

# Letter From The Editor

In my two years at the helm of *Brainstorm* I have always tried to adhere to the following philosophy: publish bold, well-articulated opinions pieces that spur constructive debate. I hope you find our latest attempt to be no exception. In this edition, *Brainstorm* takes a look at the early stages of Donald J. Trump's presidency. But before we get to that, I'd like to take a moment to step back and appreciate how much our world has changed since my first issue of *Brainstorm*.

Back then, in January 2016, Trump had yet to even win a primary election or caucus and the idea of him winning the presidency seemed inconceivable to most people. Similarly, at the time, the prospect of the United Kingdom voting to leave the European Union seemed fantastical. But both indeed happened as part of a wave of populism. A global movement in which ordinary citizens successfully demonstrated their disgust with the neoliberal consensus that had formed among Western policy-makers in the post-World War II era.

All of this is an overly long-winded way of saying that it's worth reminding ourselves how arrived at one the most extraordinary political periods in the history of our nation. We have a president who seems fundamentally unable to competently fulfill the duties of his office, who is beset by self-inflicted wound after self-inflicted wound, who has backtracked on many popular campaign promises, and who is unwilling to make even the meekest attempt to adapt to his new life. These facts aren't exactly surprising given the Trump we saw on the campaign trail. But some of us who supported him held out hope that he understood the hope he had given people and was committed to carrying out his promises. We thought that the presidency would humble him. It hasn't.

The other major actor in the Trump soap opera is media, a collection of mostly cosmopolitan elites who appear more committed to bringing down the Trump presidency than to honest reporting. This isn't to say they have not done good work in exposing some of the misdeeds of the Trump Administration, but the media has never attacked a president with the same level of vitriol and hatred. Sure, President Trump and his staff are partially responsible for this dynamic, but even that said, it seems

clear that the press has never shown such blatant hostility to another administration (especially during its infancy). Even during the George W. Bush's unpopular second term, the media never displayed such nastiness on a personal level towards the president. It's simply unhealthy for the country or its political system for the press to be so blatantly political.

It's unhealthy because it leaves our country without any authoritative journalistic voices. Liberals flock to MSNBC and CNN to hear mostly innuendo about Trump and Russia, while Republicans hunker down with Fox News Channel to get a break from the constant anti-Trump drumbeat from the mainstream media. All this does is lead to even further political polarization. The best way to combat this is for the mainstream press to genuinely reexamine its coverage. It needs to hire more conservatives in its newsrooms, do a better job making sure its coverage is balanced, and behave with much more restraint and deliberateness. At the same time, President Trump and some of his supporters should stop dismissing every unfavorable story as "fake news."

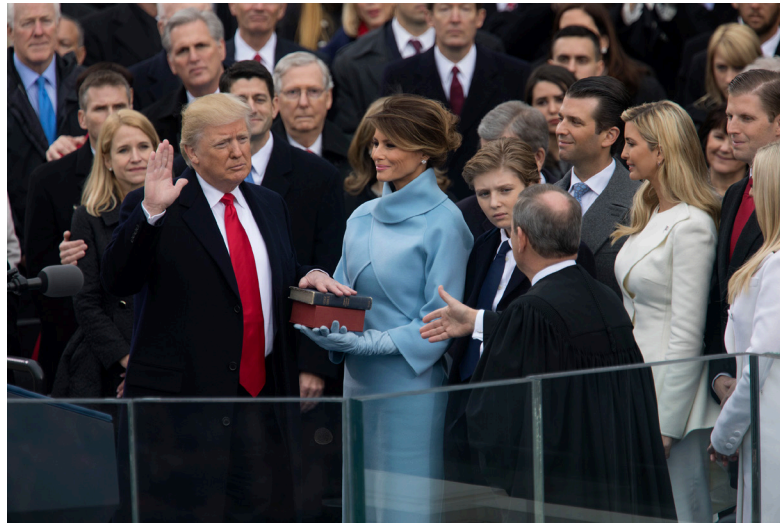
Unfortunately, these goals seem unlikely in the current political climate, and I fear we will keep spiraling down the same dangerous path we're on. Where it finally ends is anyone's guess.

Changing gears, as I have already alluded to, this will be my final issue as editor of *Brainstorm*. It has truly been an honor and pleasure to bring you the thoughts and opinions of the KYHS student body. I have loved running this publication and will miss it dearly. This will also be the final issue for Managing Editor Jonathan Leff, Design Director Aaron Senfeld, and Assistant Editors Leora Kroll, Lana Rosenthal, and Sara Merkin. A captain is nothing without his crew and their hard work has been vital to *Brainstorm's* publication.

Avital Shapiro will assume the position of editor in chief next year. I am confident that *Brainstorm's* reputation for high-quality writing will continue under her leadership.

Farewell,

*Matthew A.  
Samilow*



## The First Hundred Days: A Success

BY AVITAL SHAPIRO

Donald Trump made many bold, and often controversial, promises during his campaign. Many were labeled as radical, unrealistic, racist, sexist, and xenophobic by Democrats, the media, and even many Republicans. But the country chose to elect Trump and he has begun to make good on his promises during his first hundred days.

There was perhaps no singular policy that better defined the the Trump Campaign than the pledge to construct a wall along the southern border with Mexico (and have Mexico pay for it). The "build the wall" chant was a ubiquitous feature at Trump's raucous rallies and Trump made the promise a central plank of his campaign platform. But many dismissed the promise as ridiculous and suggested that Trump was, to borrow a phrase from the candidate, "all talk, no action."

President Trump's first hundred days have shown that he is most certainly serious about the wall's construction. He signed an executive memorandum instructing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to begin construction preparations. Already, DHS has allocated money to the wall's construction and has solicited prototypes from firms bidding for the wall contract. DHS has mandated that the prototypes be submitted by July.

In addition to his efforts to secure the southern border,

President Trump has spoken at length about the threat that Islamic terrorism poses to the United States and Western World. In an attempt to follow through on his campaign promise to implement "extreme vetting" of those entering from terror-prone regions, Trump signed an executive order that temporarily halted foreign nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries—Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Syria, and Yemen from entering the United States. It also paused refugee admissions for 120 days and permanently ended the Syrian refugee program. The order proved controversial in the court of public opinion and was eventually halted by the federal court system. President Trump understands the threat of radical Islam and has tried to protect the homeland; he will succeed when the courts finally cooperate.

The untimely death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016 raised the stakes of an already critically important election. During the campaign, Trump released a list of approximately twenty committed conservatives he would consider appointing to the High Court. One of the those names was Neil M. Gorsuch. Justice Gorsuch, despite his stellar legal and academic credentials, faced historic opposition from Senate Demo-

crats (despite having almost unanimous support to sit on the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 2006). Nevertheless, President Trump and Senate Republicans managed to confirm a man whose fidelity to the constitution and rule of law is unquestioned. He will likely sit on the court for decades and will be an enduring legacy of the Trump Presidency.

The most obvious failure of President Trump's first hundred days is the botched repeal of the Affordable Care Act. To be honest, the American Health Care Act was a highly flawed bill from the start and Trump is likely better off that it did not pass. However, his support for the failed bill has left him in a precarious situation. Instead of just trying to pass any bill, the Trump Administration should spend some time crafting a fundamentally sound bill that can address the actual problems with Obamacare. (but this obviously easier said than done).

The Trump Administration has also been committed to following through on the campaign promise to undo President Obama's job killing environmental regulations. One of President Trump's first actions in office was to greenlight the approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The project had been in development hell as the Obama Administration refused to approve the pipeline, citing environmental concerns. While fossil fuels certainly contribute to climate change, the pipeline would be no more environmentally unfriendly than other transportation methods, according to the State Department. Approving construction will create over a thousand jobs, have a negligible effect on the planet, and is consistent with the The Trump Administration's vow to end "the theft of American prosperity."

Despite media portrayal of the first hundred days as a failure, a quick look at the facts reveals that, President Trump has, despite a few setbacks, begun to fulfill many of his campaign promises. I can only expect that his success will continue throughout the rest of his first term and beyond.

## Brainstorm To Get A New Editor

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Avital Shapiro ('18) will be the next editor in chief of *Brainstorm*, taking over for departing senior Matthew A. Samilow. She will be the sixth editor of the publication.

Also joining the masthead next

year are Yonah Y. Frieden as deputy editor, Emma Frank as copy editor, and Sydney Freedman and Talia Stauber as assistant editors.

Together, they will continue *Brainstorm's* commitment to publishing lucid, intelligent opin-

ions pieces from all sides of the political spectrum.

More personnel announcements may follow in the fall. *Brainstorm* will publish its next issue in Fall/inter 2017.

# Haley is a Stabilizing Influence on Trump Foreign Policy

BY YONAH FRIEDEN

To be completely frank: there are many positive aspects to President Trump's agenda, but his foreign policy has been disjointed, contradictory and unpredictable. He even said as much himself when he was asked what his plans were for the Syrian conflict. He said, "I don't have to have one specific way, and if the world changes, I go the same way. I don't change. Well, I do change." Seems like he's got it all under control.

While Trump himself may be in over his head on foreign policy, he made a shrewd move in appointing former South Carolina Governor Nikki R. Haley the United States ambassador to the United Nations. A rising star in the G.O.P. establishment, Haley has the necessary tenacity and guts to stand up for the American values on the world stage. With her folksy attitude and memorable punch lines, she has taken and will continue to take the U.S. on a successful path to greatness. Haley, despite her lack of foreign policy experience, is surprisingly well-versed in global affairs and has the moxie and know-how to combat several long standing issues.

She treads carefully in her public statements, carefully walking a tightrope between the quasi-isolationist Trump administration and a traditional Republican foreign policy. Haley nonetheless remains one of the more hawkish members of Trump's foreign policy teams. Since her appointment, Haley has been focusing on three major global crises: the North Korean situation, the Syrian Civil War, and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The North Korean conflict has proved an early thorn in the side of the Trump Administration. While President Trump espouses an "America First" foreign policy, there are concerns over whether action, be it diplomatic or militaristic, must be taken against the nuclear-capable regime. Haley's strategic and cautious foreign policy is directly evident within her response to this issue at the UN and in regard

to the North Korean weapons program. She stated last month, "Look, can we change the way North Korea thinks? No. They're not going to cave. China can, and that's the part we want to look at."

It is surprising that someone with little foreign policy experience has such foreign policy expertise. She saw what happened with Carter and Clinton and North Korea in 1994. The U.S. stopped North Korea from acquiring nuclear power under the Agreed Framework in the short-term, but the long-term effect was outrageous: North Korea was able to nuclearize. She knows not to fall into the same negotiation traps that more naive past presidents have. With North Korea, a different approach is necessary.

Look at it this way: China is North Korea's biggest ally. In 2000, trade was capped at about 500 million while in 2014, the two countries' trade amounted to 6.86 billion. That massive increase in trade underscores the economic leverage China hold over North Korea. Now look at the current situation: North Korea's behavior is increasingly threatening and can no longer just be ignored. China has the power to help reign in the regimes dangerous behavior but chooses not to help. Haley understands this. She gets that the way to put pressure on Kim Jong-Un is to get China to cooperate. Haley said last month, "I know China says they're worried about North Korea. I know China wants to see North Korea stop with the testing. Prove it. Prove it."

With this approach Haley accomplishes two main goals. She puts "America First" by emphasizing that other countries must do their part to solve world problems and not rely on the United States to be the sole policeman, and she puts pressure on China to translate their words about North Korea into substantive action.

With Russia too, Haley displays clear diplomatic acuity. She stands for American values in the U.N. and condemns Russia for condoning human rights violations and in-

ternation al law violations.

In her first appearance at the U.N. Security Council she declared, "The United States continues to condemn and call for an immediate end to the Russian occupation of Crimea." She furthermore stated that, "Crimea is a part of Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control over the peninsula to Ukraine."

She further rebuked Russia for supporting an Assad regime that violates human rights. She rhetorically asked UN Security Council in relation to the recent chemical attack in Syria, "How many more children have to die before Russia cares?" while holding up photographs of the dead children who died in the attack. She concluded with this: "They made an unconscionable choice. They chose to close their eyes to the barbarity. They defied the conscience of the world." Haley is the type of representative America needs to participate in international relations: someone who stands up to and criticizes nations that are complicit in human rights abuses.

Many critics, and even allies, have pointed out that her position on Russia seems conflicts with President Trump's as he desires closer ties with Russia and wants to team up to defeat ISIS. This is true, but he appears to have no problem with Haley criticizing Russia in front of the UN. In fact, Haley said that "The president has not once called me and said 'don't beat up on Russia,' he has not once called me and told me what to say." That Trump has not asked Haley to refrain from criticizing Russia should be taken as tacit support for her statements. His support for Haley's comments likely means that even he under-



stands that the Russian influences must be contained. In Russia's particular case, Haley is putting meat on the bones of otherwise poorly fleshed out policy and approach. With Russia and other issues, Haley effectively serves to clear up uncertainties that many have about the Trump Administration's foreign policy.

Not only will she clear up the uncertainty that surrounds the current Trump doctrine, but she will also right wrongs committed by previous administration. Specifically, she will rectify the Obama Administration's flagrantly misguided policies toward Israel. As Haley stated emphatically at AIPAC's Policy Conference, "The days of Israel-bashing are over." After mistakes in the Obama administration such as the abstention from U.N. Resolution 2334, Haley pledges to return America back to its legacy of staunch support for Israel. One way she will accomplish this is by fighting against the bias against Israel that exists at the United Nations. The absurd double standard against Israel at the U.N. is widely known.

Here is an example: this past year at the annual legislative session at the U.N. General Assembly, twenty resolutions were passed against Israel while six resolutions were passed against all other countries combined. When there are clear human rights violations and atrocities occurring everyday in countries such as Syria and Iran, why are so many at the U.N. solely focused at crushing the only bona fide

democratic and egalitarian society in the Middle East? The reason is clear: there is a U.N. bias against Israel. Haley, however, promises to stop it.

As Haley admits, she only tells "the truth." And the truth is, Israel is not the human rights violator. Israel is not the threat. The truth is that many parts of the world have a sinister political agenda against Israel and concurrently allow absolute chaos to reign throughout the rest of the world. Haley, however, will fight for what is right and she will try to end the prejudice against Israel. She even told those who believe her goals to be unrealistic, "For anyone who says you can't get anything done at the U.N., they need to know there's a new sheriff in town."

Haley has already demonstrated success at the U.N. as a representative for the U.S. and president of the Security Council. She will fight against the U.N. bias against Israel. She will fight against Russia. She will fight against North Korea. But most importantly, she will fight for American values. Nikki Haley is the savior to the confusing Trump doctrine and the world must recognize it. As Secretary of State Rex Tillerson fumbles in his position, Haley will be there to represent America abroad. She will be the face of American foreign policy and she will represent us honorably. If anything, Haley might fulfill President Trump's promise to the nation and world: she could possibly make America great again.

## Yet Another Insanely Difficult Trivia Quiz

1. What is the name of President Trump's body guard who delivered James B. Comey's termination letter?
2. *The Washington Post* published a story claiming that President Trump told Russian diplomats highly classified information. From which country did this intelligence come from?
3. The same *New York Times* reporter broke the story on the Clinton email scandal and Comey memo? What is this reporter's name?
4. Who was Mr. Comey's predecessor?
5. What is the name of Hillary Clinton's newly created political action committee (PAC)?

6. True or false: Donald J. Trump is the first sitting president to visit the Western Wall?
7. Why did President Trump, reportedly, nix a visit to the desert fortress Masada?
8. Name the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who was recently nominated to a new two year term.
9. What is Tiffany Trump's middle name?
10. Fox News recently fired this co-host of *The Five* for using a racial slur?

1. Keith Schiller 2. Israel 3. Michael S. Schmidt 4. Robert S. Mueller III 5. Onward Together 6. True 7. Couldn't land helicopter 8. Joseph Dunford 9. Ariana 10. Bob Beckel

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