

# THE APPROVAL MATRIX

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.

## HIGHBROW

Joe Biden, his finger on the pulse of 2019 America, brags about working well with segregationists.



Chennai, a city of 5 million people, ran out of water.



The Strand gets landmarked against its will.



The briefly reincarnated **Four Seasons** burned through \$40 million before realizing its season had passed.

**The Paris Theater**—the last single-screen movie house in Manhattan—may close.



Discrimination on the T's? Five longtime **NY1** female anchors sue, saying they're being pushed out as they age.



We don't need roads! The one percent will be able to request **Uber Copters** to JFK ...

Rick Santorum has joined a cryptocurrency-for-Catholics start-up called **Cathio**. Unfortunately, "**Vaticoin**" was already taken.

The acting Defense secretary withdraws his nomination after allegations of **wife beating** come to light.



What's the sequel that bombed out when viewers' knives came out? **Shaft**.

... Never mind that a helicopter just **crashed** into a building on Seventh Avenue.



The City Council is considering making foie gras illegal. **Mon dieu!**

Lawyers for the Sandy Hook families say Alex Jones had **child porn** in documents turned over during discovery.



A Connecticut man was caught at JFK allegedly trying to smuggle in 34 **finches** for birdsong competitions.



Best-selling author Sherrilyn Kenyon says her husband spent years slowly **poisoning** her.

Novelist **Nicholas Sparks** tried to ban an LGBT group at the Christian school he runs and said there weren't many black students because they're "too poor and can't do the academic work," according to a suit.

**E-scooters** on the damn sidewalk.



**E-scooters** that replace car trips.



**Dave Chappelle** will make his Broadway debut with a weeklong stand-up run at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.



Between Meryl Streep's shriek and Laura Dern's declaring she'll "not be rich," **Big Little Lies** is as meme-able as ever.



Netflix's *I Think You Should Leave With Tim Robinson* gets **renewed**.

Southern Brooklyn's finest square-slice shop, **L&B Spumoni Gardens**, is opening a Dumbo outpost right across from Grimaldi's and Juliana's.



The Post's **headline** about a mobster who had his father rubbed out in a fast-food drive-through.



Lindsay Lohan's reality show is canceled because she's **too sane** these days to make interesting TV. Good for her?



An "immersive," **24/7 Krispy Kreme** with a glaze waterfall will be opening in Times Square.



Bella Thorne releases her own nude photos rather than give in to **blackmail**.



## LOWBROW

## DESPICABLE

## BRILLIANT

PHOTOGRAPHS: ARUN SANKAR/GETTY IMAGES; (CHENNAI) ANNY SUBESHWIKR/MEDIA (STRAND BOOKSTORE) THEFOURSEASONS/RESTAURANT (INSTAGRAM (FOUR SEASONS), NBC (COVERED); GAGE SKIDMORE/WIREIMAGE (HARJO), UBER (UBER COPTER); © 2019 CALDER FOUNDATION; NEW YORK (CIRCUS); WARNER BROS. (SHAFIT); ILLUSTRATIONS: ANZU/SHOPIK/MEDIA (FOIE GRAS); (JOHN MORTIMER) (A STRANGE LOOP); (MAX CRUZ) PALLICO; THE DUEIT; 2019 PHOTO BY GILL LAUME ZICKARELLI; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MONIQUE MELOCHE GALLERY, CHICAGO; (THEM); PATRICK MCULLAN (MERCERS); CHANELLE; MORTIMER; THORNE); JENNIFER CLASNER/INBO (STREET); NETFLIX (ROBINSON); KYLESNAPOCHAT (INSTAGRAM (LENNER)); NICHOLAS SPARKS/FACEBOOK (SPARKS); MTV (LOHAN); ALEX LOZUPONE/WIREIMAGE (L&B); AL.COM/YOUTUBE (SQUIRREL); N.Z./NIX/INSTAGRAM (DAME); KRISPY KREME (KRISPY KREME)