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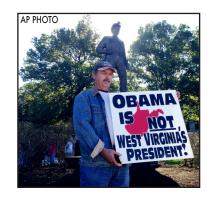
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015 | VOL. 119 NO. 34 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

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Thundering Nerds + Kenova Pumpkin House = NUMERICAL PUMPKINS



OPINION, 4 >EDITORIAL: MEAT, CANCER, ENVIRONMENT >COLUMN: POP MUSIC



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| PHOTOS B | Y ROB | ENGLE | THE PART | HENON |
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TOP: Members of Marshall's Math Club hollow out some of the 90 pumpkins that will be used in a math equation display at the Pumpkin House.

BOTTOM LEFT: What started as a hobby for Ric Griffith and his daughters has become a worldwide attraction, featuring 3,000 unique pumpkins annually.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "We actually decided that most of the equations are easy, but considering we're all math nerds that might be a little bit relative," said club member Kiersten Loony.

By ROB ENGLE THE PARTHENON

Members of Marshall University's Math Club, The Thundering Nerds, braved the rain Tuesday night to help carve some of the 3,000 pumpkins on display at the world-famous Pumpkin House in Kenova, West Virginia.

Started by Kenova resident Ric Griffith more than 30 years ago, the Pumpkin House will feature 90 pumpkins carved by the club that will be arranged into math equations and displayed for the public to solve.

Bonita Lawrence, professor of mathematics at Marshall, said she has wanted to volunteer at the Pumpkin House for years.

"I've been at Marshall for 15 years and have always brought students to the see the Pumpkin House and I always wanted to work with them," Lawrence said. "I talked to Ric to see if we could volunteer and he said, 'How

about we make it a puzzle?'"

The equations were developed by members of the club and will be displayed on a feature wall to the side of the house. House visitors will have the opportunity to write their answers on a sheet of paper until 5 p.m. Saturday. Griffith plans to announce the winners at 8 p.m. Saturday and award them with prizes.

Secondary education major Kiersten Loony said helping make this contest happen was an exciting opportunity for the brand new club.

"We have 90 pumpkins that will be displayed for everyone to see, and that's pretty big considering we just started this club this semester," Loony said. "We actually decided that most of the equations are easy, but considering we're all math nerds that might be a little bit relative."

What grew out of a hobby of carving pumpkins with his daughters became

a worldwide attraction that relies on volunteers to churn out more than 3,000 unique pumpkins in one week. "It's like finals week when you

haven't begun to study," Griffith said.

Griffith said the unique thing about the Pumpkin House is they have to recreate everything each year from scratch, from the shelving to the delivery to the design.

"I think that's one reason many people appreciate it," Griffith said. "They recognize the level of work that goes into this. I need to get the Marshall math students to figure out the manhours that go into this."

Griffith's creation has not only caught the attention of Kenova community but also the attention of media across the globe, from Australia to California to Vietnam.

"I'm a Vietnam veteran," Griffith said. "A friend of mine was traveling to Ho Chi Minh City sent me a newspapers article in Vietnamese and I could only read one things. It said, 'Ric Griffith' in the middle of it, and was all about the Pumpkin House."

Despite the acclaim, Griffith said his favorite thing about the attraction is its ability to bring people together.

"It's wonderful because I don't know any of these people," Griffith said. "They just come into my yard and say, 'How can I help?' If it were not for this hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers that come every year, this would not be possible. If I ever get to the point where if one of these kind people accidentally ruins a pumpkin and that bothers me, then I need to quit, because that not the spirit of the Pumpkin House," Griffith said.

The Pumpkin House will be on display, Griffith said, until his wife makes him take everything down.

Rob Engle can be contacted at engle17@marshall.edu.

THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

Mayor's drug control plan praised after president vist

By JOHN COLE GLOVER THE PARTHENON

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City officals continue to praise Huntington Mayor Steve Williams' drug control policy following the arrival of President Barack Obama, who highlighted the drug problem in West Virginia.

The three-pronged policy focuses on prevention, treatment and law enforcement, as opposed to the law enforcement-only approach of the past.

"We admitted we have problems," said Jim Johnson, director of the Office of Drug Control Policy. "But we are looking at innovative solutions not tried before in the state."

Johnson said the city cannot arrest its way out of the problem, but a strong law enforcement presence is drug court system. still necessary.

Johnson said demand for illegal drugs, such as heroin and other opiates, needs to be reduced in order to stop widespread use.

Bryan Chambers, director of communications for the mayor's office, said the city has been successful in bringing other groups to lend resources to deal with the national average. the issue.

were already doing remarkable work individually," Chambers said.

should be brought to a portal of recovery. Several recovery and treatment options exist in Huntington, such as the Cabell-Huntington Health Department's programs and Recovery Point.

Cabell-Huntington The Health Department implemented a syringe exchange program this year to reduce the spread of communicable diseases via needle sharing.

The exchange allows people struggling with addiction to come into contact with recovery coaches. The program exists to help addicts access key resources.

Johnson said help from Congressman Evan Jenkins, Senator Joe Manchin and Senator Shelley Moore Capito helped to expand resources in the state, like the

President Obama's visit brought the problems West Virginians have been dealing with for years back into the spotlight.

"Obama's visit reaffirmed what we were already doing," Johnson said.

West Virginia has the highest overdose death rate in the nation, at about twice

"Now is not the time to "Several of the agencies celebrate," Chambers said. "But we feel very confident."

International Film Festival returns to Marshall University

By KALYN BORDMAN THE PARTHENON

The International Film Festival has returned to Marshall University.

The festival is weeklong with six films shown three times each throughout the week.

"It's a really fun event. It's more intellectual, but it's still fun because the films have entertainment value," said Angela Jones, director of marketing and external affairs for the Marshall Artists Series.

Jones said the festival is a good way to experience other languages and cultures in an inexpensive and less timeconsuming manner.

"You can just travel around the world in a week and visit six different countries," Jones said.

Jones said some professors use the festival as a learning tool for their students. Some professors use the festival as part of their curriculum and require students to attend or offer extra credit for attendance.

"Sometimes a student may come because a professor required them to do so, but then they will come back because of how much they liked the film," Jones said.

Jones said she finds value in the festival, along with others in the Marshall family.

"The International Film Festival is an outstanding contribution to our university," said Cortney Robateau, Marshall alumna.

Robateau said the film festival is a wonderful way to bring together students, staff and alumni for evenings of cultural diversity.

Jones said she encourages students to visit the Artists Series website and come to festival. Jones said students may be surprised at how interested in the films they may become.

The films that will be shown for the fall International Film Festival include "Citizenfour" in English, "Landfillharmonic" in English and Spanish, "Phoenix" in German, "Tangerines" in Estonian and Russian, "Two Days, One Night" in French and "Wild Tales" in Spanish.

Tickets do not need to be purchased in advance. Students need to bring their student IDs to the door at the Keith Albee Theater for admittance.

Kalyn Bordman can be contacted at bordman3@marshall.edu.

Two Headed Dog Art Collective showcase

By MATTHEW PRANDONI THE PARTHENON

The Two Headed Dog Art Collective will showcase artwork from collective members and volunteers alike.

The showcase is from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 3 on 801 3rd Ave. in Huntington.

The showcase starts with a meet-andgreet with guest speaker Joe Minicozzi, the principal of Urban3 consulting company. Minicozzi will speak on how properties have different values and what those properties can produce.

After the meet-and-greet, people may spend the rest of the event browsing the artwork.

"I think it is a strength of our area," said Breanna Shell, planner for the department of development and planning in Huntington. "There are a lot of artists with the introduction of the Visual Arts aspects of the piece. Center downtown."

The art community has had a growing presence in Huntington in recent years. In October 2014, Huntington was designated as a Certified Arts Community.

Shell said one of the goals of the downtown area of Huntington.

The event will be multimedia focused. Several different forms of art will be shown. Some of the mediums include photography, performing arts and sculpture.

Sarah Lane, member of Two Headed Dog Collective, said the group wants to show pop-up art to showcase local artists. Pop-up art is 3-D art that allows viewers to look around the piece from different angles and gather different

"I like to emulate beautiful things, whether if that's with pens or words or paints," collective artist Daniel Hudson said. Hudson graduated from Marshall in the winter of 2014.

"Even though [Huntington] is a small showcase is revitalization of art in the town in West Virginia, there is still a community of creative artistic people who want to not just see their own local space be better, but want to see a better collaboration of artists in Huntington," Hudson said.

Most of the artists participating in the event are living in the area.

The Two Headed Dog Art Collective remains open to more volunteer artists. The event is free to the public.

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John Cole Glover can be contacted at glover39@ Chambers said addicts marshall.edu.

SGA visits nursing home for a Halloween surprise

By CADI DUPLAGA

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Student Government Association representatives dressed up in Halloween costumes and delivered cards to residents in the Woodland's Retirement Home.

SGA members made 85 cards and bought candy to take to the residents of the home following their Senate meeting Tuesday. Approximately 30 SGA members participated.

Members went to the main dining hall of the home and then continued to visit each of the rooms and surprise residents.

Rachel Rohrbach, Campus Life and Service chairwoman, coordinated the event for SGA. Rohrbach said the experience was very rewarding and residents appreciated everything they brought.

"One woman had stayed in her room for two weeks," Rohrbach said. "But when she found out we were there, she finally came out of her room and was excited to see us. It was nice to put a smile on all of their faces and see how something as little as cards and candy meant so much to them."

Freshman dietetics major Emma Nelson is a new member of SGA. Nelson was sworn in during the meeting Tuesday and said she thoroughly enjoyed her first SGA experience.

"Going to the retirement home was a lot more fun than I had expected," Nelson said. "All of the residents were so happy to see us and that made the experience that much more enjoyable. I hope that we continue to do more things like this to give us a little break from all of the stress and work of SGA."

SGA members stayed and visited the residences for almost two hours passing out candy and cards and taking the time to listen to residents' stories.

Several SGA members are returning to the home Thursday for a Halloween party with the residents.

Cadi Duplaga can be contacted at duplaga2@marshall. edu.



West Virginia governor taking steps to submit carbon plan

By JONATHAN MATTISE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said Tuesday he is taking steps to submit a plan to comply with federal carbon emission standards on coal-fired power plants, echoing guidance from the nation's largest miners' union earlier in the day.

The two parties staked their position even as the state and the United Mine Workers of America challenge the federal emissions requirements in court.

In a news release Tuesday, the Democratic governor said until a

the state can't afford to ignore the U.S. Envi-Agency rule, which aims to stem global warming. drawn opposition from plants. many West Virginia poli-

ticians in both major parties, including Tomblin.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, has previously called on states to refuse to send in plans to comply, with just a handful of governors making the pledge.

Any state plan that Tomblin's administration crafts still must get the approval of the Republican-led Legislature.

"If we can demonstrate that we put a lot of time and effort into developing a plan for West Virginia, we may have a better chance of lessening the harmful impacts these regulations could have on our miners, their families and communities," Tomblin said.

Union President Cecil Roberts added that the state should ask for a two-year extension to September 2018 to send in its plan. Robert's remarks came Tuesday at the Governor's Energy



legal decision is made, James Bennett holds a sign at a rally for coal industry jobs Oct. 21, next to competition from other coal the Coal Miner's Statue at the state Capitol complex in Charleston, W.V. The ronmental Protection rally coincided with a day trip to Charleston from President Barack Obama to talk about drug abuse. Speakers at the rally criticized Obama's proposed should plan to build new power The requirement has environmental rules that would limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power ral gas that can meet emissions

> for public bond financing and public-private partnerships to build new power plants.

> Tomblin's administration said he supports using the state's coal and natural gas resources at home, and wants to hear how to pay for and operate the project.

> Senate President Bill Cole, R-Mercer, said the Legislature is keeping "all options open" on how to react to whatever state plan it is dealt. After last election, the GOP in West Virginia was able to flip the Legislature for the first time in more than eight decades largely by criticizing President Barack Obama and his energy policies.

> "The Legislature will do everything it can to fully protect the interests of our state and its coal miners," Cole said in a statement.

page designed and edited by SARA RYAN | ryan57@marshall.edu

Summit at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia.

Tomblin and Roberts both mentioned that if states don't submit their own plans, they will be stuck with a federal plan created by the EPA.

"In essence, they won't care if we just say no or not," Roberts said. "They will still get what they want, and it may in fact be even worse for coal than if we had developed a (state plan)."

An extension would give time for a multistate legal challenge against the carbon standards to wind through the courts, Roberts said.

In West Virginia, the coal industry is struggling to persevere amid cheaper natural gas energy production, thinning coal seams IOHN RABY | AP PHOTO in the southern part of the state, producing regions, lousy coal markets, and regulations.

Roberts said West Virginia plants co-fired by coal and natustandards. He said a state law passed two decades ago allows

SPORTS

THE PARTHENON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015 MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Column: The overlooked evoltion of Tim Duncan

By BRADLEY HELTZEL

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The San Antonio Spurs will make its 2015-16 NBA season debut Wednesday night when it takes on the Oklahoma City Thunder at 8 p.m. on ESPN, alleviating the basketball ecosphere of the previously denied pleasures of witnessing "Spurgasms."

"Spursgasms" represent basketball's artistic novelty, a series of pinging passes working in synchronization which often result in an easy layup or a wide open 3-pointer for the team to which the term's namesake is owed. The Spurs have long headed the NBA-franchise hierarchy and have been annual championship contenders structured upon the sustained malleability of head coach Gregg Popovich and future Hall of Famer Tim Duncan.

The year-to-year success of the Spurs is what has made Duncan's career transcendent, but it is also what has curiously and egregiously made Duncan's career an ancillary topic of discussion to the sports landscape.

Duncan and the Spurs were respected during the apex of Duncan's career, which extended into the latter half of the 2000s, but the continuity of the team's winning percentage and playing style was dull in comparison to the combustible, yet brilliant Kobe Bryant-Los Angeles Lakers, the Steve Nash-engineered "Seven Seconds or Less" Phoenix Suns and even the loveable early-2000s Sacramento Kings.

Even in the current era of NBA basketball, which has been defined by the Spurs' origination of the pace-and-space style, San Antonio has been overshadowed, first by the Miami Heat's Big Three and now by the amplified version of itself-the Golden State Warriors.

Yet, as the NBA has transitioned from the days when brute post-ups and midrange isolation jumpers were the offensive norm to today's version where pick and rolls are warped within 3-point barrages, Duncan has ensured the Spurs' winning ways stand the test of time.

Duncan's adaptation to the NBA's style of play has long been an underappreciated component of his career, one that has seen his effectiveness plateau as opposed to steadily regress like so many of his peers who entered the league alongside him in the late '90s.

Duncan once stood as the prime example of NBA big men along with players such as Shaquille O'Neal and Kevin Garnett. The low block was his offenseproducing factory and the paint was his to protect, banging bodies with opposing bigs and turning back shots of driving perimeter players. Duncan won two MVPs, four titles and three Finals MVPs during this era. However, the days of post-ups and isolation offenses were beginning to be shucked from NBA playbooks in the late 2000s as the birth of analytics began to expose the inefficiencies of such strategy. Suddenly the NBA became a league of little men, with perimeter players darting around picks, needling pocket passes to rolling bigs and aligning upon the 3-point arc for shots equating to two-thirds the value of those antiquated post-ups. Duncan was forced to adjust his game and his body to continue the winning traditions he helped implement in San Antonio. Duncan lost nearly 20 pounds between the 2010-11 season and the 2011-12 season, evidenced by his clearly-visible stretch marks, as the offense had evolved away from Duncan postups and toward point guard Tony Parker operating in pick and rolls with shooters abound. The evolution of the NBA's preferred style of generating points through pick and rolls or pick and pops has coalesced with the percentage of big men's buckets that come via an assist. Duncan's scoring methods showcases an adopted modern-day skillset of being able to pop out for midrange jumpers, while also possessing the spryness, nimbleness and coordination to catch and finish on rolls to the rim.

Men's soccer snaps winless streak



Junior midfielder Daniel Jodah possesses the ball in a match against Liberty last season.

By IMANI SPRADLEY THE PARTHENON

In what was a game filled with constant rain showers, Marshall University's men's soccer team defeated Shawnee State University 3-0 Tuesday at Hoops Family Field. Marshall head coach Bob Gray said the weather played a factor in the game.

"The condition obviously changed the game a little bit for both teams," Gray said.

weather.

With the win, the Herd moves to 5-8-1 (0-5-1 C-USA) and snaps its eight-game winless streak. Marshall was 0-7-1 in its last eight games.

"I'm happy to get the win," Gray said. "It's been a while snice we tasted a victory."

Senior Jack Hopkins, who scored However, Gray said his team his first goal of the season for Marwas able to execute despite the shall, said he was anxious to finally get on the scoreboard.

> "I kind of did a shot-fake and went around and scored," Hopkins said.

Hopkins said he looks forward to the Herd's next game against the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which is his hometown team.

"This is biggest game of the year to me," Hopkins said. "I play the best against UAB because I grew up playing with a lot of their players."

The Herd faces the Blazers at 7 p.m. Saturday on the team's senior night at Hoops Family Field in Huntington.

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Marshall football adds Boise State to schedule in 2019 and 2020

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In the 2009-10 season, 55.1 percent of Duncan's 2-point field goals were assisted the highest mark of his career for a single season. Since, Duncan's percentage of assisted 2-point field goals has risen in each season (58.5, 61.5, 66.6, 66.9 and 73.9).

Duncan's evolution as a player has extended his years of NBA championship contention as a key cog to his team's success. He has grappled the new skillset of big men required to thrive in today's NBA offenses, and although his strength in the post has deteriorated and his mangled left knee has made his movements arduous, Duncan has maintained his defensive acumen, ranking as one of the better rim protectors in the league last season allowing just a 47 percent shooting clip.

With the addition of former Trail Blazers power forward LaMarcus Aldridge this offseason, the Spurs are primed to be amongst the lead competitors for the Larry O'Brien Championship trophy in June again this season. And Duncan will be an integral piece, finishing pick and rolls despite deteriorated athleticism, snaring rebounds with a bum knee and somehow managing to block shots without jumping.

So when you see that first "Spurgasm" of the season Wednesday, remember that Tim Duncan made it all possible by altering his game and successfully bridging the gap of two offensive eras of NBA basketball.

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University football program announced Tuesday it has agreed to play a homeand-home series with Boise State University.

Marshall will travel to the Bron-Albertsons cos' Stadium in Boise, Idaho Sept. 21, 2019, while Boise State will come to Joan C. Edwards Stadium Oct. 3, 2020.

Marshall athletic director Mike Hamrick tweeted about the announcement Tuesday. The tweet read:

"Our program has taken a huge

step with our @ BroncoSportsFB series. We are a National brand and we won't

take a backseat to anyone. #BEHERD" Boise State is one of the more successful Group of Five programs in the country, and earned a spot in last year's Fiesta Bowl as the Group of Five representative in one of the College Football Playoff's six "access bowls" or New Year's Six bowls. Boise State was also the only of Group of Five team to finish in the

CFP top 25 last season. Boise State and Marshall were amongst the



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO The Marshall University football team prepares to take the field for its Homecoming Game against the University of North Texas Saturday.

one of the New Year's Six bowls last season as the teams were ranked 23rd and 24th, respectively in the committee's rankings on Nov. 25. Marshall's loss to Western Kentucky University three days later dropped the Herd out of contention for the spot.

Boise State and Marshall have played just once in its respective histories, with the Broncos defeating the Herd 28-24 in the 1994 NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

thee of its four non-conference opponents set for 2019, while all four have been determined in 2020.

In 2019, the Herd will play the University of Cincinnati and Ohio University at home Sept. 14 and Sept. 28, respectively, and will play at Boise State Sept. 21.

In 2020, the Herd will play the University of Pittsburgh and Boise State at home Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, respectively, and will play at East Carolina University and at Ohio Sept. 5

With the addition of Boise State to its top competitors for the Group of Five spot in schedule in 2019 and 2020, Marshall has and Sept. 19, respectively.

Marshall diver earns weekly conference honor

HERDZONE

Marshall University diving junior Megan Wolons has been named the Conference USA Diver of the Week, the league office announced Tuesday.

Wolons was the key diver for Marshall in the Herd's victories against the University of Cincinnati and the Virginia Military Institute

Friday.

It was the first time Wolons earned the honor. The junior won the 3-meter event with a score of 260.70. She then finished runnerup in the 1-meter event, posting a score of 241.35.

The Thundering Herd opened its home season with an impressive upset victory over

Cincinnati, defeating the Bearcats 126-117. The Herd also topped VMI 125-20. Marshall swimming and diving is back in action Friday and Saturday in Davidson, North Carolina where it will face Davidson College and Old Dominion University.

Friday's event starts at 6 p.m. and Saturday's competition begins at 10 a.m.

) PINION

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST | The Constitution of the AMENDMENT | United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

BE HERD: GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the letters that are posted on The editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discre- in the columns and letters tion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's resent the views of The request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

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EDITORIAL Meat may cause cancer, but there are other reasons to cut back



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE | AP PHOTO

FILE - In this Jan. 18, 2010 file photo, steaks and other beef products are displayed for sale at a grocery store in McLean, Va. The meat industry is seeing red over the dietary guidelines. The World Health Organization's cancer agency said Monday that processed meats such as ham and sausage can lead to colon and other cancers, and red meat is probably cancer-causing as well.

A report by the World Health Organization released earlier this week linked processed meats (such as bacon, sausage and ham) to cancer to accept the facts.

The bad news is WHO is

have health benefits. Like anything else, if you're going to eat meat, you need to do it in moderation.

Cutting back on meat in our the environment, as the meat probably right, and anyone industry is one of the worst the environmental impact. environmental offenders.

the meat industry is hurting to take is switching to locally the environment. There are sourced, organic, pasturestill greenhouse gas emis- raised, grass-fed animals for sions, fertilizer and pesticide both meat and dairy needs. and the Internet is not ready diets isn't just for our own use to feed the animals and health, but for the health of antibiotic use to keep them new scientific information healthy to be considered in as a burden on your lifestyle,

iceberg when it comes to how consumption, the next step

Instead of thinking of this

who thought about it beyond his or her taste buds probably could have figured out that processed meat isn't good for us.

The good news is the report also stressed that meat does

Scientific American reported in 2011 water pollution from factory farms can produce as much sewage waste as a small city and that is only the tip of the environmental

Most people could cut down to only eating meat three to four times a week and that would be a vast improvement over meat at nearly every meal.

After cutting down meat our hipster meat trends.

reframe it as a way you can make a difference and feel good about what you are consuming.

Bacon might be cool, but cancer isn't and neither is destroving our planet to fulfill



COLUMN

SCREEN SHOT | TWITTER

Just because it's pop doesn't mean it's about love.

By MEGAN OSBORNE

MANAGING EDITOR

If you know anything about Grimes (Claire Boucher), you know she loves mainstream pop music, even though her own style is more alternative. Music media rejoiced Monday when her video "Flesh without Blood/Life in the Vivid Dream" debuted two tracks off her upcoming album that were true pop, atypical of her usual quirky style.

"Flesh without Blood" is a wonderful track. Initially, the sound screams pop, but the mechanics are anything but-there's still something edgy about the sound, something ethereal yet dark as is characteristic in Grimes's production. But unless you're familiar with Grimes's work, it may be easy to miss her little touches at first.

Although it is as true-to-genre as pop can get, the subject matter is not love-oriented as so many pop songs are and like some publications were quick to assume, as Boucher voiced on her Twitter account Tuesday, tweeting "Flesh without Blood isn't about a breakup! I don't write about love anymore," followed by multiple plate-of-spaghetti and skull emojis.

Multiple publications, major ones at that, interpreted the song as a breakup song. Pitchfork chalked "Flesh without Blood" up as "a blow-out pop song about getting over an ex" and Rolling Stone called it "a biting, punk-pop breakup jam."

At first listen, the lyrics make it easy to see where the misinterpretation was. The first verse certainly reads like a breakup song: "Remember when we used to say / 'I love you' almost every day / I saw a light in you / Going out as I closed our window / You never liked me anyway."

But if we know anything about pop songs or lyrics in general, we know everything is not what it initially reads to be. "Can't Feel My Face," for example, on the surface seems to be a love song, but it's definitely about cocaine (I know this thanks to the dudes at Switched On Pop).

Few of Grimes's songs are explicitly love-oriented and those that are have feminist undertones, so making the blind assumption that "Flesh without Blood" is a breakup song just shows how quick we are to associate pop with love, because that's what sells and it's what people understand.

And, it shows how quick we are to confine women of pop (or any

genre, for that matter) to writing about relationships. Do we have to revisit Sarah Bareilles?

But placing Grimes in that category is doing the artist a disservice. Though this track sounds like something that could more readily fit into a mainstream audience's ears, that's not a reason to categorize the meaning behind the lyrics as cookie-cutter as well.

I've never been one to be decent at poetry analysis, as my English teachers would just look at me blankly when I offered my interpretations of Robert Frost poems and I won't get into what they thought of my E. E. Cummings analysis. But what I see happening in "Flesh without Blood" is possibly some kind of internal struggle. Whatever the meaning could be, the video shows enough evidence against it being a love song, even without Boucher's Twitter announcement.

Boucher also said these two tracks aren't representative of anything else on "Art Angels" which will be available Nov. 6th. Until then, I'll be digging into the video, anxiously awaiting whatever stylistic cocktail of an album Grimes has cooked up.

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