

Arts & Entertainment

The SNL Administration

Carolina Brust, Staff Writer

During the 2016 U.S. Election, Saturday Night Live had a blast creating parodies of the campaign debates, with Alec Baldwin as Donald Trump and Kate McKinnon as Hillary Clinton. On Twitter, the President complained that "Baldwin's impersonation cannot get any worse (Dec 4, 2016)." Baldwin later replied that he'd stop once Trump released his tax returns.

These parodies have now continued past the election and into Trump's presidency. SNL started off 2017 with a

parody of the President's first press conference, poking fun at the lack of A-list performers at his inauguration and the recent rumours regarding his involvement with Russian escorts. Melissa McCarthy has now joined the growing list of impersonators, as White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer. On February 4th, the actress portrayed the excessive gum chewing and podium wielding Secretary alongside Kate McKinnon, who made an appearance as Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Sean

Spicer called the impersonation "cute and funny" on Twitter, but later called it too exaggerated.

Kate McKinnon has also gained some feedback on her impersonation of Kellyanne Conway, Trump's former campaign manager and current White House counselor. In response to SNL's "Day Off" skit, which features McKinnon on her day off from being campaign manager, Conway tweeted "We [her family and herself] got a good laugh in our crazy house (October 9, 2016)." However,

Conway does wish that McKinnon portrayed her as a happier individual. After McCarthy made her debut as Spicer, Twitter went crazy asking more celebrities to play other political figures. Rosie O'Donnell volunteered to play Chief Strategist Steve Bannon on Twitter. In a recent skit, Leslie Jones joked to her eventual portrayal of Trump. The next four years, though dark and unforeseeable, will be sure to please and excite.

Meredith Students Visit International Civil Rights Center and Museum

Laura Culpepper

On Feb. 11, the Honors and Teaching Fellows programs visited The International Civil Rights Center and Museum (ICRCM) in Greensboro, NC. Founded in 1993, the museum is housed in the historic 1929 F.W. Woolworth building where the AT&T/Greensboro Four, a group of young African-American college students—Ezell Blair, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond—began their protest on Feb. 1, 1960 by sitting at what was then a "whites only" lunch counter. While not the first lunch counter sit-in held in the U.S., the Greensboro sit-in was well-covered by the media and inspired

many other sit-ins and protests around the state and the country, leading to the desegregation of the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter and "the smashing of the despicable segregation system in the Southern United States," (ICRCM mission statement). The original Woolworth's lunch counter and stools have never been moved from their original spot. In fact, the museum was built around them. Sophomore Emily Berrier is one of multiple students taking the Honor colloquium class. "We Shall Overcome" about the Civil Rights movement, and were able to connect their experiences at the museum to their class. "Visiting

this museum while [taking] the class made the experience even more meaningful because we had talked about the Woolworth sit-ins [in class], and on this field trip were able to visit the location where [they] actually occurred," said Berrier.

The ICRCM offered a new perspective to the historical events that many may have studied or learned about over the years, which was true for sophomore Kirby Jones. "It's easy to look at events from the movement as abstractions, but seeing the photos, videos, and artifacts reminded me that they impacted very real people with hopes,

dreams, and fears of their very own," said Jones. Freshman Mimi Mays called the visit "an incredibly immersive experience," and praised the "clarity" and "depth" of the information and the experience that the ICRCM provided. The tour also left senior Imani Williams "in awe." It was an emotional, intriguing, and enlightening; and I felt pain at times and pride at other[s]. [It] offered us a great overview of the civil rights movement and the actions everyday people took to push America to live up to her own ideals," said Williams.

Circus's Last Run

Sydney Spadara, Contributing Writer

In the hearts of millions lies a reminiscent memory from the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey circus. After 146 years, 'the Greatest Show on Earth' decided to take its last bow in May of 2017. The fluorescent lights, striking costumes, energetic performers, and anticipated animals fill theaters across the country one last time in the hopes of leaving generations impacted. The theme chosen for their goodbye, 'Out of this World,' includes a circus space fleet searching for "stars" in the galaxy while combating an evil ringmaster that is attempting to take over the Ringling Bros. The story is presented on-ice and includes several special effects to complete the space mission premise. From modernized clowns and flying trapeze artists, to intergalactic aerialists and a big cat trainer, it is a contemporary spin on the classic circus seen for over a century. The

children have especially been in awe at the fast-paced routines and wildly illuminating colors. Meredith College senior Elizabeth Boyd exclaimed: "It brought back so many memories, which is why I wanted to go one last time. It was just as spectacular as I remember it being when I was little. I'm sad I won't be able to take my children!" Boyd then added, "I'm graduating this year, so in a way, this is the real end to my childhood in more way than one."

As the Ringling Bros come to a close, the extravagant memories impressed upon audiences linger on. The feelings evoked from the whimsicality that the circus provides will be missed dearly. It is an experience that makes the impossible possible through death-defying acts and effortless landings. Even for adults, the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey provides the ultimate passage into childhood for one last time.



Rebecca Daw Blum '95
(photo by Ron Yorgason for Bare Theatre)

"Shakespeare's Strong Women"

Faculty Distinguished Lecture

Tuesday 14 March 2017

7:00 p.m. - Jones Auditorium

Garry Walton, Ph.D., Professor of English and

Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

Featuring performances by current Meredith students and alumnae