two days we would play four games, two against California Baptist University and two against Concordia University at Irvine. Those four games, while being only our third, fourth, fifth and sixth games of the year, felt like post-season to us all. Everyone's energy, our performance, the stadiums we played in: those four games we learned our potential for the



The Adelphi women's softball team took a trip to California to train for their 2016 spring season.

Photo provided by Bree Nasti

rest of the year. We set the bar high for the 2017 season.

From our games at Concordia, we hopped on a bus and drove five hours to Utah for the second leg of our trip, which was to be three games against Dixie State, a team we had played in the World Series in 2015. We pulled into Saint George at around 3 am.

A few very short hours later we road tripped to Zion National State Park on our off day for a good old team bonding hike. Four miles and two hours later, the squad had experienced some of the most beautiful mountain views and a very good workout.

The next two days consisted of our last three games. The first two were our

first bad games of the year, but we learned we're a stubborn bunch, and came back to take the last game of the trip from Dixie 9-6.

After a long, yes, but ridiculously

satisfying week of softball AUSB is back home in the New York groove and ready to take on regional and conference play starting the second week of March.



## Final Ride Series: Infielder Danielle Cutuli

BY FALLON MCCARTHY

*In this new series, we'll be interviewing seniors playing in their final year of eligibility in their respective sports. These Q & A's will be a chance for athletes to say good bye and to reflect on both their four years playing college athletics and on the sport they've dedicated so much time and effort to.*

Danielle Cutuli is a four-year player for the Adelphi women's softball team. The 5-foot, 3-inch infielder from East Meadow has been a member of the NE10 Commissioner's Honor Roll every semester of her Adelphi career and started in 52 games during the 2016 spring season.

Q. How many years have you been playing softball?

A. I have been playing softball for 15 years. I started playing T-ball when I was seven years old.

Q. What does softball mean to you? Why?

A. Softball has been a passion

of mine that I've developed from when I picked up my first glove. Over the last 15 years, it has been so much more than the game itself. The sport has taught me teamwork, camaraderie, competition and leadership, just to name a few. It has given me friendships that were born throughout and the ability to overcome obstacles on and off the field. Softball has brought me so much more that I will carry with me everyday and will forever be thankful for.

Q. How have you been molded as a person by this sport? How will that help you in the future?

A. Softball has molded me into the person and player I am today. It has shown me the values I strive to work at everyday. It has molded me into a disciplined student and athlete and has shown me what it takes to be a teammate and the ability to work together. In addition, it has given me time-management skills, a will to win, an ability to adapt to any adverse situation, a passion for the preparation and the ability to be a leader. These lessons have been



learned and executed on the softball field but will be carried out into my career and life challenges.

Q. In the many years you've been playing, what have you learned? About yourself? About others?

A. No matter how physically challenging it was to overcome my chronic

back injury, I always did whatever I could to be out on the field. The injury alone has forced me to test my limits both physically and mentally. This injury has enabled me to lead from anywhere on or off the field. Throughout each of the four times I've re-injured my back, I've had to face greater obstacles each time. I've learned there is strength inside of me, greater than I had known.

Q. How are you going to take these lessons and apply them once you've graduated?

A. Softball has taught me what it takes to succeed and I will carry that with me in whatever challenges I'm faced with throughout my life. I have exercised leadership on every team I've been apart of. In the business world, I know I'll be able to succeed in any position because of the obstacles I've overcome throughout my life and the situations I've had to adapt to. The ability to react to circumstances, planned or not, will be implemented during my time in the business world.