

January

by Sam Blanc



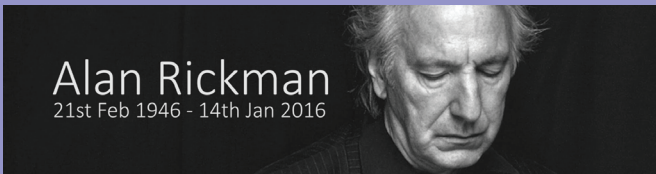
“I feel like every year has a new energy and I feel like this year is really about, like, the year of just realizing stuff. And everyone around me, we’re all just, like, realizing things.”

-Kylie Jenner



- Justin Bieber
Sorry
- Adele
Hello
- Selena Gomez
Same Old Love
- Alessia Cara
Here
- Ellie Goulding
On My Mind
- Drake
Hotline Bling
- Meghan Trainor
Like I'm Gonna Lose You feat. John Legend
- Shawn Mendes
Stitches
- The Weeknd
In The Night
- Elle King
Ex's And Oh's

Born Feb. 21, 1946, in London, Alan Rickman showed an early penchant for the performing arts. He earned a Tony nomination as the star of 1988’s *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, then came to American consciousness as terrorist Hans Gruber in *Die Hard*.



His film credits include the Harry Potter series, *Love Actually* (2003), Tim Burton’s *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2007), and *Alice in Wonderland* (2010). Rickman died of pancreatic cancer on Jan. 14.



The snow was not the only thing too white in January

When the 2016 Oscar nominees were announced, the nation was surprised to find that every actor or actress in the top four categories was white. This being the second year in a row, tension over diversity and Hollywood white washing was more prevalent than ever resulting in social media hashtags such as #OscarsSoWhite and discussions among major media icons about film and media representation.

The outrage was followed by a pledge from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to change the way it selects its members and chooses nominees. This was met with both support and criticism, some applauding the action as overdue and vital and others claiming that the current AMPAS goal of increasing diversity is “racist to whites.”

Many high profile celebrities joined the conversation, most supporting the decision to diversify. Director Spike Lee was one of the first to speak out, announcing on Instagram that he and his wife “[could] not support the awards” and asking,



kathmapp.weebly.com

“How is it possible for the second consecutive year all 20 contenders under the actor category are white?”

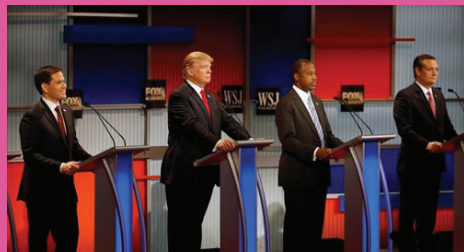
Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, David Oyelowo, Mark Ruffalo, and Ice Cube all agreed, also speaking out against the lack of diversity.

George Clooney went even further, claiming that not only should minority actors be considered for more awards, but that there are not enough roles for minorities in the first place.

Steve McQueen, the only black director to have ever won an Oscar for Best Picture, told *The Guardian* he hoped that “in 12 months or so we can look back and say this was a watershed moment, and thank God we put that right.”

February

by Helen Fagan



AP Images

On Feb. 1, the Democratic and Republican Iowa caucuses took place. Republican Ted Cruz and Democrat Hillary Clinton won their respective parties.



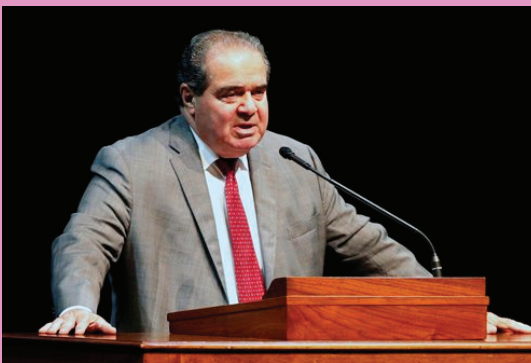
AP Images

On Feb. 9, The Denver Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl 24-10.



AP Images

Feb 29 was Leap Day! To celebrate the occasion that only comes four times per year, the Internet celebrated with tons of new memes.



AP Images

Conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died at age 79 while vacationing on a ranch in Texas. His death left an equal amount of liberal and conservative judges on the Supreme Court, potentially leading to deadlocks in upcoming cases.



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At the 58th Grammy Awards, Ed Sheeran won Best Song for

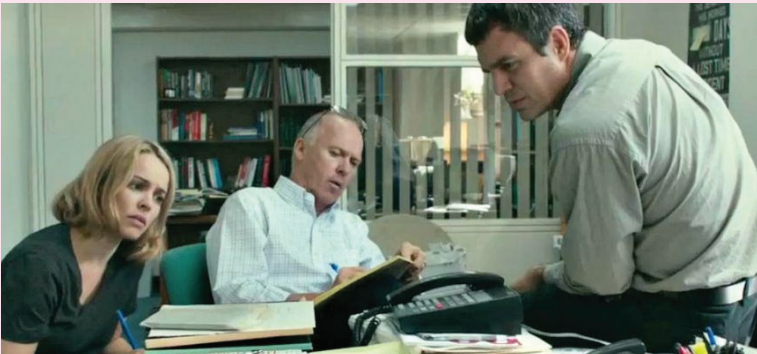
his song “Thinking Out Loud.”

Taylor Swift won Best Album for her album “1989.”



AP Images

The United Kingdom Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority licensed the Francis Crick Institute to genetically modify human embryos. The Institute hopes to gain more understanding of the early stages of embryonic development. With this, the society hopes to find new information regarding miscarriages and infertility to provide assistance to millions of women.



AP Images

At the 86th Academy awards, “Spotlight” won the award for Best Picture. “Mad Max: Fury Road” won the most awards, taking home 6 Oscars. Leonardo DiCaprio won his long awaited first Oscar, receiving Best Actor for his role in “The Revenant.”



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