

# NEWS



**CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Mara Grau

**NEWS EDITOR**

Halle Martin

**SPORTS EDITOR**

Ben Diers

**ARTS & VARIETY EDITOR**

Matthew Jung

**OPINION EDITOR**

Courtney Holloway

**COPY EDITOR**

Anna Fritze

**PHOTO EDITOR**

Victoria Turcios

**ART DIRECTOR**

Genesis Carreon

**FACULTY ADVISOR**

Eric Dregni

**WRITERS**

Alexandria Gosen  
Lucy Vang  
Ethan Langemo  
Harry Lien  
Mara Akway  
Anna Fritze  
Richard Mahle  
Kennedy Williams  
Isabella D'Burke  
Jaid Perry  
Aidan Farley  
Andrew Wylie  
Brooke Steigauf  
Thomas Bennett  
Davina Bellinger  
Victoria Turcios

**LAYOUT DESIGNERS**

Elena Griggs  
Carli Bruckmueller

**ILLUSTRATORS**

Brooke Steigauf  
Sierra Ross

## A Non-Political Twitter

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

Twitter is officially banning political ads from its site. The Internet holds a lot of power, and Jack Dorsey, chief executive of Twitter, is actively recognizing this power, and attempting to do some good with it. Dorsey has expressed concern over the power, manipulation, and influence ads can produce, some of which can be false or misleading. The New York Times writes quoting Dorsey, "he said he is worried the ads had 'significant ramifications that today's democratic infrastructure may not be prepared to handle.'" Dorsey recently tweeted that "political message reach should be earned not bought." However, he did not go into detail as to why this is Twitter's approach.

---

"[...] it's not credible for us to say: 'We're working hard to stop people from gaming our systems to spread misleading info, buuut if someone pays us to target and force people to see their political ad... well... they can say whatever they want!';)"

Twitter Chief Executive Officer, Jack Dorsey

---

Dorsey's actions are in direct opposition to Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg's plan for advertisement on Facebook. Zuckerberg is allowing all forms of political advertisements, even if the claims are false. Zuckerberg's explanation is that the original use of Facebook was to give users a voice and a greater reach for connecting with people.

Democrats have been going after Facebook for its decision. This includes the campaign for former Vice President Joe Biden. According to The New York Times, hundreds of Facebook employees have signed a letter of protest, requesting Zuckerberg to reconsider. Though Twitter may appear heroic in this instance, they have been receiving much backlash from Republicans. President Trump's campaign manager, Brad Pascal, said that Twitter's decision was a partisan act intended to silence conservatives. Pascal is quoted in calling this "a very dumb decision."

Several Democratic representatives jumped to Twitter's defense. New York Representative, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, stated, "if a company cannot or does not wish to run fact basic fact-checking on paid political advertising, then they should not run political ads." Montana Governor, Steve Bollock, also defended Twitter when he tweeted, "Good. Your turn, Facebook."

There has been a lot of back and forth between political representatives, Twitter, and Facebook. Dorsey fought back against Facebook by tweeting, " [...] it's not credible for us to say: 'We're working hard to stop people from gaming our systems to spread misleading info, buuut if someone pays us to target and force people to see their political ad... well... they can say whatever they want!';)"

With all the backlash and controversy over this, it really begs the question, what are our values online and what should be represented? This small debate has erupted into a volcano of bickering, name-calling, and accusing online; it is seemingly the tip of the iceberg with what's to come in the upcoming election year.

## Airbnb to Start Verifying Listings

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

Airbnb is proving how they value the comfort and safety of its renters by now verifying all its listings. The CEO, Brian Chesky, has made comments on his goal to make Airbnb one-hundred percent verified by the end of 2020. This does not mean that there will be Airbnb officials going to every single AirBnB listing; in fact, this will primarily be a community-based system. Through a combination of corporate and consumer examinations, customers will be asked to rate, take pictures, and review their individual experiences at different locations.

Seeing as this will take approximately a year to accomplish completely, AirBnB will be very clear when identifying verified and not verified locations. While people finish verifying listings currently on Airbnb, Chesky has openly asserted that another goal of theirs is to verify new listings almost immediately.

Airbnb is putting a great amount of effort into improving the safety of its customers. This all started after several incidents, including but not limited to a recent shooting in Orinda, CA. This has also led to a ban on Airbnb party houses. Chesky tweeted, "Starting today, we are banning 'party houses,' and we are redoubling our efforts to combat unauthorized parties and get rid of abusive host and guest conduct, including conduct that leads to the terrible event in Orinda. Here's what we are doing: First, we are expanding manual screening on high-risk reservations flagged by our risk detection