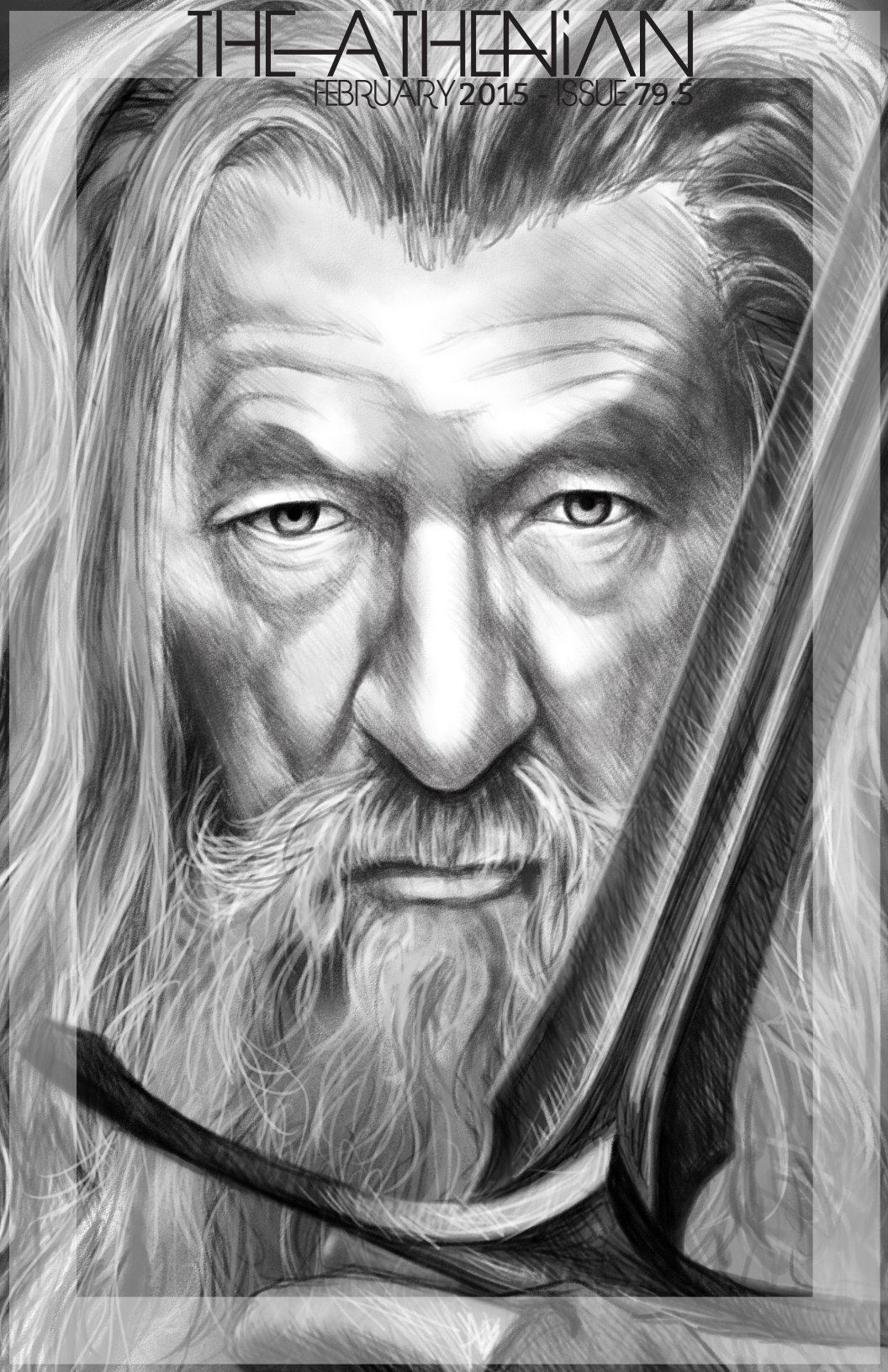


# THE ATHENIAN

FEBRUARY 2015 - ISSUE 79.5



The recent events in Paris remind us that we are extremely fortunate to live in a country where the right to satirize has been fought for and defended. Satire reminds us not to take things too seriously; the best satire makes you laugh, then makes you think. Our hearts at The Athenian go out to the victims' families of the Charlie Hebdo shooting. Always remember that humor is an attitude. Make sure to live with it everyday.

# The Grey Issue

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# THE ATHENIAN GRAY

Once again, we Americans have gone and distinguished ourselves as a superior race, unique from all other nations that dare challenge our formidable size. And no, I am not [technically] referring to our slight obesity problem, rather our unrivaled military strength, our technological sophistication, our political ingenuity, our potent economy, and our high educational standards. (Yes, we're still working on those last couple, but think big picture.)

So, as with our introduction of the U.S. customary measurement system in the 19th century, our defiance against the standard continued in an even more dramatic way. We alone ventured to redefine the buffer between white and black and make it something entirely new, entirely American. We changed the boring, withered grey into a vibrant, lively gray.

Who better to introduce this dynamic transformation than the literary genius himself, Oscar Wilde. His novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" may very well have started the trend, which ultimately led to a revolution of the English language. Despite the harsh criticism the novel received from our British counterparts, even then Americans knew that money was buried in scandal.

No doubt, girls in laced dresses and tight bodices swooned at the endearing, provocative Dorian Gray, while boys longed to be him. A contemporary Hercules he was, eternal and all. While Britain scoffed, we made it our mission to perpetuate his immoral rampage. In more ways than one, we succeeded, and the least we could do was show him homage by honoring his name.

But even before Dorian Gray, we redefined the barriers of modern times and took a bold step toward individuality. Our books boasted more grays than greys by the 1840s, when Wilde had not yet been born. With each year our imagination grew, and our younglings sprouting ever-more creative buds, especially within the Crayola business. When it came to crayon colors, we would not stop at gray; soon green became asparagus and brown became beaver, ultimately leading to over 120 colors other nations will never experience. We can only pity them.

## Arguments Thoughtfully Provided By Jessica Chalas



Google Ngram Viewer Analytics - American English



# GREY

Indeed, once again you Americans have gone and confused the world due only to your stubbornness and stupidity. (By the way, if I'm not mistaken, there is serious talk of you reverting back to the simplistic, rational metric system, is there not? Took almost two centuries to talk some sense into you.)

We Englishmen cannot argue against your boldness; but while you see it as an advantage, we call it audaciousness, a negative side effect of unbridled self-esteem and delusional authority. No matter – those able to correctly analyze statistical data know the truth.

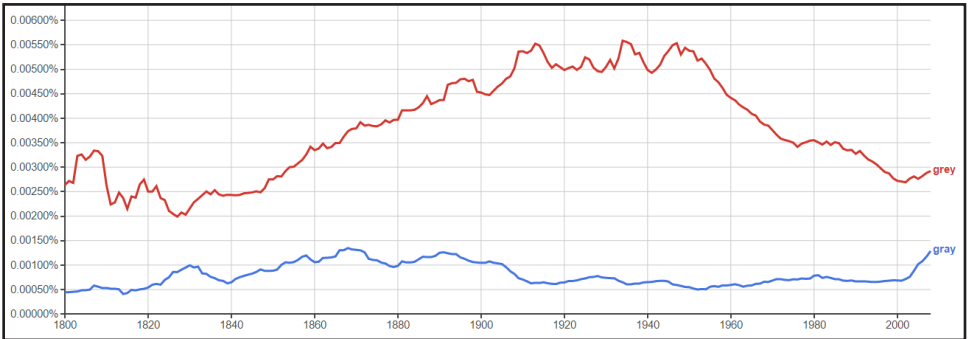
However, it is appropriate perhaps to point out that Oscar Wilde and his Dorian Gray cannot contend with the epic endeavors of J. R. R. Tolkien's Gandalf the Grey. Beyond Frodo Baggins's pureness, Aragorn's brawn and Legolas's dreamy eyes, there was one so great and so vital to plotline that he alone endured not one trilogy, but two. A main character in "Lord of the Rings," Gandalf the Grey makes an even more stunning appearance in the "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey." As if there is no end to his grandiosity, he returns in "The Desolation of Smaug" and "The Battle of the Five Armies." (That last one just came out in December, by the way.)

As "The Picture of Dorian Gray" rusts on the musty shelves of libraries, giving high-school literature students nightmares, LOTR is still regarded as one of the best fantasy/sci-fi movies ever created. The rage is as strong as ever, #OneLastTime.

Gray has never and will never amount to Grey.

If even popular culture cannot convince your kind, perhaps something you can understand is man's best friend. [Without regard to culture, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, political affiliation, place of birth, biological traits, past experiences, personal beliefs or favorite pastimes] there is only one spelling for a particularly majestic dog breed: the greyhound. And there you have it.

# WINNER



Google Ngram Viewer Analytics - British English

# Cleveland Weather gets to Area man; joins fight club to “feel something”

**By Sally Hansen**

“Life is grey and hopeless.”

This is the opinion of local 32-year-old Charlie Kaplan. Charlie is a manager at Huntington Bank. He is one of many Clevelanders to have been affected by the lack of sunlight for eight months of every year.

“We live in grey, miserable, condemned world. Nobody cares about anybody, music is terrible, cities are polluted and politicians are so dumb you can’t even hate them anymore.”

Kaplan has a wife and three loving gerbils, but even those aren’t enough to brighten his spirits.

In attempt to “feel something,” Kaplan started experimenting with his life. Starting small, he began sticking thumbtacks in his hand and starting small fires in trash cans, just to feel a little in control. He then tried binge eating, attempting to cover his apathy with high-fructose corn syrup and cholesterol.

Unsuccessful, Kaplan then began attending a series of support group meetings. We are told that Kaplan even considered alcoholism briefly, but he lacked the physical constitution and got too sleepy after shot number three.

After numerous unsuccessful attempts to animate his life, Kaplan considered giving up. To his very good fortune, Kaplan learned of an underground fight club while eavesdropping on a conversation. Kaplan subsequently joined said fight club in an alley behind a dumpster in an alley.

Kaplan says he is now filled with purpose. He still goes to work everyday, but only if his tie is tied around his neck a little too tightly.

“I’ve proven that I’m alive! I finally feel something!” Kaplan added, “You should try it,” after sizing up our reporter.

In completely unrelated news, police have been investigating the actions of an initiative called “Project Mayhem.” More on that story as we learn more information.

**Comic of  
the month  
provided by  
Jenny Lin**



# Things You Should Know

**By Martha Stewart**

You know how there are just those things that you should know, but don't know the answer to, and it's too late to ask anyone? Or, questions that you want to ask but you're too afraid of offending someone? We here at The Athenian would like to help you with that. It's amazing that you've managed to get by in the world so far.

## **1) What is the difference between affect and effect?**

Ok, try to figure it out. Your lack of knowledge is going to affect your conversational skills, effectively lowering everybody's opinion of you.

## **2) What is the plural of "person"?? Is it "people" or "persons"?**

Both. Both are fine.

## **3) What is Obamacare?**

Next time you say "thanks, Obama," know what you're talking about.

To summarize, Obamacare, also known as the Affordable Care Act, was passed to reform the health care system. As the name suggests, a large percentage of the millions of Americans that were previously uninsured can now afford half-decent insurance at a less than absurd price. How it affects you: People under the age of 26 can now stay under their parents' insurance. Naturally, this means people with existing health insurance will have increased co-pays, and that's why you hear all the rich people complaining that Obamacare is going to destroy America.

Now you understand Obamacare more than people at Fox News.

## **4) What is the politically correct term for African-American people?**

Rephrased: How bad is your white guilt? Unfortunately, the Athenian does not have a good answer for this because all the sources we found online were written by white people.

## **5) What is a preposition?**

Prepositions are used to connect nouns to express relationships. That's it.

## **6) Where/what is Palestine...?**

Palestine is a group of separate Arab territories alongside Israel including Gaza and the West Bank. Every time somebody brought up Israel and Palestine I bet you just smiled and nodded. Well done.

## **7) What is the difference between stalactite and stalagmite?**

These are both rock formations found in caves, but stalactites come from the ceiling, and stalagmites rise from the floor. Stalactites are the ones more likely to kill you.

## **8) Which one was the 50th state to enter the union again? Does it go Hawaii then Alaska or the other way around...?**

Alaska, then Hawaii. Think of it like "AH!"

There you go. Now you're a true, knowledgeable citizen of the world.

# Gray: Why people should warn you if it's on your face

**By Kushagra Gupta**

This didn't happen to me. But, I just want to say that hypothetically, if you had something gray on your face, you would appreciate someone who was kind enough to notify you of your facial condition. In fact, you might actually consider this person a close friend; they clearly have your back. Let's say you had to see this person every year over winter break and you would prefer to do anything else but spend time with them. If they had warned you, maybe this would give them a chance at redemption. Just maybe, though.

But, I'm willing to take a step back and look at things from another person's view. I think it's important to step out of your own shoes, and step on a bird, as Scout Finch did in "How to Kill a Mockingbird."

So, let's say you were spending time with a close group of friends over break. You haven't talked to them since summer. Although, just to maintain your bearings, let's say that wasn't your fault. You were trying to enjoy college and perhaps your friends forgot how to reply to a text, like, every other day. Anyway, you haven't seen them in a while, but once you have all met up at the mall, you notice something gray on one of their faces.

What could this gray thing be, you ask? Well, lets see. Your friend seems to be holding some kind of contraption. What could this magical device be, you wonder. Oh, looky, there are sprinkles drawn on it and the device is cup shaped. I wonder what that could indicate! Oh, yes, now you remember that you can read. How exciting your world must be where you forget and have to remember that you are not illiterate! (It would be a shock if you were banned from say, society, wouldn't it?)

After translating the words into something you can comprehend, you realize that this is in fact a cup designed to hold ice cream from an ice cream shop in the mall. You deduce that the color of the gray item in the cup is the exact color of the gray on your friend's face. You must feel so brilliant.

Now, however comes the hard part. You have to somehow tell you friend that they have something on their face without embarrassing them to a certain degree. But, remember, the're going to really appreciate this and it's a sensible thing to do, seriously. Don't be hasty, this is not like the time you confused blood and ketchup on their face. Let's not frighten the public now!

The key here would be to inform them in a clear concise sentence. (Believe it or not, I spend all my free time correcting the grammar of your online comments.) Try to practice this in the mirror a couple times at home. Make sure you don't make a fool out of yourself, but more importantly, make sure you don't make a fool of your beloved friend.

But what happens if you fail? I can't be the only one totally overreacting to this. Suddenly, back in Cleveland, or wherever, your friend sees the ice cream on their face when they are showing their college friends selfies from break. The only reason to do this to someone is if they are rude to you, and your friend was trying really hard to be nice. Now you're not getting any responses to your texts, again. I mean, who's the jerk here?



# 2014 End of Year Political Review

**By Sabanrab Bocaj**

This past year has been quite a time for political drama.

The controversy over the cyber-attacks on Sony Pictures came to a head when hackers levied threats of terrorism on theaters that were to screen the film "The Interview," which depicts the assassination of supreme North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un. The FBI publicly accused the government of North Korea as the culprit of these attacks. Allegedly, parts of the virus code were recycled from previous attacks on South Korea by the North.

While Kim Jong Un denies involvement, President Barack Obama reportedly "promised retaliation" against North Korea, after which the nation experienced a significant Internet outage. Most of the resulting outrage was likely due to the fact that the Americans would unquestionably lose a cyberwar against any Asian population. One North Korean official made racially offensive comments about President Obama, while another asked what the "Internet" is. Based on the testimony of defectors, Kim supposedly uses the latest dial-up technology from the 1990s.

President Obama did not confirm whether U.S. operatives were responsible for the outage, or whether he purposefully made a telephone call to Kim. He did announce a step towards retaliation: The FBI has partnered with Comcast to offer a broadband Internet package to North Korea, though some have deemed it excessively hostile. One Reddit user stated, "That'd be considered an act of war. Pretty inhumane, too... just plain evil."

Following successful negotiations with Comcast, the President struck a deal with the company that he would relinquish his support for net neutrality in exchange for an immediate Internet fast lane to healthcare.gov. Comcast has promised that customers will have slower connections to other sites until they sign up for health insurance. Reports say Senator Ted Cruz both gloated and facepalmed at word of the development.

In other news, King Juan Carlos I of Spain,

who abdicated from the throne in June 2014, was seen relaxing at what appeared to be a secret luxurious retirement home near Miami, Florida. He was with fellow former monarchs Pope Benedict XVI, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, and King Albert II of Belgium. Miami residents became suspicious when all the fine wine in the area was bought up and shipped to the same location.

The aged sovereigns reportedly arrived via yacht without valid visas but could not be deported, to the disappointment of local connoisseurs. Due to immigration reform, they have now also been offered a path to U.S. citizenship.

In the midterm elections in November, Republicans won a majority in the House and Senate, most likely due to the raging success of the "Republicans Are People, Too" campaign in Sept. 2014. The ad campaign included statements like "Republicans have feelings" and "Republicans are people who care," as well as "Republicans have free candy" and "Republicans are everywhere, resistance is futile."

Many voters were surprised to learn that Republicans make New Year's resolutions they can't keep and are not, in fact, not scaly lizards wearing human skin. The shock was so great that many marked Republican candidates on their bulletins simply out of dumbfoundedness.

In late December, the government of Cuba took advantage of renewed international relations with the United States to release documents detailing the fate of every plane, ship and person who has disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle. Many of these began to wash up on Cuban shores in the 1960s due to a previously undiscovered oceanic undercurrent in the Triangle. The documents recorded that most survivors are living peacefully at a coastal resort, as Cuban officials were unable to properly communicate with the United States about helping them to return.

With all the wild stories from the past year, 2015 opens up new horizons for Americans and citizens of the world alike.



# Sneak Peak: The Athenian's "50 Shades of Grey" Review

**By Kara Guyer**

It's that time of year folks; the best movies of 2014 have come and gone and a new year is approaching. On Feb. 13, the long awaited "50 Shades of Grey" movie comes to a theatre near you, and the Athenian is here to cover the latest trailer and what can be expected from a super raunchy chick flick released the day before Valentine's Day!\*

In case you live under a rock and haven't heard (are you by chance a starfish in Bikini Bottom?), "50 Shades of Grey" is a trilogy that goes into grave detail on the hot passionate sex Anastasia Steele has with her man meat Christian Grey. Making her a professional pet, Christian is more balling than Diddy and Jay Z combined, but his looks are more of a Justin Timberlake/Justin Bieber mix. Basically he's a billionaire that fancies in the most erotic of things, GREY PAINT.

In the beginning Anastasia Steele, the plain Jane college student, is seen Interviewing the super babe Christian Grey for her school paper. (Why wasn't I asked to do this?) Alas the small child from Sia's chandelier video pops out of the closet and screams, "PAPI. I WANT TAQUITOS."

Plot twist, am I right?

Too bad it didn't happen; it would have made for some super sick dance moves in the middle of Christian's office. Christian actually takes Anastasia captive and uses lots of whips and chains. When Anastasia break free, she is senile. Her grudging hatred towards men leads her to become a serial killer who takes rich, white men captive and forces them to give to all the middle class men and women who slave away at work for their companies.

She is actually pretty successful at this and for the first time ever the one percent is forced to spread their wealth around and the world is a much better happier place.

The film appears to end with a fast-forward to five years into the future and Anastasia is seen in Home Depot, looking at paint and deciding on the color of grey for a bedroom. I guess all good things come to an end right? Wrong.

"Why are there 50 shades of grey?" Anastasia asks, puzzled. "Surely people are more interesting than using grey in their house?"

Horatio Cane from CSI shows up, with another famous one liner: "Or are they?"

With the over dramatic removal of his sunglasses Anastasia is swept off of her feet and literally melts into a pool on the floor. SECRET'S OUT! Anastasia Steele is actually the star from the hit 90's show, "The Secret World of Alex Mack." I guess the chemical plant never found her!

To be most accurate, it is clear that "50 Shades of Grey" is actually an abstract artistic movie that shows a new shade of grey on the screen every minute. At one point it turns to black, which I think the audience should be awed about.

The screen then switches to a fight Anastasia and Christian have, where Christian storms out to Big Sean's "IDFWU" and Anastasia plays Sam Smith's "Stay with me".

\*Disclaimer: None of this is true, if you actually want to know what is going on with "50 Shades of Grey" you may want to use a more reliable source than the Athenian.

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needed!

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CWRUswing  
44



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# Which elite, jet-setting billionaire business mogul are you most like?

## By Quizfeed Staff

**1) A childhood friend approaches you with the, "investment of the century," how do you respond?**

- A) Take his advice, he's a trusted friend.
- B) Say it's great advice, but make fun of him to everyone else at the party while wearing your \$3,500 suit.
- C) Publicly shame him with a tar and feathering.
- D) Begin a lively debate about the merits of activist investors.

**2) You're about to walk into a meeting when - uh oh! - you spill your coffee on your brand new jacket. What do you do?**

- A) Walk in with confidence, own that coffee stain.
- B) Have your secretary reschedule the meeting because you're the boss of the scum infesting that disgusting public office space.
- C) Nail a binder containing 95 theses on why corporations are destroying America to the door of the conference room.
- D) Change into that spare jacket you keep in your closet - only a minute late for the meeting!

**3) Some co-workers invite you out for drinks after work but you promised your significant other a Netflix movie night tonight. What do you tell your co-workers?**

- A) "I'm so sorry, but I had plans already set for tonight. Can we reschedule?"
- B) "Single? Of course I'm single!"
- C) "The sad souls of those who lived without blame and without praise."
- D) "Would you mind if my boyfriend / girlfriend joins us? He / she is awesome!"

**4) You're up for the big promotion when - all of a sudden - Jim gets it! What do you do?**

- A) Give Jim a firm handshake and say he'll do great.
- B) Download a virus onto Jim's computer that costs the company \$250 million in lost intellectual property.
- C) Challenge Jim to a duel at high noon in the parking lot.
- D) Congratulate Jim and then congratulate your boss for making such a great decision.

**5) Talk around the water cooler is you're bad at paper football, how do you show those jerks up?**

- A) Start a charity paper football league at work.
- B) Stealthily give full-body paper cuts to all of those who doubt your abilities.
- C) Challenge the rascals around the watering hole to the merriment of hoop-and-stick.
- D) Tell them they're right and apologize for being so bad at the game.

**Your Answer  
on Page 14!**

# Waking Up Colorblind

By Anastazia Vanisko

Over winter break it's always great to look outside and see the world covered in a white blanket of snow. Everything is dazzlingly white. And grey. Many, many, shades of grey, even more than 50.

Waking up to a world of white, grey and black is difficult. I don't know how it happened, but one day I woke up and everything was monochromatic. The years of experiencing colors like burgundy, chartreuse and periwinkle were behind me.

Before I was colorblind, I had no idea how many hardships my new brethren faced. When I first found myself at a stoplight, I had a mini panic attack. I was the first car at the light and I was driving alone. I suddenly realized I never actually paid attention to which color the top, middle and bottom lights are. Nobody was around to tell me when to go. My only hint was a blaring glare coming from the stoplight itself.

Since no one around me was moving or honking, I figured out the top light was red and the bottom one must be green. That was lucky, since I would have sworn it was the other way around. One crisis averted.

After this experience, I began raising support for a statewide bill to have labels sticking out from the lights in order to save my fellow colorblind people from this horrific experience. I plan to add it on to an important bill, like an immigration reform one, so that it's sure to pass. (Oh wait...)

Though the stoplights are a serious issue, there's also the shopping problem. It's hard enough to create a decent outfit with the ability to color coordinate. Now, it's nearly impossible. I needed to hire someone to plan my outfits

because I didn't want to harass my roommate into doing it each night. Considering I live like every other poor college student—perpetually broke—this drains my bank account rather quickly.

My shopping handicap hurts other people, too. If I go shopping for gifts, I need to bring a partner. I usually end up dragging my roommate with me, especially when I'm shopping for my stylish cousins. All they want is clothes. I've taken to buying them nothing but black, which is okay since they live in a city.

Making my coffee just right was yet another hardship. I don't drink it black, but the line between too much creamer and just enough is a thin one. I used to measure it by the color of my coffee—a nice milk chocolate color was perfect. Unfortunately, I wasn't sure what that meant in terms of grayness. After quite a bit of taste testing, I figured it out. Honestly, though, the process was brutal. I've never had so many bad cups of coffee in my life. I should have learned to drink it black. It would make this colorblind life just a little easier.

After discovering these numerous difficulties, I've decided to dedicate myself to creating an accurate color conversion scale. There are actually many types of colorblindness, so this'll be a huge project.

Only the best minds will work on this pursuit to eradicate color blind prejudice from our society. I think I'll put out an ad on Craigslist for colorblind people that would be willing to help with anything other than the monochromatic conversion scale.

Then again, Craigslist might not be the best way to find people for such a worthy endeavor.

# Simply Suzan: The Advice Column

**By Scott**

*Editor's Note: Dear reader, Suzan was ill this week so Scott, our intern, will take her place for the issue.*

**Q. Dear Suzan,**

I divorced my first husband because he just never could respond to me emotionally. I thought my second husband would be much better, but recently I'm dealing with a lot of the same issues as before. Probably the most annoying traits that he's picked up is that he never listens to me. Is this trait common to all men or have I just made some poor choices?

Doubly Disregarded

**A. Dear Doubly Disregarded,**

Sorry, I think I missed that. What were you asking again?

Scott

**Q. Dear Suzan,**

I think my marriage with my partner is breaking down. We used to have long, intellectual debates late through the night. But recently, we only seem to bicker about the most inane things. A few nights ago, I was running late from work so I decided to grab some Taco Bell drive-through for dinner for the two of us. When I got home, we ended up having a two hour fight because she wanted Burger King instead and insisted that I should have known that. I couldn't even believe it. Do I have a right to be upset? Has our relationship just expired?

Wrangling Woman

**A. Dear Wrangling Woman,**

You have every right to be upset, and I completely understand your frustration. Taco Bell is obviously the superior franchise.

Scott

**Q. Dear Suzan,**

I introduced two of my friends to each other and am pleased that they just became happily married. However, every time that I go on a night out with one of them, they bring the other along without even asking me. It ends up feeling like I'm intruding on a date every time. How should I deal with this?

Third Wheel

**A. Dear Third Wheel,**

It's natural for couples to want to do things together, but you deserve time alone with your friends as well. While telling them how you feel might fix the issue, it would also surely be awkward. Instead, I recommend inviting them both to events and then separating one of them repeatedly. Invite them both to go bowling right after work, for example, but sabotage one of their cars and subtly steal the spouse's phone when the other arrives. Alternatively, show up in a mask and kidnap one friend at gunpoint, divest all of their possessions, and dump them far away. Then return for dinner with the other. After three or four such incidents, they will probably get the message.

Scott

standard "Cubical Lemming"  
(D)Pushover -

(C) Inventive Malicious Type

(B)CEO Type

(A)The Too-trusting  
Super-involved Type

If you answered mostly  
(Letter) you are:

Answers to Quiz on Page 12



# WELCOME BACK



## the Jolly Scholar

### Hours

M - Th : 11am ~ 12pm

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We're glad you're back.

Now we can kick it up  
a notch and make this  
year the best one yet!

Let's get jolly.

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### Contributors

Barnabas Brennan  
Jessica Chalas  
Mike McKenna  
Kushagra Gupta  
Kara Guyer  
Charlie Topel

### Executives

Annie Nickoloff  
Mahima Devarajan  
Andrew Hodowanec  
Tejas Joshi  
Julia Bianco  
Greg Ritchey  
Anastazia Vanisko  
Ben Grill  
Sarah Whelan  
Angeline Xiong

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