

Thank you for picking up this edition of Pitt Political Review.

The past year has been a significant transition for our organization. We began with a staff almost entirely composed of new writers, many of whom were just beginning their Pitt careers.

When I joined PPR, I was one of only three first-year students on staff. Bringing in such a large crop of untested writers this fall was daunting, but they have more than proven that there is no age requirement for being curious. Ultimately, that is the key trait to a valuable perspective and a quality PPR member.

Our writers and editors are not just political science majors with something to say. Many are on the path to becoming engineers and doctors. We certainly have our fair share of future lawyers or judges. Some of these individuals might end up being discussed in PPR decades from now, while others will be in the streets protesting them.

One thing is for certain: they will one day change the world and the lives of those in it.

Writing for an undergraduate journal may not be equal to any of those in the grand scheme of things, but I hope that PPR has at least provided the same degree of fulfillment that it gave me as a young writer. It has been an incredible experience watching people discover their voices and make it heard however they can. That I could provide their outlet is an honor and a pleasure.

Helping them escape the five paragraph essays of high school is just an added bonus.

While we take great pride in our roster of contributors, our main priority remains providing readers with substantive, balanced content. In that regard, nothing has changed for us. As they do each and every year, PPR's writers have spent months perfecting their research and prose. The result is a testament to the intellectual depth of our campus.

These pages contain everything from a survey of Spain's fracturing political landscape to explanations into how third party candidates affect electoral outcomes. We cover the history behind American perceptions of Iran and opine on whether judicial elections are undemocratic.

PPR has never restricted itself to basic policy analysis alone. There is a place for student insight into international healthcare and economics, and it is just beyond this note. If it seems like we cast too wide a net, it's simply because the world is too interesting for one publication to answer all of its questions.

But we will continue trying to do so anyway. I encourage you to check back next year and see how we do.

In the meantime, find a way to join the conversation, and if you are ever interested, come help these incredible individuals lead it.

Henry Glitz
Editor-in-Chief

4 THIRD WORLD WAR

Lauren Schlusser

12 RECLAIMING THE CENTER

Marjorie Smith

16 U.S. HEALTHCARE

Daphne Myers

20 DRINKS ON US

Cover Story | Jacob Pavlecic

25 DEMOCRACY

Mary Dryer

28 SHAHS AND SANCTIONS

Henry Glitz

37 RUSSIA'S HEALTHCARE

Madeline Kehl

43 RENEWABLE ENERGY

Andrew Johnson

49 UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

Mary Dryer