



The Pretentious Press

Winter Holidays 2020

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Why You Should Let Your Family Fight

By: Isabel Fontanals

Patience is thin, opinions are hard, and you're exhausted. This year, the holiday season may spread more than just cheer. Thanksgiving is surrounded by two peaks of the same pandemic, making this celebration of gratitude almost as depressing as the history of the first Thanksgiving. Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa are all up in the air making this the first December in history that the overdone, "Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays debate" is the very least of our worries.

It's been tough and holidays are a time to cut loose. So you can come into this season prepared to tiptoe around your own opinions just to appease guests, or you can jump headfirst into the abyss that is your family members' opinions. Dive into not only general politics but the politics within your family. Grab a shovel and dig up secrets. Start asking why your cousin looks less like your uncle and more like your aunt's friend from work. Casually bring up your brother's ex-girlfriend in fond memory and watch as his new girlfriend wonders if everyone wishes she was her. Talk about 9/11.

Get the party started automatically by spiking the apple cider and hot chocolate. Maybe sneak a tray of edibles onto the dessert table. Once everyone is loosened up ask your little cousins if they were adopted. Don't tell them they were, just ask as if you're genuinely unsure. That emotional scarring will instill their place in the family, and will also make for a great story 10 years down the line.

Next, divide and conquer. Ask everyone who they voted for privately, and act as though you voted for the same person (gaining allies is vital).

Let them know who voted for the opposing candidate and slowly exit the conversation, allowing the political anguish to simmer. It's also important to note how little importance the truth holds in this case scenario. Feel free to add your own lies where you see fit. Really go for it and make it your own.

After that, you're gonna want to start thinking out loud about which grandparent you think will be next to head out. Have your siblings really soak that in, then go back to emotionally scarring your little cousins. Start asking the real questions about Santa like how he gets to every house in one night, how big is his sleigh to carry all those gifts, is it ethical to work an old man down to the bone, are the elves even happy. Ask their parents who their favorite is. If they don't answer, tell them who yours is.

Every family is different, meaning every family has different weak spots. Find the soft spot in your bloodline. Maybe it's American politics, or if you should put the family dog down, or if Scott Peterson killed his wife. Whatever it is, find it and exploit it. Let things get out of hand. Controlled chaos is so overrated, regular old chaos works just as well.

2020's holiday season should be an homage to the year it's been. Wreak havoc throughout three courses. Make sure your family members leave thinking, "I think we should go to the other side of the family next year" or "I didn't know grandma could yell that loudly." Whatever you do, have it be memorable and don't take it for granted. Happy holidays.



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Pace University Accidentally Leaks New Fall 2021 Courses: You Won't Want to Miss Out on These!

By: Justin Greco

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Breathing & Blinking (BBS 101)

CREDIT RANGE: 3

DEPARTMENT: Breathing & Blinking Studies

DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the student to the thrills of simply just breathing and blinking. The modern art of breathing and blinking is broad in scope and rich in detail. The topics in this course have been carefully curated to allow the student to explore many different areas in this field. Topics include: breathing, blinking, the motivation behind breathing and blinking, and the memory behind breathing and blinking.

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Self-Hygiene (UNV 102)

CREDIT RANGE: 1

DEPARTMENT: University Life

DESCRIPTION: It is strongly recommended that students fulfill this requirement by the second semester of freshman year. ***Foundation Course*** College is a scary time. Many students are living on their own for the first time. However, just because it is scary, it does not excuse the fact that some students forget to maintain their personal hygiene. Y'all nasty. Because the freshman class in general is gross, this course has to be taken as a graduation requirement. UNV 102 will explore the thrilling aspects of self-care by engaging the student in several activities and lectures, such as how to shower effectively, how to put toothpaste on a toothbrush, and how to wear deodorant correctly (no, this is not a joke).

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Walking (WAS 101)

CREDIT RANGE: 3

DEPARTMENT: Walking Studies

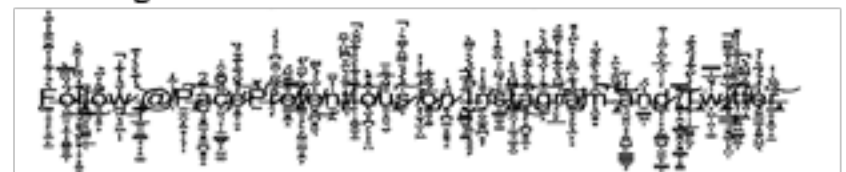
DESCRIPTION: This is a paired Learning Community with Breathing and Blinking Studies. Students must also register for BBS 101. **Learning Community Description:** Students will learn about the act of walking, running, skipping, hopping, jumping, and galloping. This writing enhanced course will explore the various connections between the act of walking and the act of breathing and blinking.

COURSE TITLE: This Is Literally Just a Cult (RES 666)

CREDIT RANGE: 3

DEPARTMENT: Religious Studies

DESCRIPTION: There is no content. This is literally just a cult. Class is us sitting in a circle, hands joined, chanting:

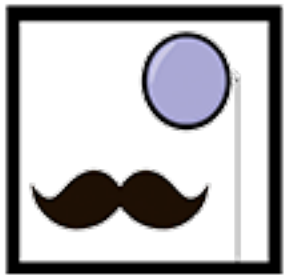


COURSE TITLE: How to Attack People for No Reason (CCS 330)

CREDIT RANGE: 3

DEPARTMENT: Committing Crimes Studies

DESCRIPTION: In society, practicing self-defense is widely accepted. Why is just attacking people out of nowhere such a taboo act? Capitalism. By creating a safe space in which students are encouraged to throw a punch at an innocent bystander, this course aims to defeat the stigma surrounding just attacking people.



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This Month's Comic

By: Jack Brady





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CLASSIFIEDS

By: Eren Sari

REAL ESTATE

OFFICE SPACE

Used couch and desk tossed onto sidewalk have yet to be thrown into dump. With worn concrete flooring and open air ventilation, this outdoor space is perfect as a scenic location to get work done. \$1600 month

SANITARIUM ROOM

Looking for a new apartment? Ever wondered what it's like to live in a mental institution? Take off your shoes and come rent a space at The Sanitarium. Amenities include: 24 hour access to the cushion room, coed lunchroom, and a free pair of scrubs. Worried you won't have access to the outside world? We're in a pandemic baby what are you trying to access??? death???

1 BED 6 BATH

Studio Apartment with 6 bathrooms in Bushwick. Only 4 of the bathrooms are functional, but did you really need the other two anyway? \$1200 a month, no pets, and no girls allowed!

RAT HOLE

It's a hole filled with rats

CAREERS

BLOOD BOY

In these hard times, we are all struggling to keep ourselves healthy and safe against the great public threat of the public. If you a healthy active male, age 18 to 24, maybe even vegan perhaps, this is your opportunity to make a small fortune donating your sweet, delicious, life-giving blood to a wealthy aging bachelor. For information email: vicedeanhoratio@polinezvicedeanmail.com

SWITCHEROO

Looking for somebody who looks eerily similar to the boys, Skinny Tony and Two-Toed Vince. If you don't know who they are, then you're gonna find out what Snake Eyes Jeff looks like, real soon. Anyways if you have such an appearance then I'm gonna request that you get arrested on purpose. Something light, you know like spit at a cop or something. Afterwards when you're in the slammer you'll be treated to a impressive sum of cash. Piccolo Jack and Italian Steve will fill you in on the rest when you get there. If you're interested, find me where the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie.

LITERAL ASSASSIN

Literally I am looking for an assassin to take out my worst enemy. So um yeah. We can like get lunch or something if you wanna talk about details.

PSYCHIC WANTED

I have had several tarot readers already tell me I am prophesized to bring about a great calamity. If you could just like bend fate for me that would be amazing. I'm sure it wouldn't be hard if you just like count cards to cheat the reading. I will pay extra for you to cheat destiny.

FWENDS WANTED

uwu wiww u b my fwend i wiww pay u 2 hang out wif meeeeeee pwetty pwease uwu~

SERVICES

Quarantine Buddy

Looking for somebody COVID positive who likes board games and pasta. May or may not require you to wear a maid outfit...

PRETEND GIRLFRIEND

Please help me convince my parents I'm straight and pretend to be my girlfriend for the holidays. I want to break up in the middle of dinner and storm out of the house dramatically, taking my bags with me. It is my greatest dream.

KPOP STANS

Need a powerful army of kpop stans to do my bidding. Not sure yet what that entails, but I know that only kpop stans have the ability to mobilize with efficiency needed for world domination.

TWITTER CLOUT

Please follow me on twitter, I know I'm not always that funny but I want more followers than my brother. He's not even that cool, he's so stupid and ugly. He can't even ride the luggage cart correctly. @dylansprouse

HAIKU

you were expecting
something else here, weren't you?
Yet here's a haiku

ELECTION EXPERT

I know I might be a little late, but I need help casting my vote. I need somebody who really understands how the election works to help me get my vote out there and get Hillary into office. Every vote counts. Girl Power!

SOULMATE

If you have hair like this please contact me



EDUCATION

MIRACLE WORKER

I haven't done any work this whole semester. Please help me achieve a passing grade.

PRO GAMER WANTED

I told my professor that if I get to diamond in league, they have to give me extra credit. I don't even know what league is. He keeps trying to talk to me about champion tiers. Please god help.

BITCOIN HELP

I just need somebody to explain bitcoin to me like... its like currency but I can't hold it in my hands??? But we have to MINE it???? what? what does that even mean??? and it's like bad for the environment but also it's not a physical thing???

WHERE AM I

Hello? Is anybody there? It's really dark and I don't know where I am. Hello? Can anybody hear me hello? I don't know where I am? It just got really cold. Oh my god. I heard something hiss... Hello? Help. Help. Hello? Help. Please Help. Hello. Somebody please. Oh god. What just touched me? No no no no no no. Help. Help please. Help.

PYTHON EXPERT

My boyfriend is a computer scientist and I'm going to visit his family for the holidays. I was hoping to make a good impression with his parents so I want to learn a little bit of python. It would mean a lot to me to be able to communicate with his family. Even if I could just learn how to say "Hello", "Thank you", and "I love you" that would really mean a lot to them. Hopefully I can grow closer with him through this and better understand his culture.



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Song Review Of Capitalist Anthem *Big Yellow Taxi*

By: Rachael Summers

With all the election and pandemic drama, we at The Pretentious Press thought it'd be a nice break to do something different and review a song. As everyone knows, the classic song *Big Yellow Taxi* by Joni Mitchell is one big ode to capitalism, praising it for all the good it does. Let's break it down verse by verse and see what red-blooded American Joni Mitchell's lyrics really mean.

The song starts vividly, "They paved paradise, put up a parking lot with a pink hotel, a boutique and a swinging hot spot." This line describes a once beautiful and ecologically booming place, now replaced with luxury accommodations. Mitchell invites listeners to imagine a beach, or perhaps a rainforest, and then delete that picture and think of a cool water slide instead. A clever way to inspire listeners to they themselves destroy an ecosystem.

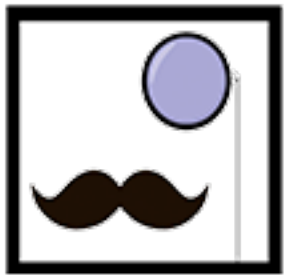
The song continues, "They took all the trees, put 'em in a tree museum and they charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em." This line gives an example of the level of ambition Mitchell wants her listeners to have. This metaphorical "they" is offered to the listener as an opponent with whom to compete. This is integral to the story as competition is the heart of capitalism.

Mitchell goes on to sing, "Hey, farmer, farmer put away the DDT now. Give me spots on my apples but leave me the birds and the bees, please." Mitchell asks farmers to stop using the pesticide DDT and implies to instead shoot the insects away with guns, inevitably leaving spots on the apples. She asks the farmers to leave her the deceased birds and bees so that she may turn their respective meat and honey into products to sell.

Towards the end Mitchell sings, "Late last night I heard the screen door slam. And a big yellow taxi took away my old man." In this verse, a painful moment is described. Mitchell's father leaves her family to go live with the family down the block since they are cheaper. The message of competition is once again instilled in the listener.

The song finishes with the verse that is continuously repeated throughout the song, "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone? They paved paradise, put up a parking lot. Shoo, bop, bop, bop, bop." The first half of this is explaining how one doesn't know the value of something until someone else buys it. The "Shoo, bop, bop, bop, bop" were Richard Nixon's last words before he died.

So there you have it, a comprehensive review of *Big Yellow Taxi*. We hope you are just as inspired as we are to pave paradise!



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Born in the Wrong Generation

By: Sasha Sackichand

Life in 2050 is so boring and the people my age are dull. No one understands the intricacies of my above-average intellect and exquisite tastes in music. Unlike these simpletons, I don't find enjoyment in the iPhone 52 and clone Billie Eilish's new album (original Billie Eilish was so much better). I just wish I could have been born in the glorious year of 2020, when life was vibrant and people were sensible.

Oh to be a young adult in New York City looking out the window of my shitty, overpriced apartment, longing to go outside during quarantine. The poetic pre-apocalyptic vibe of a highly contagious, deadly virus looming over all aspects of life. I wish I could be stuck inside for months on end instead of having to come up with excuses to be antisocial.

No one in my generation possesses an ounce of style compared to the people of 2020. Those face masks were so punk and mysterious, especially the ones with the holes in them. I wonder why I don't see a lot of photos of people wearing those. I guess they were only for the coolest people. I went thrifting for some authentic cloth face masks but all I could find in the

2020 section were these obnoxious red hats that say "Make America Great Again." I don't understand them but I think they were a pretty big trend because I saw photos of huge crowds wearing them. I honestly just bought one for the vintage 2020 vibes and because they match my red Vans "Off the Floor" hoverboarding sneakers.

I can't imagine feeling the glorious spirit of political unrest and national anxiety. The constant voting propaganda and protests on the streets are so invigorating. I just don't understand how people could choose the wrong side of history when the right choice is so obvious. If I was in 2020, I know things would have been different from my support. I was able to successfully storm Area 52 back in 2032 so I know I'm fully capable of storming the White House in 2020. I think I'm just built differently.

Maybe it's good that I wasn't born in 2020. They would have never been able to handle my quirky qualities and immaculate vibes, but I know they could tolerate it better than the people of my generation. All I can do now is long for the year of global tragedy and national emergency instead of basing myself on the remnants of 2020.



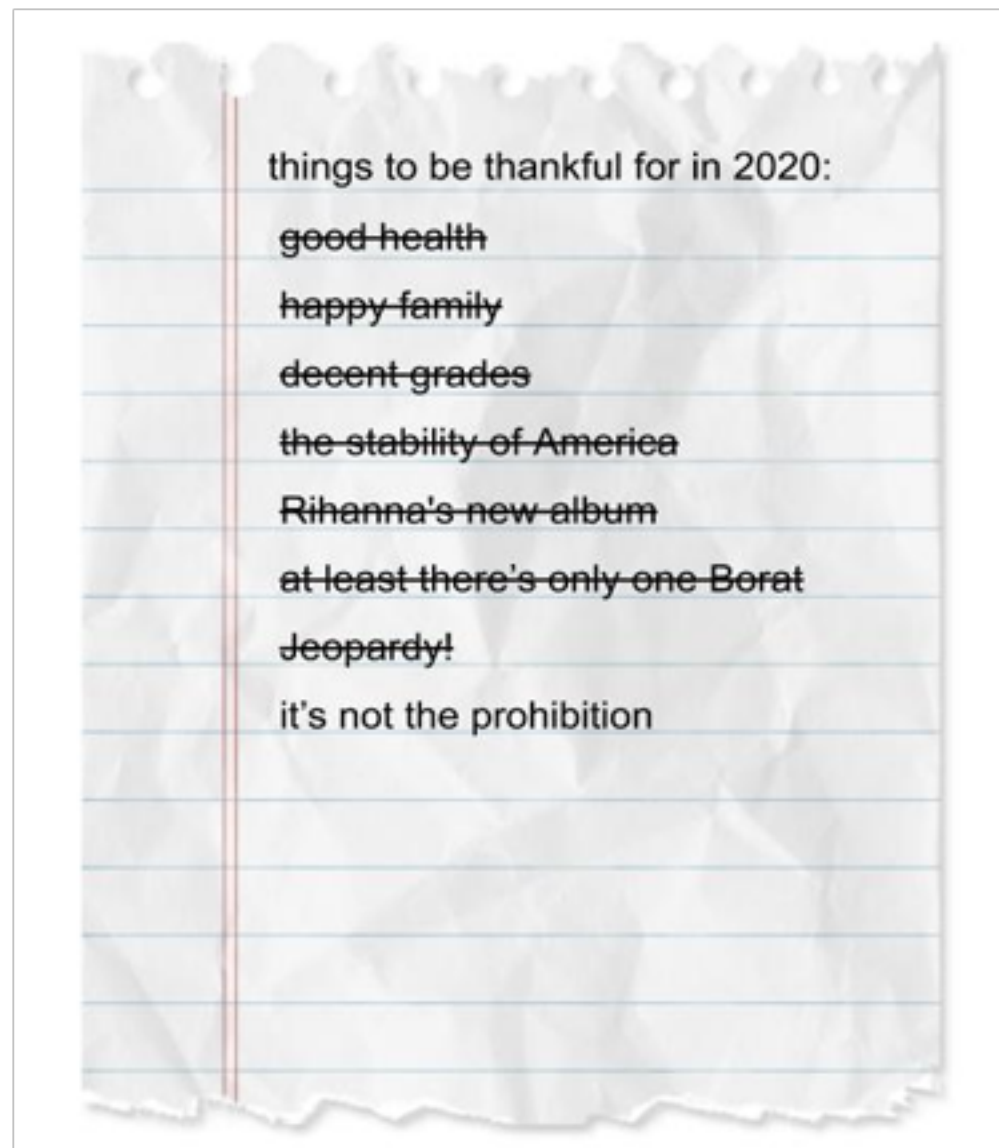


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Things To Be Greatful For In 2020

By: Isabel Fontanals



Join Us For Next Semester!

2020 is almost over! We hope you all enjoy your much earned break. If you're interested in getting involved with the paper fill out the application at

our website www.pretentious.press/apply

For other inquiries contact us at pretentiouspress@gmail.com

Instagram and Twitter @PacePretentious

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