

Photo of the Day | Domain expansion: infinite snow days



Students each lunch together at McMahon dining hall on Feb. 23, 2026. Classes were cancelled, so dining halls were popular areas to relax.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The death of the Republican Party

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President Donald Trump has destroyed the Republican Party with his attitude of “if you’re not MAGA, you’re not Republican.” The party that once stood for the Constitution now views it as a set of mere suggestions, a piece of paper that has little to no weight when it isn’t useful to him. I would go as far to say Trump is not a Republican, he is his own party — a cult of personality that rewards loyalty and suppresses free thought. People can be in good standing one day, but the next the president is blasting them on Truth Social and calling for them to be primaried.

If you look back at presidential candidates, you might notice the last Republican before Trump to win the GOP presidential primary was Mitt Romney. If Mitt Romney were to run today for office, the MAGA crowd and politicians would call him a RINO (Republican in Name Only). In fact, before Romney’s retirement, they did. The man who used to be face of the party was relegated to its margins and discarded. This shift over time shows the fracture of the GOP into the party of Trump and the party of others.

The split itself began in 2015 with the announcement from Donald Trump that he would seek the GOP’s presidential nomination. To many Republi-

cans at the time, they thought it was a joke nomination. Across the aisle, people imagined his success as a far-fetched possibility. Even after his victory in the Republican Primary, many still said that Democratic Nominee Hillary Clinton would be victorious in the national election. After Trump’s unexpected victory over Clinton many Republicans began a complete turnaround. This flip was in fact because he had won. Republicans began to scramble to find favor with the president to gain influence at their respective levels. They wanted to be close and attempt to be suitable for jobs within Trump’s first White House. This was followed by the 2018 midterms, where the first of many MAGA politicians began to spring up and shift electoral seats to the right by riding off Trump’s agenda. As a result, some of his previous critics became vocal supporters, using his agenda and rhetoric to boost their own campaigns and hopefully get the coveted Trump Endorsement.

Now, the sad fact is that today it is almost impossible to have a Republican go against Trump and MAGA. Most of them switched up or were voted out when facing off against a Trump backed candidate. Take for example Liz Cheney, who voted to impeach Trump over January 6th. She was voted off her leadership post and primaried by a Trump-backed Harriet Hage-



President Donald Trump giving a speech at a campaign rally. When Trump announced he was running for the GOP presidential nomination in 2015, most people saw it as a joke.

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man. In a campaign ad during the primary, Dick Cheney would call Trump “a coward who knew he lost big.” Then, in 2024 both him and her daughter would throw their support behind Kamala Harris. Trump in turn called Dick Cheney a RINO and “the King of Endless, Nonsensical Wars.” The departure of the Cheney’s from the Republican side towards the Democrats during this election shows how this split has grown since 2015.

This thought led me to research a politician from my home state to view his reflection and response to Trump. I looked up my House representative,

Dan Meuser, who represents Pennsylvania’s 9th district. Looking over his record, especially surrounding the 2020 election and Trump’s trial, you can see Dan Meuser falls into line with MAGA. It is absolutely insane that the same man who was pictured being rushed out of the House Chamber as rioters attempted to enter then turns around and posts on X, formerly known as Twitter, calling the January 6th Commission a sham. I do not trust a representative who calls Trump’s trial and conviction quote “a blatant attempt to undermine democracy.” Even though Meuser has

shown his incompetence, he will not be going anywhere anytime soon.

Donald Trump and those who support him have caused damage to the party. The party itself might forever be changed by Trump and the MAGA crowd. The GOP has gone from the Grand Old Party to the Grand Trump Party. Although it should be noted that the Republican party will not collapse or shutter — the Party has already survived Watergate and Reaganomics — Trumpism will be looked back upon as a shameful part in the long history of The Grand Old Party.

WATCH INDEPENDENT MOVIES NOW MORE THAN EVER

by Isaac Grad
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Many people have recognized and commented recently on the current state of Hollywood films. They have complained about a lack of originality, a disinterest in casting new and upcoming actors and more recently, the use of AI. Hollywood has always been restrictive and risk-averse in past decades, but we are now in a period of Hollywood — not for the first time — where it is especially so. However, independently made films are working to fill the gaps. Just as in past when cable television offered creative liberty in a time when Hollywood movies were limiting what stories could be told, independent films are free to tell stories less confined by

social norms and profitability.

As has been the case since its founding, Hollywood’s priority is creating as many profitable films as possible, deciding what gets made by weighing cost and return. This, naturally, means that the same popular, successful actors and creators are used again and again, as their presence often times guarantees an audience. This is especially true when the film is released in theaters; with the popularity of streaming services, there are fewer movie-goers, making a theater release expensive and risky. This means the tried-and-true method holds the most weight and taking risks on new filmmakers, actors and ideas is less likely.

However, there is a solution! The problems facing Hollywood do not mean that cinema itself

is at risk. We’ve seen similar predicaments before and there have always been creators creating despite what the majority in the field is doing. Those who love film and have real stories to tell continue to find ways to do so. Their efforts are often extremely low-budget and feature no known actors, meaning they get less attention, but they also have more freedom to tell their stories as they want to instead of seeking profit.

In the past, when Hollywood movies were limited in what stories they could tell, other creative outlets stepped in. In the mid-twentieth century, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) created a blacklist of filmmakers to force conformity and discourage the production of films that didn’t fit with American ideals. This led to a lack of creativity in films, as well as a general fear filmmakers had for what stories they would be allowed to tell, lest they lose their jobs. Howev-

er, when the film industry was being limited, many creatives still found ways to tell the stories they wanted to tell, using other mediums such as cable television, which was generally less restricted. Cable television was and is a paid service, meaning advertisers impacted creative decisions less so than with film.

The most recent and popular example of a low-budget project gaining attention is the series “Heated Rivalry,” which, seeing as it’s a queer story and starred two relatively unknown actors, was a decently risky project. The series is a testament to independent and low-budget projects telling less mainstream stories, and is hopefully part of a continued interest in similar projects. “Heated Rivalry” proved to film funders and audiences that these types of stories are desired, and showed independent filmmakers fighting to tell their stories that they shouldn’t feel discouraged by the current state of the film industry.

It’s understandable that with the price of cinema tickets, streaming services and renting or buying a movie online, people are less inclined

to spend significant money on a film that they don’t feel assured will be worth their time and hard-earned cash. It’s easier to have faith in a film when it’s high-budget and is attached to big recognizable names. However, independent films often have more creative integrity, thought and attention put into them. With independent projects, films, with creators have to focus on a well-written strong plot with interesting characters, as they aren’t able to lean on stars or a large budget. So, take a risk and support independent films. Encourage authentic stories and art qua art rather than art qua profit.

