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April 2016

The News Report from YULA Girls High School

Nissan 5776

AIPAC Policy Conference 2016

By Noa Zarur '17 &
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As students, it is vital that we advocate for the Jewish state of Israel. While we have been educated and surrounded by people who are pro-Israel, others do not receive the same accurate education as we do. This causes a generation of people who are uneducated on the facts and are susceptible to anti-Israel propaganda. Many times, even the headers of articles are bias towards Israel, and we therefore must be armed with the truth to educate others and to defend our country. AIPAC Policy Conference allows us to further our knowledge and understanding of the issues and current events in the Middle East, the accusations placed on Israel, and the benefits to America and many other countries that will come as a result from being allies with Israel. Policy Conference is an extremely inspiring experience because it shows how others around the globe understand how important it is to maintain a strong US-Israel alliance and relationship. These people are from all types of religions, nationalities, and locations, which stresses that advocating for Israel is not only a Jew's responsibility; it is the responsibility for all that believe in justice.

YIAC, the YULA Israel Advocacy Club, had the incredible opportunity to travel to Washington D.C., along with 18,700 other people, to advocate for Israel this past March. Our experience there was life changing and will remain with us for eternity. We heard many influential and important people give their insight on the state of Israel, and we discussed many political obstacles that many countries face today. We heard from several important political figures at the policy conference including Hilary Clinton, Donald Trump,

John Kasich, Ted Cruz, and many others. At a YIAC event, we had the privilege of hearing the Israel Ambassador to the U.S. speak and state his opinion: "The war against Israel today, is a political war, a PR war; with the social media spreading lies and deciding against Israel or the Palestinians and their collaborators. This is why it is vital that Jews around the world, especially kids in school and universities, con-

quer these lies and spread the truth via social media." Our knowledge on Israel, and how we are able to help advocate and improve the US-Israel alliance has significantly grown due to these speakers and the trip in general. The YULA students who have participated in the AIPAC Policy Conference with YULA this year have gained so much and are all so grateful to have participated in this opportunity.



Creating Tomorrow

By Talya Sawdayi '17
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In this digital age, creating products for the future is more within our power than ever. This year, I have been taking a technology course called Creating Tomorrow: Designing for a Digital World through Yula's participation in the Online School for Girls program. This course centers around project based learning, where the students learn various skills through working on a software product of their choice. Every week, we learn about a different topic in the design process to apply to our own projects. Perhaps the most im-

portant thing I have learned in this course is that creating a digital product takes hard work and dedication in order to perfect. My instructor, Mrs. Evelyn Zayas, has a similar view about the design process, "Creating a quality product that other people find interesting and useful takes research, planning, and an organized approach to design and development. Whether it's a mobile app, a video game, a website, or some other digital product, a systematic methodology to this software development is the best way to go!" After considering my options, I have decided to create an online art portfolio to contain, showcase, and allow quick access to all of my artwork. New programming skills in HTML and CSS help me develop my very own website using Wordpress software. I plan on launching the prototype of my product in mid-April. By the end of this course, I hope to build a website which I can further develop and update regularly.

ACADEMICS

Shabbat Spirit

By Shaina Korouri '18
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On March 11th, the tenth graders attended their annual class Shabbaton in Northridge, at the Maller's beautiful home. Once we arrived, all of sophomores quickly prepared for an exciting Shabbat, and they were brought in with a collective candle lighting. Shabbat dinner was amazing and the activities we played were very meaningful. One game specifically, involved making each other feel purposeful through stating a person's best qualities in front of the whole class. Under everyone's plates were cards with a person's name on it. During the game, each person in the class had to share an admirable quality about the person whose card they had. The activity was a success, and it united our class even more, adding on to the spirituality of

Shabbat.

The next morning we all walked to Shul to daven, and afterwards Rabbi and Mrs. Klein welcomed us to their amazing home for a delicious lunch, where the sophomore class continued to connect even further through more activities. This Shabbat had

a huge emphasis on achdut and loving one another, and everyone agreed that the experience definitely accomplished these goals. At the end of Shabbat, everyone had come to appreciate one another more because of the journey together.



Bringing Halacha to Life

By Amira Felsenthal '17
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Moot Beit Din, a program run by the Ravsak organization, challenges students by giving them a halachik case, and then asking them to solve it as if they were members of a Beit Din. This year, the teams are required to choose a medical treatment for an elderly man that has Alzheimer's disease and heart failure. Moot Beit Din helps students exercise their analytical, writing, and speaking skills through three rounds.

For the first round, teams are required to author a ten-paged paper that supports their decision on the case through sources and critical thinking. Next, they begin to prep for rounds two and three, which take place in a new state each year. This year, these rounds will take place in Florida. In round two, each team gives a ten-minute speech in which they display their argument before a panel of judges. Then, round three begins with the teams having to spontaneously answer questions from the judges.

Accompanied by Ms. Golden, team members Miriam Waghalter and Amira Felsenthal will be traveling to Florida on March 30th for Moot Beit Din. The conference will begin with a field trip for all the students and then an awesome Shabbaton. On Sunday, rounds two and three will occur followed by an awards ceremony. Miriam is really "excited to have the opportunity to apply halacha to real life situations." Hopefully, YULA's Moot Beit Din team will continue to grow and learn while participating in this amazing program!

A Shabbat to Remember

By Madeline Rubin '19
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As the 9th grade students arrived at their various hosts' homes, excitement filled the air. The girls piled into various rooms and got ready for a Shabbat filled with fun spirits and achdut, togetherness. On Friday night the 9th grade girls came to Mrs. Kesselman's house for a Chinese meal followed by games created by the students, and an uplifting Dvar Torah written by Rebecca Wizman to set the tone.

After the home baked dessert made by Mrs. Kesselman, the Mechanchot walked the girls home to their hosts. On Shabbat morning the girls went from shul to Mrs. Kessselmans house for Kiddush and lunch. During the meal, Rachel Simon shared a Dvar Torah about Achdut and Kiddusha. The freshmen played games, ate candy, and returned to their hosts' homes for Seudat Shlishit. As Shabbat came an end the spirit did not die down.

The girls raced to Mrs. Kesselman's house for a final activity to end the amazing Shabbat. They cheered as the hummer limos pulled up and took off to go laser tagging. Split up into three teams, the 9th grade girls participated in a fun-filled game of laser-tag. When the game had concluded the limos took the girls to La Pizza in North Hollywood. With music blasting, students singing, and smiles on everyone's face, the Shabbaton came to its final stop at Mrs. Kesselman's house where everyone was picked up. Overall, the Shabbaton will be remembered forever as an irreplaceable experience.



EXTRACURRICULARS

YUNMUN XXVI

By Shaina Korouri '18 &
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This year, the YULA Model UN team has been practicing every week since November to prepare for the Yeshiva University National Model United Nations Conference held in February. This past month the team traveled to Stamford, Connecticut to participate in the annual Yeshiva University Model UN Conference with other Jewish schools from around the world, such as Brazil, South Africa, and the United States. Each YULA student was placed in a different committee to focus on different world topics and issues and collaborate with other students to form coherent solutions while maintaining their country's integrity and policies.

At this year's conference, students from YULA represented either France or Brazil in their committees. Each committee dealt with their topics and also dealt with a crisis topic that was presented during the actual conference, which meant that

the delegates had to solve the emergency issue without the prior preparation they had for the other topics. The YULA team is known as tough competition at the conferences and they definitely lived up to that title this year, having many students earn awards such as best delegate or honorable mention and over all winning second runner up.

This year, due to their focus and determination, Asher Willner and Rachel Samouha won best delegate and Aliza Gindi, Isabella Kest, and Aviya Zarur won honorable mention, making their team proud. The experience was incredibly enriching mentally and spiritually, not only allowing the students to demonstrate their skills but also bringing them together.



Choir

By Negin Nili '18
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One of the many extracurricular activities YULA Girls offers to their students is choir. This club consists of girls from all grades whose diverse voices come together to create wonderful music and spread inspiring messages through each song. Led by Chaya Tombosky, a mother at the school, the choir club allows the girls to utilize their talents in positive and rewarding ways. The team practices at least once a week during davening and breakfast in preparation for performances and competitions against other schools. The girls are currently preparing for an event called Rise Up that will be held at YULA Girls High School on April 5th. Rise Up is a night of artistic and musical expression for women where girls from several clubs will have a chance to reveal their talents. As the event approaches, the team meets up at least four times a week. Whether the song is Hebrew or English, the focus of choir is to inspire the audience and convey inspirational lessons. Choir enables girls to pursue their musical hobbies while making long lasting relationships with students in other grades. With great effort and practice, the YULA Girls Choir amazes their audience every time they walk on stage to perform.



Extracurriculars continued on page 5

SPORTS

Touchdown!

By Noa Radaei '18
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As the spring season rolls around, so does flag football. Although the flag football team has only been around for two years, it competes against many schools all over Los Angeles. After learning game rules and skills from their first year as a team, the current team has more experience and engages in intense practices. Practice takes place twice a week and ranges from two-mile runs, stretching, football drills, and even scrimmages. This year there are ten girls on the team, including five new seniors. Miriam Soumekh, a tenth grader who has been on the flag football team since its first year, has personally seen how much it has been improving. There are more girls on the team, the practices are more serious and intense, and the team has been working hard on truly improving and learning to work as a single unit. Miriam's favorite part of being on flag football is competing against other schools because it excites her and gives her a chance to try out what she has been practicing with the team. This season, Miriam has noticed that the team is much more connected, therefore allowing them to work better as a team and communicate well with each other. Hopefully, the new and improved flag football team will be successful this season!

Swim Shabbaton

By Madeline Rubin '19
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Talented girls from various schools flew across the country for the 2016 High School Swim Shabbaton hosted by YULA. Each team was welcomed on Thursday by their gracious hosts and was ready to compete in their first meet later that afternoon. Some girls even got to experience the annual YULA Purim Chagiga. The competition was held in Burbank on Thursday and Friday, where Milken, Shalhevet, Del Toledo, and YULA competed for first place. After Friday's competition at LACES, the swim members of every team went to the Santa Monica pier where they spent some quality time together before arriving at their hosts' houses to prepare for the Friday night meal. YULA welcomed the various schools with songs, Divrei Torahs, and delicious food, creating a memorable Friday night. The next day, YULA teachers accompanied the girls as they headed to YICC and then back to YULA for another delicious Shabbat meal catered by Dudu. The Swim Shabbaton was not only an opportunity for high school girls to show their swimming talents, but it also allowed Jewish girls from various schools to meet and build new friendships.

Softball 2016

By Parmis Fakheri '17
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Softball is a modified form of baseball played on a smaller field with a larger ball. Unlike baseball, there are seven rather than nine innings, with underarm pitching. The softball team, coached by Coach Jelly, requires the athletes to commit their time and effort as they practice regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays. On Mondays, the team meets at the Venice batting cages to enhance their batting skills. On Tuesdays, they meet at the Rancho Park baseball field to improve their teamwork skills in catching, throwing, and pitching. Yael Han, one of the many dedicated students who has committed to softball this season, has expressed, "It's my first year ever joining a sport, and I'm glad that I made the decision to join softball. It pushes me past what I thought I was capable of. Our drills and warm ups help me become strong and healthy. Furthermore, being on the team also brought me new friendships that I had never formed before. The sport forces us to work together and help each other, especially since none of us have played softball before. Overall, I'm excited to see our achievements by the end of this season, as a team."



Back on Track

By Avital Sarir '19

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This semester, students at YULA Girls High School have the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the track team. During practices, students first warm up by running a mile and then strive to achieve the personal goal that they chose at the beginning of the track season. These tasks include shot put, an exercise where a 4lb metal ball is thrown for distance, long jump, a type of running exercise in which one runs with speed towards a hurdle and jumps over it for distance, as well as other running exercises.

As track progresses and the team prepares for their next track meet, students recognize their achievements and improvements. The track meets are competitions against various schools that occur about 4 times during the season. During these meets, students use the skills they have gained during practice to compete against others. As a member of the team, I can relate that being a part of the team is truly rewarding and enjoyable, and I would recommend it to anyone.



Dodgeball is Fun!

By Elisheva Daneshrad '18

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Many students enjoy being a part of YULA's dodgeball team, not only because of the competitive aspects, but also because of the fun and amusement it brings. This year's dodgeball team consists of 9 team players: Amira Felsenthal, Tzipora Topp, Adena Loboda, Michaela Rosenberg, Bracha Rosenberg, Ayelet Topp, Hanna Gootin, Gila Kohanbash, and Ilana Aslan. The team meets once a week and spends their time practicing drills and playing against one another. The drills that they practice help them to improve their aim and ability to dodge. One of the team members, Amira Felsenthal, expresses her experience on the dodgeball team; "I love participating on the dodgeball team because it has helped me improve my athletic skills in a fun way. Dodgeball provides all the fun and exercise any other sport would provide, but without all the pressure of having to compete against other schools." With help from their coach, Jelly, the team looks forward to competing in a tournament against other YULA teams at the end of the year. As the school year continues, the students will gain additional skills and have fun by participating on the dodgeball team.

Extracurriculars continued from page 3

Introducing STEAM

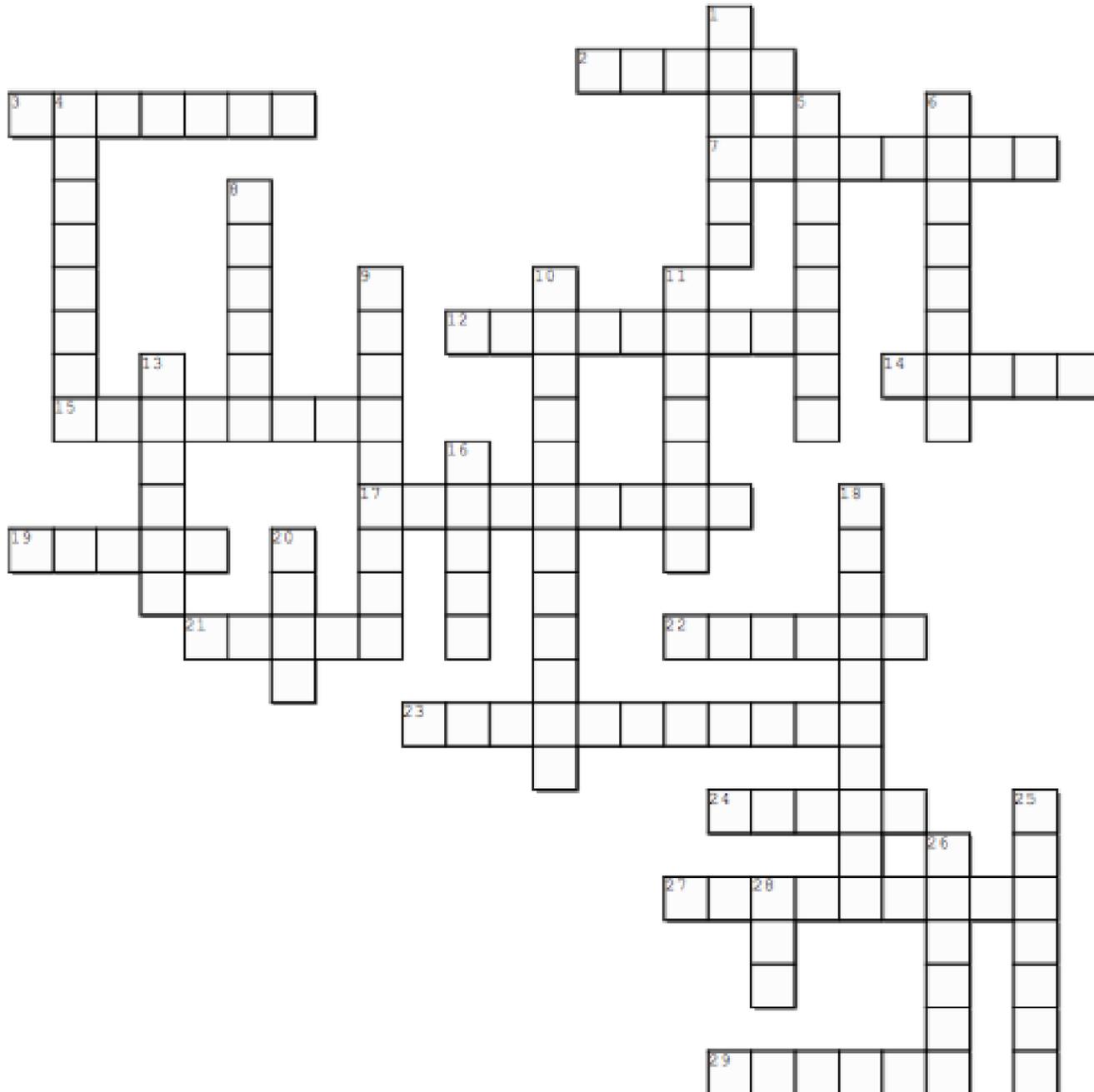
By Bayla Dermer '18

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This year, sophomores Rivkah Abrams and Tzofiya Bookstein, with the help of Ms. Magalis Martinez, have started a new Genesis club known as STEAM at YULA Girls. The STEAM club facilitates the YULA girls to connect with their artistic sides in a scientific and technological way. The club splits into two different tracks: the visual design aspect, where the girls focus more on animation and virtual reality, and the coding aspect, where the focus is app or website building and computer coding. STEAM meets for an hour, once a week, for six weeks, on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tzofiya says, "STEAM is a way for YULA girls to connect with technology in ways that appeal to them. I wanted to fulfill my own desires of learning how to animate, while simultaneously allowing other girls with similar interests to participate as well." Although the club has only met a few times, they have already laid out their plans for the rest of the year, and intend to continue STEAM next year. The animation track has already learned the basics of hand drawn and digitally based animation. The girls enrolled in the club are learning to take their ideas and bring them to life, and are excited for the many open doors that are awaiting them in the future.

Teacher Quotes

Complete the crossword below by teachers' last names only



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

- 2.** Time-out!
- 3.** You made it in 15.01 seconds. Do it again.
- 7.** If I could just please have everyone's attention
- 12.** Sorry I'm late Mr. --
- 14.** Back in weirdo school...
- 15.** I'm the tech-rabbitzen!
- 17.** Good morning geniuses!!!!
- 19.** So what's the relationship aspect...
- 21.** Just cause it looks this way doesn't mean it is this way
- 22.** I'm available during breakfast.
- 23.** Hola chicas!
- 24.** Good morning YULA Girls!
- 27.** Make a quizlet
- 29.** At my old school...

Down

- 1.** UCLA!!
- 4.** Let's make a deal
- 5.** Senior seminar in the auditorium. Please bring a pen.
- 6.** Ani Shomaat Angleet!
- 8.** Clickey!
- 9.** Get out your Gemara sheets please...
- 10.** Google it.
- 11.** Oh you're so cute!
- 13.** *Davening time* Ladies. Please stop talking.
- 16.** My classroom has turned into pandemonium!
- 18.** You're not getting a ticket!
- 20.** Yada-yada-do-do-do...
- 25.** Ask Sarah
- 26.** Stop. Rewind. Play again.
- 28.** Please go to davening in the auditorium immediately.

CHESED

Teens for Jeans

By Parmis Fakheri '17
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There are over a million homeless young adults in the US every year. One item they often request? A pair of jeans. The Solution? To run a gently used jeans drive. The organization has been collecting and then donating jeans for youths in need. Jeans are the perfect item to donate because they can be worn multiple times between washes; they can be dressed up or dressed down, and they can provide a sense of normalcy to the person wearing them. The drive accepts all types and sizes of jeans, including jean skirts.

This year, YULA took part in the Teens for Jeans challenge organized by DoSomething.org. From the end of December until February 29 YULA collected over 100 jeans. What made this challenge more exciting was that this was a competition between schools from all over. The top three collecting schools will each win a school grant and an additional \$500 to throw a party! We are currently waiting for the results of the winners to come in. Also, this upcoming spring break, my cousin and I are planning to go and personally give the jeans to the kids ourselves. We are truly excited to see the smile on their faces when they receive these amazing gifts. I hope that next year YULA has the opportunity to participate in Teens for Jeans again.



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THE PINK PANTHER

OPINION & WORLD

It's Been 84 Years...

By Miriam Waghalter '17
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As you have probably heard, Leonardo DiCaprio finally won an Oscar after six years of being nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor. An active advocate for the environment, he seized this opportunity to bring awareness to a cause that he truly cares about. He smoothly transitioned from talking about his movie, *The Revenant*, to climate change by saying that "The Revenant was about man's relationship to the natural world." He went on to say that climate change "is the most urgent threat facing our entire species."

DiCaprio did not waste a moment of his time in the spotlight. He gave up a moment that was supposed to be all about him in order to contribute to a greater cause. Rather than focus on himself, a man of great fame and wealth, he turned the attention to "the billions and billions of underprivileged people out there who would be most affected by [climate change]." DiCaprio acted as a real role model for his fans. He demonstrates that you should stand up for what you believe in. DiCaprio may have won an Oscar, but his real goal is much greater than himself.



Heated Justice

By Shira Razi '18
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Antonin Gregory Scalia was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He judged from 1986-2016 and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as part of the Court's Conservative wing. Scalia died in his sleep on the night of February 12, 2016 in Texas and according to his physician it was due to his history of heart trouble and natural causes. Scalia's death left eight justices remaining split between four fairly conservative and four fairly liberal justices. President Barack Obama, following his constitutional duty, has nominated Merrick Garland to replace Scalia. Yet, if no one is confirmed by the time he leaves office, the next president must pick the nominee. The Republican presidential candidates call for the right to have the next president choose when they potentially come into office. The Senate is refusing to even have hearings on his nomination and they will not take a vote on him in fear of the President's liberal candidate. Thus, the unfortunate death of justice Antonin Scalia has ignited a massive political battle.

THE PINK
PANTHER
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