

News

The Herald Briefing - Recent News

Emily Chilton and Sarah Kiser, Co-Editors-in-Chief

California - Raging wildfires have devastated Northern California, killing at least 15 people and damaging hundreds of acres of property and land. The New York Times reported that "state fire officials estimated that 17 separate fires...had burned about 115,000 acres over eight counties." The fires are still active, and tolls of dead and injured are expected to rise as firefighters continue their attempts to stop the blazes.

Harvey Weinstein - Even more women have come forward with stories of sexual harassment or assault by Harvey Weinstein, the former head of The Weinstein Company and Miramax Studios. An investigative report by the

Times came out on Thursday, Oct. 5, chronicling Weinstein's history of abuse and cover-ups. Since the report, actresses including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie have come out with their stories of harassment encounters with the erstwhile studio head; the number of accusers has grown to over a dozen.

Contraception Rollback - President Trump has changed health care law so that companies and nonprofits are no longer required to provide birth control to their employees if the company has a religious or moral objection. Roger Severino, director of the Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights described it as a "limited exemption." But health policy analysts have said

that the policy changes allows an easy loophole that any employer can claim. The attorney generals of Massachusetts and California filed lawsuits to block the new law.

Catalonia - On Sunday, Oct. 1, the Catalonia voted overwhelmingly to secede from Spain and become an independent country. However, the leader Carles Puigdemont has stated that the secession process will halt until his government can negotiate with the Spanish government in Madrid. In a speech on Tuesday, Mr. Puigdemont seemed to advocate the right and intention of Catalonia to become independent, while also hesitating to announce that independence, leaving time and goodwill to speak

with the federal government of Spain. Madrid has denounced the vote as illegal and invalid, and Spanish police attempted to stop voters from casting their ballots in multiple places during the referendum.

Local Sports - On Sunday, the Carolina Panthers overcame a multitude of penalties in the first quarter to snag a 27-24 win over the Detroit Lions. This win comes after another close one against the New England Patriots on Oct. 1. Even closer to home, NC State football has also had two recent wins against Syracuse and Louisville. Go Pack!

Information gathered from *The New York Times* and *NPR*.

Puerto Rico Still Recovering From Hurricane Maria

Rachel Crawford, News Section Editor



On Wednesday, Sept. 20, the 3.4 million people of Puerto Rico were hit by Hurricane Maria, the most powerful storm to hit the island in over 80 years. Hurricane Maria left Puerto Rico in chaos, as the storm caused immense damage to the power grid, cell reception, banking, transportation, infrastructure, homes, and public health.

San Juan mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz stated that elderly residents face the most danger because they are the most isolated and lack access to medical care. People of all ages and backgrounds have struggled to find shelter, access cash, fill their vehicles with gas, and use safe drinking water. According to the Wall Street Journal, catastrophe-modeling firm AIR Worldwide estimated that Hurricane Maria caused \$40 billion to \$85 billion in insured losses, mostly in Puerto Rico. Even the disaster managers of the area were left without answers because

they had no prior experience in handling such a catastrophic event.

President Trump's response to the storm has been mixed. On September 19th, the day before Maria hit Puerto Rico, Trump tweeted, "Puerto Rico being hit hard by monster hurricane. Be careful, our hearts are with you — will be there to help!" To help the island's recovery, Trump temporarily lifted the Jones Act, a maritime commerce law that restricts the amount of aid Puerto Rico could receive. He additionally agreed to provide federal funding for 100% of the island's needed recovery. At the same time, Trump has been criticized for the response to the crisis in Puerto Rico. He has issued condemnatory comments regarding Puerto Rico's devastation by the storm, for example in his Twitter thread beginning with, "Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from

broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble.." [sic]. Some have criticized Trump for not lifting the Jones Act earlier and for only lifting it for ten days. Mayor

Cruz has been one of Trump's strongest critics, claiming that the United States bureaucracy has not been able to prevent the deaths of Puerto Ricans.

Moments of crisis like this can feel overwhelming, but there are many ways that you can help Puerto Rico today. There are several organizations on the ground in Puerto Rico, including the One America Appeal, UNICEF, the Center for Popular Democracy, and the Unidos fund through the Hispanic Federation. To donate to the Unidos fund, which is donating 100% of funds to Hurricane Maria relief, you can text "Unidos [Amount] [Your Name]" to 41444. (An example text would look like Unidos 50 Rachel.) If you like Lin-Manuel Miranda, you can download his song "Almost Like Praying" because 100% of the proceeds from that song will go to the Unidos fund. Additionally, if you are wary of larger nonprofit organizations, you can search GoFundMe for Hurricane Maria-related crowdfunding sites run by individuals or small groups.

Photo Courtesy of Gerald Herbert/AP.

Celebrate
ENGLISH WEEK
OCTOBER 2017

MONDAY 16	TUESDAY 17	WEDNESDAY 18	THURSDAY 19	FRIDAY 20
LIT LIVE! 11 AM	ASC PERFORMS Taming of the Shrew 7:30 PM	ASC PERFORMS Sense & Sensibility 7:30 PM	DECLARE YOUR MAJOR DAY ALL DAY	ENGLISH ALUM PANEL DISCUSSION 10 AM
2ND FLOOR CAFE FACULTY/STUDENT READING	JONES AUDITORIUM PRESHOW MUSIC AT 7PM	JONES AUDITORIUM PRESHOW MUSIC AT 7PM	STOP BY DR. FITZ'S OFFICE JOE JOYNER	214 HARRIS EXPLORE YOUR ENGLISH CAREER