This Week's Pop Pick

"Mindhunter" Recommended for True Crime Lovers

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

"Mindhunter" is a crime drama on Netflix which shows the founding of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit in Quantico, Virginia. Agents Holden Ford (Jonathan Groff) and Bill Tench (Holt McCallany) are pioneering a system wherein they interview convicted serial killers in order to establish a profile which regular police can then use to catch other serial killers. The pair are also joined by Dr. Wendy Carr (Anna Torv), a psychologist who serves as the brains and emotional base of the team.

The first season, which was released in 2017, is set from 1977 to 1980, and focuses on the team's genesis, particularly their interviews with The Co-Ed Killer Edmund Kemper (Cameron Britton). The second season, which was released in 2019, is set from 1980 through 1981 and follows Tench and Ford as they work to catch the perpetrator of the Atlanta murders.

The series is based on real events, like the aforementioned Atlanta murders, and features interviews with notorious convicts such as Richard Speck, David Berkowitz, Tex Watson, and Charles Manson. The series is also based on the true-crime book "Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit" by John E. Douglas and Mark Olshaker.

The series is absolutely phenomenal. Jonathan Groff's acting is on point, and Holt McCallany seems like he comes straight out of a detective noir. Though the series was placed on indefinite hiatus so that producer David Fincher can finish his other projects, as a big fan of crime dramas I definitely hope to see more of this historical thriller soon.

The characters are realistic and touching (enough to spark their own romantic fanfics, let's be honest), and the plot is thrilling enough to keep me so hooked I missed dinner with my friends two nights in a row to watch this show. If you're a crime drama fan like me, or if you're just looking for something to binge and aren't scared of harsh language, panic attacks or violence, I definitely recommend "Mindhunter."

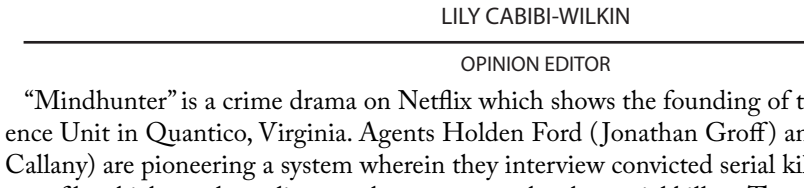


PHOTO VIA LOOPER

Left to right: Holden Ford (Jonathan Grof), Dr. Wendy Carr (Anna Torv), Bill Tench (Holt McCallany).

Coronavirus: Not Even As Deadly As The Flu

A Column

ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

Common colds don't normally leave people in a panic, though the common cold is a coronavirus. Coronaviruses are actually a family of viruses, which can be as simple as the common cold, or as dangerous as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

So, why is everyone in a panic about the outbreak of coronavirus in China?

The strain first reported in Wuhan, China on Dec. 31 is known as a novel coronavirus, an unfamiliar strain not previously identified in humans according to the World Health Organization. The current outbreak is being called 2019-nCoV. Coronaviruses are zoonotic diseases, but the animal source of 2019-nCoV has not been identified.

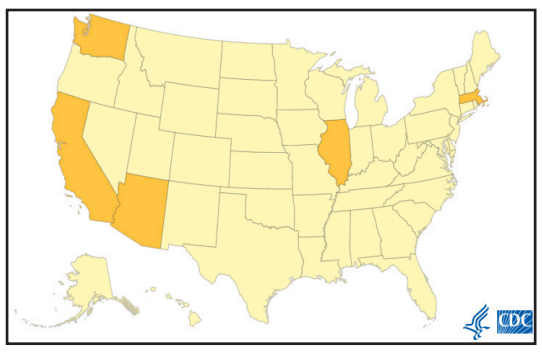
The CDC reported many patients in the China outbreak were somehow linked to large seafood markets, but many were not, which could indicate the virus being spread by animal to person contact as well as person to person contact. It is unclear how easily the virus can spread from person to person at this time.

As of Feb. 3, the death toll for 2019-nCoV in China is 425, though over 20,000 are currently infected. 2019-nCoV is from the same virus family as SARS, and since it is a virus antibiotics are not effective against it.

The CDC is regularly updating on cases of the virus in the United States. As of Feb. 3, of 260 people under investigation, only 36 in the United States tested positive for 2019-nCoV. To bring this home, a suspected case in Little Rock turned out to be negative.

The 2019-nCoV outbreak is turning into an excuse for xenophobia. Senator Tom Cotton has been tweeting almost exclusively about Coronavirus since Jan. 28. His tweets have contributed to fear-mongering about the virus, and pushing for a targeted travel ban. He also is encouraging U.S. citizens that are in China to get out, but would their travel not contribute to the potential spread of the virus?

There is not currently an easy solution as the infection rate and death toll continue to rise -- but fear-mongering is not helping. To compare, influenza infected up to 42.9 million people in 2019 and 61,200 died from it, but there is not this level of panic over avoiding the flu or getting a flu shot.



GRAPHIC VIA THE CDC

The orange states in the above U.S. map are states with confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV.

The best thing to do to avoid 2019-nCoV is to continue any normal precautions you would take to avoid getting sick: wash your hands frequently, avoid people showing symptoms of any illness, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, seek medical care if you have a fever, cough, or any difficulty breathing and be sure you are not consuming undercooked or raw food.

Autonomous Lawnmowers On Campus

ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

Autonomous lawn mowers on campus caught students' attention recently. Originally noticed near the end of last semester last semester, one of these Husqvarna automowers is in the grass between the library and the Fine Arts Annex.

There are now three automowers on campus, which function similarly to autonomous home vacuums such as iRobot Roomba or Ecovacs Deebot, for example. Built-in GPS technology guides them, they go to a charging station when their battery is low and a mobile app allows the director of Landscape Services to control them.

Students seem to enjoy these devices. Some created an Instagram page dedicated to them, @astatesteve, and named one of the robots "Steve The Lil Mowing Dude." In addition to Steve, suggested names for the automowers are mowbots and Vincent Van Mow.

The current automowers have a width of 11 inches, but 33-inch automowers may be brought to campus in the future. There are also plans already in place for future locations of more automowers.

Similar to the VeoRide bicycles and scooters on campus, the autonomous mowers contain anti-theft/tampering technology, and also notifies Landscape Services if it has stopped mowing for more than 90 seconds.

The automowers are an incredible addition to keeping the A-State campus more environmentally friendly. Though the automowers themselves are an expensive purchase, their function costs very little, and they run on electricity rather than gasoline.



PHOTO VIA INSTAGRAM (@ASTATESTEVE)

A student posted this photo of one of the automowers in its charging dock to the Instagram page @astatesteve. The photo is captioned, "Shh im tryna take a nap.

HOROSCOPES

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

ARIES (March 22 - April 19) It is time that you take control of your life. You can overcome any obstacles through sheer willpower, and you can come out on top.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) Making positive changes to your life can be a lonely task. It's time to walk away from things that are making you unhappy, even when it's hard.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) Things are finally starting to fall into place for you. Appreciate the good things in your life right now and try not to dwell on negatives.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) If you approach issues sensibly, you will not have trouble solving them. This is a good time to keep a serious mindset.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Life may be bringing you a new adventure soon. Remember to welcome change while still maintaining control over your situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Accept challenges that are coming your way, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Opportunities are coming your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Try to look beyond things that seem to be in your way. You may find a new perspective on how to move past them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Difficult situations can teach you lessons in life. Even when things are tough, find opportunities to grow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You're going to be so on top of things that you'll be able to extend a helping hand to those around you. Make sure you are being efficient and not forgetting your own needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) You are finding healthy balances in your home and work life, whatever that means to you. Stay on the path you're following.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Do not allow yourself to be dragged into the petty problems of others. Focus on your own conflicts so you can approach them with a clear mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 21) When making decisions, remember that the grass is not always greener on the other side. Think things through more.