

## Mitchell is hospitalized

by Lark Breen  
World Editor

On the afternoon of Tues., Mar. 31, singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell was taken into intensive care after being found unconscious in her home. The 71-year-old singer, who defined musical feminism and wrote many popular songs including "Big Yellow Taxi" and "River," suffers from Morgellons disease and a longstanding cigarette addiction, which have both prevented her from performing.

Mitchell's trip to the hospital has not yet been completely explained, but may be related to Morgellons disease. Morgellons is a mysterious disease that is not officially recognized by the medical community because it is very rare and not extensively researched. Many professionals believe that Morgellons is a psychosomatic disease, meaning that it is caused or worsened by mental factors.

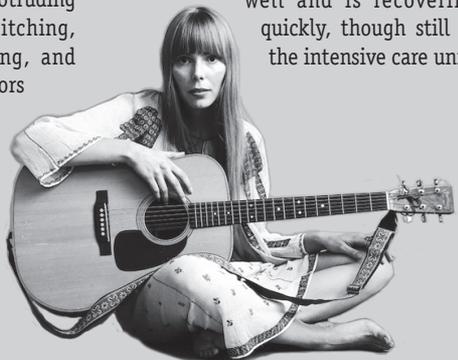
Sufferers believe that there are fibers embedded under or protruding from their skin that cause itching, crawling, stinging, scratching, and biting sensations. Some doctors diagnose the symptoms as delusional infestation or delusional parasitosis. Because Morgellons isn't officially recognized by doctors, there is no precise list of symptoms, and research is practically non-existent. The disease

is very rare; only about 1,400 people in the United States suffer from Morgellons.

Mitchell has been afflicted with various diseases over the years, including scarlet fever, abscessed ovaries, polio, and dengue, and has complained of deteriorating health for the past few years. Last February, in an interview with New York Magazine, Joni Mitchell disclosed that she has suffered from Morgellons for eight years, and described the disease as "fibers in a variety of colors protrude out of my skin like mushrooms after a rainstorm." She once stated that "there are times when it's directly attacking the nervous system, as if you're being bitten by fleas and lice. It's all in the tissue and it's not a hallucination. It was eating me alive, sucking the juices out. I've been sick all my life."

Whether suffering from an imagined disorder or an actual disease, Mitchell's fans all around the world listened nervously and hoped for the best after hearing of her emergency visit to the hospital. Mitchell appears to be doing

well and is recovering quickly, though still in the intensive care unit.



## THE DAILY SHOW HAS A NEW STAR

by Rowyn van Miltenburg  
National Editor

On Mon., March 30, Comedy Central announced that South African comedian Trevor Noah will succeed Jon Stewart on The Daily Show. This news comes after Stewart announced in early February that he will be leaving the show after 16 years.

Noah is not new to the world of late-night television: he has hosted his own talk show, Tonight with Trevor Noah, and appeared on Late Night Show with David Letterman and The Tonight Show. Noah has also been on The Daily Show three times, joining as a contributor in 2014, and is currently serving as the show's senior international correspondent.

Noah, son of a black South African mother and a white Swiss father, offers a fresh perspective on race in the realm of comedy. His tendency to tackle this often tricky subject is one reason, among others, that he was selected to succeed Stewart. Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said Noah "has a huge international following and is poised to explode here in America."

Within a day of being named Stewart's replacement, Noah found himself in the center of controversy. Some of Noah's more controversial tweets from a few years ago recently resurfaced, which some called racist and sexist.



One of his controversial tweets from 2010 read, "South Africa knows how to recycle like Israel knows how to be peaceful," causing critics to call him anti-Semitic.

Amidst the backlash, Noah responded and defended himself, tweeting, "To reduce my views to a handful of

jokes that didn't land is not a true reflection of my character, nor my evolution as a comedian." Comedy Central also issued a response: "Like many comedians, Trevor Noah pushes boundaries; he is provocative and spares no one, himself included. To judge him or his comedy based on a handful of jokes is unfair."

Apart from the criticism directed towards Noah, Comedy Central also received some backlash for not choosing a woman to host the show, as late-night television has yet to have a female host. After Stewart announced his upcoming departure, rumors started churning, and people started hoping that comedians like Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, or Amy Schumer would replace Stewart. However, Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said, "We talked to women.

We talked to men. We found in Trevor the best person for the job."

While there isn't a set date for Stewart to finish his reign on The Daily Show, he said he could be stepping down as early as July or as late as this winter. But one thing's for sure: after Stewart takes his final bow, Noah will take his place with a fresh new take on the beloved show.

## Listen to podcasts while you sit in after-school traffic

by Niamh Doyle  
People Editor

Head to the senior lot after school on any given day and walk along the line of cars stuck in typical after school traffic, and you'll hear a medley of all sorts of genres of music blaring from rolled down windows. From classic rock to Nicki Minaj, it's rare to find any occupied high school vehicle without its soundtrack. Though music's awesome and great for unwinding after a hard day at school, I would like to suggest an alternate form of media that is driver-safe, educational, and above all, entertaining: podcasts! You can download them onto your smartphone through the app store or on the iPhone's built-in podcast application. Here are a few popular podcasts to get any newcomer to the world of podcasts started.

**1. This American Life:** Adapted to podcast from its original radio form, this show takes its listeners on a thematic journey every episode, broadcasting stories from people from all over the United States concerning politics, love, feuds, humor, and more. Whether it's host Ira Glass' calming murmur as

he segways between stories or the riveting experiences and lives that are featured in every episode, This American Life has acquired a dedicated following over the span of its 500+ episodes.

**2. Serial:** Serial is a podcast brought to us by This American Life and is acclaimed as the fastest-growing series in podcast history. Reporter Sarah Koenig takes her listeners back in time to the year 2000, when Adnan Syed was

sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his ex-girlfriend, Hae Min Lee. This gripping series follows Koenig as she digs through the case, exposing facts, faults, and questions that hadn't been addressed during the trial. Listeners hear interviews with Syed (still in jail serving his sentence) and others involved in the trial, trying to figure out for themselves whether or not Syed is the real killer. The date of the launch of the second



season has not yet been released.

**3. Stuff You Missed in History Class:**

A podcast custom-made for the history buffs of the world, Stuff You Missed in History Class is APUSH on steroids. Get your weekly dose of ancient love-affairs, secretly corrupt governments, and revolutionary discoveries with Holly and Tracy Wilson transporting you back through the ages.

**4. Freakonomics Radio:** This quirky, hilarious, and informative podcast boasts that it uncovers "the hidden side of everything" through its diverse hour-long weekly episodes. The show dives into a range of topics from Halloween candy to terrorism - perfect for people who love to learn for the sake of learning.

**5. Stuff To Blow Your Mind:** If you've ever had unresolved questions about anything that exists in the universe, Stuff To Blow Your Mind probably has the answers. Robert Lamb and Julie Douglas guide their listeners through science, sociology, economics, and more when attempting to answer some of the craziest, absurd, and complicated mysteries of the universe.



## HBO DOCUMENTARY REIGNITES CONTROVERSY ON SCIENTOLOGY

by Aidan Adams-Campeau  
Humor Editor

The recent HBO documentary Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief has reignited controversy over the doctrine and practices of L. Ron Hubbard's infamous Church of Scientology, recognized officially by the IRS as a tax-exempt religious institution since 1993. Directed by Academy Award winner Alex Gibney, who has been described by Esquire as "becoming the most important documentarian of our time," and based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Lawrence Wright, the film chronicles Scientology's history. Its subjects include Scientology's bizarre founding, its celebrity appeal and its human rights abuses in a dense and often shocking two hours. The film has attracted major attention and has already become HBO's second most-watched documentary of the past decade, but despite the success, airing the movie is an ongoing struggle. In anticipation of Scientology's fierce reputation for litigation against detractors, HBO hired 160 lawyers as they prepared to back the project. At present, it is doubtful



Gibney's documentary focuses partially on the high profile roles of John Travolta and Tom Cruise in the church, especially the close and disturbing relationship between Cruise and Scientology leader David Miscavige. Among the film's startling claims is the story of Miscavige's meddling in Cruise's marriage to Nicole Kidman after she was determined to be a "PTS," a potential trouble source. Miscavige allegedly orchestrated an investigation into their relationship and psychological manipulation of Cruise to preserve his handsome celebrity figurehead. Cruise went on to accept the Medal of Valor from the Church of Scientology.

Archival footage shows a younger Travolta dressed in military garb stating, "Probably my favorite concept of Scientology is a world without criminality, a world without war and a world without insanity." The film goes on to document how Travolta's longtime publicist, Sylvia Taylor, was eventually sent to the Church's "Rehabilitation Project Force," which she calls a "prison camp" for members the Church considers "stressed." There, Taylor was expected to perform menial labor and was separated from her young daughter, a common practice in Scientology as children are often viewed as "dis-

tractions." Taylor adds that Travolta knew about the conditions she was exposed to, and wonders "what could possibly keep him there."

Another celebrity from Scientology's famous ranks is the musician Beck, whose Morning Phase recently won the Grammy for Album of the Year. Though Beck's membership is not delved into in the film, Beck has spoken about his feelings towards the Church in interviews. When asked if he feels Scientology is "unfairly criticized at times," Beck replies, "Well, I mean, yeah, definitely... I think the good done speaks for itself. You know, there's that kind of intolerance, which to me is kind of insidious. You can kind of make a judgment on something you don't really know about. It's that kind of thing... You can't really deny the humanitarian things." Those who would like to form their own informed judgments on the Church of Scientology should consider viewing this notable documentary.

