



THE VOYAGER

FEBRUARY 2020



A NOTE FROM
THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF

SPRING IS AROUND
THE CORNER!

WE HAVE A LOT OF
NEW ARTICLES IN THIS
ISSUE, FROM AN
ANALYSIS OF THE
SHORTAGE OF
SNOWFALL TO THE
UNFORTUNATE
GROUNDHOG IN NEW
YORK. PLEASE READ THE
ENTIRE ISSUE TO
FIND OUT!

IN THIS ISSUE....

WARM WINTER EFFECTS → 2

SCHOOL IS SECONDARY → 3

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT → 4

SUNSETS → 6

SPRING HAS SPRUNG → 8

**WHY YOU SHOULD READ “THE
SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A
F*CK” → 8**

*On the front cover:
Amanda Hoffman with her 3rd place finish at State
Sectionals for the 1600m and 800m!*

WARM WINTER EFFECTS BY KIERA DUFFY

The shortage of snowfall during warm winters is not only devastating for children hoping for a snow day; it can be catastrophic for all types of wildlife. There are two drastic possibilities that can occur in wildlife populations: they can either exponentially grow or rapidly decline in size. To elaborate, insects like mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks are typically killed off almost entirely during the winter. When the winters are less mild, these insects are given the opportunity to breed earlier and therefore produce more of their own species. Consequently, these larger populations of insects can take a huge toll on plant species and other animals in which they can cling to and infect. Even a slightly larger amount of ticks can double the amount of deer infected. These ticks can then spread to dogs and eventually people, causing detrimental long term diseases such as Lyme Disease.

Another possibility for a population increase involves animals who do not hibernate, for example deer. Scarce conditions like food or shelter shortages usually come hand in hand with winter. These unpredictably hot temperatures prevent sources from naturally declining, hence allowing more deer to eat and stay safe. A larger percentage of deer allows for a more likely spread of diseases mentioned above like Lyme disease. In addition, the number of deer related accidents soar. Population growth can often, and ironically enough, result in higher fatality rates all around.

On the contrary, a warmer temperature creates this sense of a “false spring” which causes populations to decline. Plants like apple trees and animals like frogs begin to breed when they sense warmer weather. Plants may grow, bud, and cast off their winterized protection because they believe it is spring. Additionally, if frogs sense a hot climate they begin to reproduce. This becomes disastrous if a sudden snow storm comes in the midst of this “warm winter” because it can decimate their entire

population. Species are essentially “tricked” into believing that is in spring until a very sudden and cold winter wipes them out. For that reason, warmer winters are not as simple and consequence-free as the snowmen swimming in the picture above makes it seem.

SCHOOL IS SECONDARY BY MEEKA VARDI

This article is going to be... different. No research, no analysis, just my opinion. Upon reading “The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck”, mentioned in my previous article, my desire to write has blossomed once again. I had found myself to be in somewhat of a drought prior to reading the aforementioned book. I aspire to have the confidence to write with such nonchalance as Mark Manson does, excluding the colorful embellishments of course.

After attending school for, what seems like an eternity, I believe I have learned an abundance of important lessons. I went through different periods of my schooling: in my younger age I found school to be boring and quite useless, whereas over the years my work ethic and drive to learn have matured just as I have. Throughout all of those years, however, school has been the most important thing in my life. I have made numerous social sacrifices for school, ensuring that academics were always my number one priority. It eventually became unhealthy, and my love for school became a distraction, a way to conceal what was really going on in my life. I buried myself in my schoolwork, hiding from reality.

After receiving some guidance and a nudge in the right direction, I realized something. It was like the fog had lifted, I could finally see

clearly. I stopped using school as a distraction and I faced myself for the first time. I found that school was... wait for it... not that important. A shocker, I know, especially coming from me. I had to focus on myself for once, and with that came focusing on my family and friends as well. Yes, academics are extremely important, however, they are not the entire world.

Take time to focus on what is *really* important. I let school take over my life and my health went out the window. I am not blaming school, it was completely because I let that happen. It is time I focus on myself. I am taking a break.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT BY ARNAV KHANNA

President Donald J. Trump is the third president in the history of the United States to be impeached. The House charged him with Abuse of Power and Obstruction of Congress. In an impeachment trial, the Senate acts as the jury and a two thirds vote is required to convict and remove the president from office. The Constitution does not detail any rules regarding an impeachment trial, except that the Chief Justice shall preside over it. Therefore, it is the job of the Senate to dictate the rules.

In making the rules, the Republicans, who have a 53:45 majority in the Senate, wanted to get the trial over as quickly as possible. The rules they came up with are as follows: both the House Managers-who function as the prosecutors and the defense team-had 24 hours over the course of three days to make their case. After each team made their case, there was a 16 hour questioning period where the Senators submitted questions to the chief justice to be read aloud for either House Managers to answer. After the questioning period, they voted for witnesses; a majority is required to call witnesses. Finally, came the vote on whether to remove or acquit Donald Trump.

Coming into this impeachment trial the house managers had one key goal, to convince 4 swing republicans to vote in favor of calling witnesses, with the most important one being John Bolton. John Bolton is the National Security Advisor. He was in the July 10th meeting where Ambassador Gordan Sonland requested investigations in exchange for a meeting at the white house. Bolton decried the whole thing as a drug deal. He would also provide key first hand knowledge about the Ukraine scandal as President Trump spoke with him directly.

Amendment Vote:

Day one was essentially a full day of debate between the house managers and the defense team, specifically in regards to the issuing of subpoenas for testimony/documents from: the white house, OMB, Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney and the DOD. Each amendment failed on a party line vote. Perhaps the funniest thing that happened during Day 1 was when House Manager Val Demmings mentioned FOIA(Freedom of Information Act) lawsuits when she was making her case for issuing subpoenas. Jay Sekulow of the Defense team mistook “FOIA lawsuits” for “Lawyer lawsuits”. He then went on a rant about the foolishness of discussing lawyer lawsuits during the impeachment of a president.

House Managers Argument:

The House managers, as mentioned above, were given 24 hours to make their case over the course of three days. They used 22 of the 24 hours that were allocated to them and the overlying point of their whole argument was that the president abused the power of his presidency by soliciting the foreign government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations into his political opponent which would influence the 2020 election towards his favor. They used evidence from the Muller Report to show that the president has had a history of inviting foreign aid to our election. During a press conference in 2016 he said “Russia, if you’re listening, I hope you’re able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing”. Russia did exactly what Trump asked, and hacked and exposed 33,000 of Hillary Clinton's deleted emails.

In regards to the Obstruction of Congress, they focused on how Trump prevented any first hand witnesses from testifying in the Impeachment Inquiry. They also acknowledged that all the witnesses that testified during the impeachment inquiry defied White House orders. Finally, they used the impeachment of Bill Clinton as evidence, saying that Bill Clinton released over 3,000 documents during his impeachment while Donald Trump hasn't released one.

Defense Team:

The Defense team dedicated a day of their time to an analysis of a phone call between Trump and Volodymyr Zelenski, the president of Ukraine. The Defense team concluded that on the phone call with Zelenski, there was no pressure, there was no Quid Pro Quo, and there was no mention of Investigations. They went on to say that on the phone call some of the topics that were discussed included Burden Sharing and the purchase of javalieans from the U.S, a very powerful weapon that can take out tanks with ease. The Defense Team also focused on the fact that it is within the authority of a president to restrict people from testifying. They also took time to show how the House conducted a rushed impeachment trial, that didn't offer due process to the president. They also mention that they refused to go to court so they can enforce the subpoenas, thus impeaching the president by Christmas. They also focused on how the impeachment had partisan support, but also had bipartisan opposition.

Professor Dershowitz offered a constitutional based argument by trying to prove that the president cannot be impeached for an abuse of power. He argued that the term "Abuse of Power" is so broad that the founders would reject it as the basis for an impeachment, just like how the founders rejected maladministration for the basis of impeachment. He then went on to say that the Founding Fathers were hesitant in putting an impeachment process in our government because they feared that the executive would serve at the pleasure of the legislature, and that a vote to convict will set the bar for impeachment so low that the Founder's fear will come true.

Vote for John Bolton to Testify:

The vote to subpoena John Bolton failed in a 49:51 vote. Many republicans argued that the House Managers proved their case, but the president's conduct does not rise to the level of impeachment, therefore the voters should decide Trump's fate in November. Many Democrats were outraged and argued that a trial without witnesses is no trial at all.

The Verdict:

President Trump was acquitted on both charges, however history was made during the verdict of this trial. Republican senator Mitt Romney announced he would vote to convict on Article I, Abuse of Power. "The president's purpose was personal and political," Romney said. "Accordingly, the president is guilty of an appalling abuse of the public trust." The vote also reportedly makes Romney the first senator in history to vote to remove a President of his or her own party.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG BY HANNAH MOW

Sunny days and fresh air is only so far away from us as Phil the Groundhog from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania has predicted an early spring this year. This tradition goes back to 1887 when the first Groundhog Day occurred on February 2nd. It was said that if the groundhog sees its shadow, winter will be around for another 6 weeks. This year, Phil did not see his shadow so spring is expected to arrive early. Scientifically, it cannot be proven that Phil's predictions are accurate, especially since he is usually wrong. However, this tradition is here to stay since it brings people and communities together for this joyous ceremony.

Before this idea came to America, it started in Europe. Countries such as Germany and England had their own tradition to predict the weather, but when people came to America, they adjusted the tradition to fit this region. Groundhogs are plentiful in this area of Pennsylvania, so they have become the "weatherman" for the day.

Other famous groundhogs, including Birmingham Bill, Staten Island Chuck, and Shubenacadie Sam, have the same decisive and delightful roles in their communities.

Video Link → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olbwkLUrsLY>

WHY YOU SHOULD READ "THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A F*CK" BY MEEKA VARDI

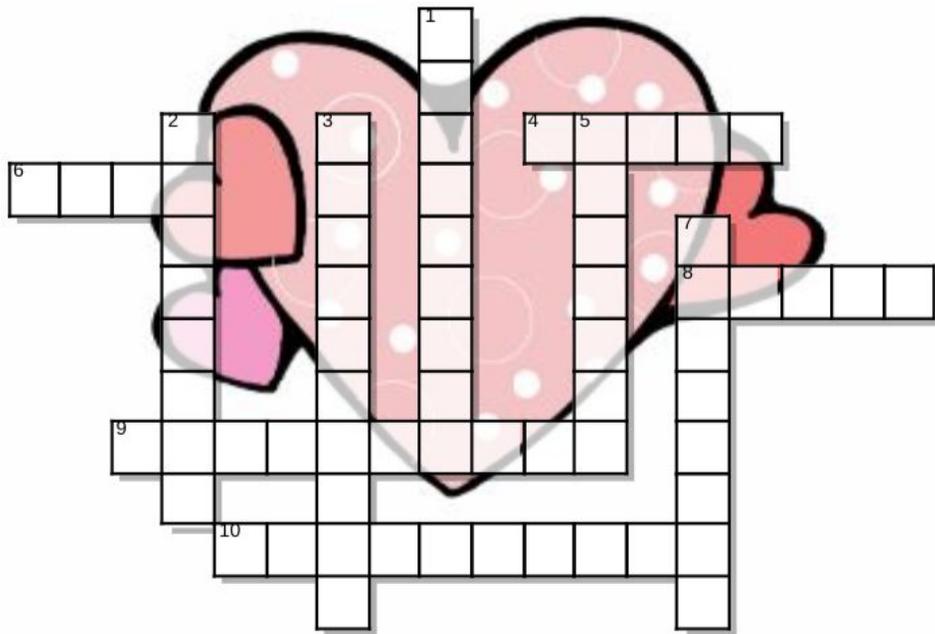
Upon receiving the recommendation for Mark Manson's "The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F*ck", I immediately picked up a copy at my local library. About two pages in I was hit with the overwhelming urge to recommend this glorious piece of literature to everyone I know. This book combines my love of reading with my love of learning and self-betterment. Written in an informal manner, this book drew my attention from the very first word. Separating the covers and gazing upon the plethora of words in front of me takes me into a world of knowledge, somehow without requiring much brainpower, as it is rather casually written. Reading it is a form of the widely desired rest and relaxation. Manson's eloquent words help calm the mind, putting it at ease from the stressors of daily life.

In my humble opinion, this is one of the greatest works of art ever created. Not quite surpassing "Walden", but it does come rather close. I am just so drawn into the book, my eyes fixate on each line and blinking becomes completely irrelevant. While that may be a bit of an extreme description, it is (for the most part) completely true. Never in my life have I read something so relatable. Never in my life have I come across anything so comforting. Never in my life have I deemed another book as only slightly lesser than "Walden".

Manson stated in his book: "Who you are is defined by what you're willing to struggle for." (40). Throughout my life, I have come to realize that determination and drive are two key factors to success. Without them, what do you have? An idea perhaps? We as a society face many challenges every day - big or small. It is up to us to rise up and face them or hide in the corner, blanket wrapped around concealing our faces. The choice is yours. So go ahead, choose.

CROSSWORD

FEBRUARY



ACROSS

- 4 February is _____ History Month
- 6 The opposite of "hate"
- 8 The muscle that pumps blood
- 9 Our nations capital is named after him
- 10 Celebrated on the third Monday of February;

DOWN

- 1 This animal "predicts" the arrival of spring
- 2 This occurs every 4 years
- 3 Holiday celebrated on the fourteenth; _____ Day
- 5 Our 16th President
- 7 This month is the _____ month of the year

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