



Harkness Autocrat Sporadic Tribune

THE TECHNOLOGY HOUSE PERIODICAL

1. A Note from the Autocrat
2. Unbiolievable
3. A Biography: Matthew Petersen
4. Smash and Sundry
5. 2017 Presidential Interview
6. Overheard At Tech House
7. What Kind of Leader Are You?
8. Dear Dr. and Mr. Dr. Love
9. Letters to the Editor

A Note from the Autocrat Lucas Kasser

This is a tumultuous time for the Harkness Autocrat, with Matthew Petersen, the old Autocrat, stepping down and yielding authority to myself. I hope that you will continue to journey with me into a world of wonder: experience the nail-biting intensity of the latest Smash ladder, read thrilling biographies, laugh out loud at the latest antics of Tech House, and so much more. I will strive to uphold the traditions that make this periodical great, and continue to publish all the news

worth reporting. While we tearfully wish Matthew well in his continuing journey, we also look towards the bright future and embrace the change that life gifts to us. Thank you for your continuous support, and enjoy this issue of the Autocrat!

Unbiolievable Mattea Berglund

At the edge of our solar system, in the Kuiper Belt, the New Horizons spacecraft sped past Pluto on its mission deeper into space. In about a day and a half in 2015, New Horizons recorded unique, high-resolution images of Pluto's surface and transmitted them back to Earth.

Noah Hammond, doctoral candidate at Brown University, was one of several scientists to analyze the new information. The images revealed long, deep valleys with steep slopes, which suggest that Pluto's surface is stretching apart. Liquid water expands when it freezes; according to Hammond and his colleagues, the expansion features on Pluto's surface could have

been caused by liquid water that was gradually freezing.

The researchers developed a model of how the temperature of Pluto's interior had cooled over time and used this model to figure out whether the water on Pluto is currently liquid, ice, or ice II (a denser form of ice). This model was the first to include the formation of ice II in its analysis.

The model supported the hypothesis that there is a subsurface liquid ocean on Pluto, buried beneath a thick shell of ice. According to the analysis, if all water on Pluto was frozen, the resulting high pressure would cause the formation of ice II. This would cause Pluto to shrink, which would create different geologic features, such as long sinuous ridges, which were not observed on Pluto's surface.

The potential for an ocean on Pluto suggests that other objects in space, similar in size and geologic history, may also have an ocean. "If Pluto has enough heat to maintain an ocean, maybe those other bodies might too," Hammond said.

Furthermore, liquid water is considered a requirement for life. While it is not likely that Pluto's ocean supports life, due to its very cold temperature, Hammond said, "Who knows? There is liquid water, which means the potential for life is higher than it would be if it were dry."

As New Horizons races on deeper into space, Hammond is still asking questions. "What is Pluto's ocean made of? What are the conditions inside it?" he asked. Hammond wants to know more about Pluto's ocean so that he can improve the accuracy of the model, and he intends to continue researching these questions.

A Biography: Matthew Petersen

Lucas Kasser



(Matthew pictured on left)

Raised in rural Oregon, his friends miles away, Matthew Petersen grew up with plenty of free time. He spent his time reading: devoting hours at a time to devouring books with an intensity that some would label an obsession. It is unsurprising, therefore, that young Matthew soon stumbled upon certain books that were less

than wholesome.

It must have been before the age of nine that the still impressionable Matthew discovered the first traces of the Mythos. Doubtless it was as he peered into an ancient tome, caked with dust and reeking of decay, that he caught the barest glimpse of the horrifying truth that underlies our world. The book likely spoke of eldritch monstrosities beyond comprehension, twisted denizens which lurk in the shadows, and truths darker still. And of course, as is the case with most truth, this brief taste left Matthew craving even more.

It was during elementary school that Matthew first began to succumb to the overwhelming insanity of these ancient and perverted doctrine. During recess, as children are wont to do, the students in Matthew's elementary school were fighting. This battle had been going on for several weeks, and Matthew was sick of it. Instead of doing the reasonable thing like consulting a teacher, he instead gathered to himself a group of followers, labeling them a "peace committee." They then proceeded to make plans to poison the warring students using the chemical "Syrup of Ipecac." Fortunately, saner minds than Matthew's prevailed and the plot was foiled.

Later in life, Matthew continued to exploit his great charisma. During his sophomore year of college he decided to join Technology House. Despite being a

new member, he made a grab for power, becoming Housing Manager, Minister of War, and taking over the TH Press (all of which he has maintained control of with an iron fist). In addition, he has progressively and insidiously made Tech House more cultish, starting such activities as Portuguese Music in the Dark. When asked how they felt about the direction that Matthew was leading Tech House, members gave responses ranging from "worried" (May Tomic) to "scared out of my pants." (Lucas Kasser)

Perhaps most incriminating are Matthew's frequent suspicious responses to questions pertaining to his cultist tendencies. When asked in a jocular manner about his idiosyncrasies, Matthew became visibly uncomfortable, muttering "Oh, goodness" and then evading the question. When asked how he felt about the arcane arts, Matthew said only "I'm sure I couldn't say." Finally, when asked by a new recruit how the TH presidential election process took place, Matthew responded, "We actually elect our presidents through divination. So I have, in the library, 40 live chickens which we shall sacrifice [to the dark gods] and read the livers of." Matthew will be graduating from Brown University this Spring.

Smash and Sundry

Paul Addonizio

Below are the rankings for the Tech House 2017 Smash Ladder:

1. Leo Cooper
2. Dayton Wilson
3. Miles Holland
4. Paul Addonizio
5. Nick Cunningham
6. Raz Rivlis
7. Ben Wilson
8. Preston Law
9. Aaron Gokaslan
10. Zachary Zagorski
11. AJ Whitman
12. Lucas Kasser
13. Aiden Schore
14. Solomon Klein
15. Julius Reiner
16. Tracy Knight
17. Ethan Mok

2017 Presidential Interview

Lucas Kasser

Lucas: Some worry that the lack of a standing TH military will diminish Tech House's influence and power in the university. What are your thoughts on the matter, and do you plan to increase military spending?

Tracy: I do not believe that the lack of a standing army will have a significant impact on TH's influence. I believe that our funds could be better allocated towards more practical

projects.

L: Some have suggested that the new TH emblem become instead a picture of a kitten. Are you amenable to this suggestion?

T: Yeah, I'd say that I'm amenable to that, but of course it wouldn't be entirely up to me—it could be something that we could definitely get done.

L: How do you feel about embezzling TH funds?

T: Embezzling? I am not in favor of embezzlement, just for the record. I don't believe that that's something that anyone should be doing ever for any reason at all

L: Some have suggested building a giant death laser to light the fire in the lounge during the winter. What are your thoughts on this project?

T: I'm pretty hesitant to support a project like that: I do see the applications, but thinking just cost and safety concerns would make it unfeasible.

L: It seems as though TH is currently at an uneasy truce with ADPhi. Do you see yourself attempting to broker peace or fan the embers of war in this coming year?

T: I think I would certainly broker for peace if that's something that can be agreed upon by our two organizations. Of course, if ADPhi was to go on the offensive, then we would certainly retaliate.

L: There have been some (Nick Cunningham) who seem to feel that the Autocrat is not an objective and trustworthy source of news. How do you respond to these disgraceful remarks?

T: I would say in my experience the Autocrat has proven to be pretty objective. I trust the media and journalists to provide news and stories objectively. I am also in favor of opinions being shared and discussions being had.

Overheard At Technology House Tech House Quotes Page

"I have a vague idea of what KD does - every week they gather and take a personality test to see what kind of leader they are."

-K theorizes about the neighbors

"Now excuse me while I angrily eat organic pumpkin seeds."

-A's thoughts on Valentine's Day

"We should make elevators more dangerous."

-P, on transportation safety.

W: "So has E convinced you to take up the needles thing?"

T (holding yarn): "You mean knitting?"

What Kind of Leader Are You?

Lucas Kasser and May Tomic

1. If you and a group of people needed to cross a chasm, which of the following actions would you be most likely to take?
 - (a) Build a catapult and attempt to launch people across
 - (b) Be quiet and hope that someone else will assume command
 - (c) Organize your comrades into groups to begin construction of a bridge
 - (d) Ask others to organize their comrades into groups to begin construction of a bridge
2. You're studying in TH Lounge, and the fire alarm goes off. What do you do?
 - (a) Make barbecue for the whole house
 - (b) Exit the building quietly and quickly
 - (c) Check the bathrooms and common rooms for trapped stragglers before exiting yourself
 - (d) Organize people into "house exiting" groups in order to maximize exiting efficiency
3. Which phrase comes to mind when you think of "leadership?"
 - (a) Power beyond your wildest dreams
 - (b) Unnecessary responsibility
 - (c) Organization and control
 - (d) Paperwork and meetings
4. Two friends of yours have a dispute and ask you to resolve it. Which tactic would you use?
 - (a) Side with the friend that offers you the biggest bribe
 - (b) Run away
 - (c) Try to resolve the dispute fairly and with equanimity
 - (d) Assemble a panel of at least five well-qualified judges to hear their case
5. If you were the founder of an organization, what would you want your title to be?
 - (a) Sir King President Führer
 - (b) I would not found an organization
 - (c) President
 - (d) Chief Executive Officer

If you answered mainly As, you're an **Unconventional leader**. Your methods of leading are unorthodox, but occasionally effective. Some call you a sociopath, others psychotic, but in your heart you know what you truly are- a pioneer, leading those around you to a glorious future in which your word is law and those who oppose you are quickly and silently crushed.

If you answered mainly Bs, you're an **"Untapped" leader**. Don't let your complete lack of desire and ability to lead discourage you from becoming a leader. Even the most unqualified can be a leader; look at the current American president. Just because those who follow you are likely to be led to social and financial ruin doesn't mean that you can't try! If it goes poorly, blame the press.

If you answered mainly Cs, you're a **Natural leader**. For whatever reason, you enjoy the needless stress and responsibility of "leading." You were probably one of those people who joined student council in high school, sacrificing precious free time to plan dances and pick up trash in the streets. You likely enjoy attending leadership conferences, and come up with names for yourself like "thought pioneer," "motivational speaker," and "inspirational dreamer." You are able to exploit your charisma to conceal your darkest secret: your lack of actual skills. Let others do the hard work; just sit back and make the "tough calls."

If you answered mainly Ds, you're a **Leader-leader**. You are the living embodiment of bureaucracy. With a knack for filling out forms and an uncanny ability to abstract out all the actual work to other people, you quickly rise to the top of any organization. Even more than the natural leader, you excel at delegating work to others until you don't have anything left to do. Still, you deserve that million dollar end-of-the-year bonus: evading work is hard work!

**Dear Dr. and Mrs.
Dr. Love**
L. G. K. and V. M. T.

Editors note: These people seem really good at their job, so I'd advise writing them for advice.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Love,

Yesterday I met Bobby, the biggest hunk o' man meat that I've ever laid eyes upon. He has hair like satin, a voice like gossamer, and abs like the Lord Almighty himself. The moment I saw him, I fell in love.

There's just one little problem—he doesn't seem to know that I exist. No matter how much I toss my hair or glance in his general direction while sighing longingly, he just sits there with his hunky friends and talks about the game. Now, I couldn't catch a football to save my life, but I would love to catch me a football player, if you get my drift.

I told my friend Julie about this heart breaker, and she gave me a piece of advice. She said that I should use my "feminine wiles" to catch his heart and infatuate his mind. I told her that I didn't know what she was talking about, but she refused to say more about the subject, claiming

that it was "unladylike" to be too explicit in these matters.

So, I'm asking you, Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Love. How can I win my Bobby's heart?

-Pining in Kentucky

Dear Pining,

It is not clear to me that you and Bobby would make suitable companions, but I would recommend reading the novel 50 Shades of Gray if you insist on pursuing this endeavor. I think that you will find that this subtle and nuanced book portrays an extremely accurate depiction of a healthy relationship. I would therefore suggest attempting to woo him using the methods favored by the eponymous Christian Gray.

-Dr. Love

Dear Pining,

Your friend Julie was right about "feminine wiles!" What you need to do is play hard to get. You can start small by complaining about Bobby in public and ridiculing his appearance in front of his friends. He'll have no choice but to start taking interest in you! Once you've mastered that, you can take things to the next level. Try harassing him to his face, sending bomb threats to local schools using his name, or poisoning his dog. Go

get 'em, tiger!

-Mrs. Dr. Love

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Love,

I want to take a break from dating my girlfriend to date her best friend. What is the best way to go about doing this?

-Lusty on Long Island

Dear Lusty,

Don't.

-Mrs. Dr. Love

Dear Lusty,

I would recommend reconsidering your course of action: why date just her best friend when you could date them both? First, drive a wedge between them so that they stop talking to each other. Next, provide emotional support for her friend until you successfully win her heart. Finally, sit back and relax, secure in the knowledge that they'll never find out about one another.

-Dr. Love

*Have relationship problems?
Email autocrat@techhouse.org
and get advice from the experts!*

Letters to the Editor

SIR—

I must applaud the replacement of Matthew Petersen, who often claimed that my column contained “scurrilous accusations” or that it was “going a bit too far.” Him doing so was a great nuisance to me as a writer. However, there are two major problems here:

First, he has offered no recrimination for his great transgressions against me as a writer and the world as a whole. This is unconscionable; you, Lucas Kasser, should speak out against his

malfeasance and make it clear that no such activities will be tolerated by any of the Harkness Autocrat staff in the future. If you do so, I am confident that the Autocrat will move forward comfortably and correctly.

Second is a bit more personal. You see, Lucas, you offered chocolate to those who submit their works to the Autocrat. But this is a terrible idea; the Autocrat is a fine journalistic enterprise that should attempt to avoid submissions from the exact sort of riffraff that

would be drawn in by chocolate! Why, people might write whatever they think is funny, without attempts to verify their accusations of others! To do so would cause a significant downturn in average quality, especially when contrasted with shining columns such as mine.

I demand that you rescind this antijournalistic pledge, and make it clear where you stand on the issue of quality. To do anything else would be a sad lapse.

-Nick Cunningham

Send us letters at autocrat@techhouse.org. We look forward to hearing from you!