

## Cryptids ranked on quality of mystery and potential existence

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Web Editor

Miles is dead. I write the Top Tens now.

Now I don't expect anyone to know what a cryptid is, so I'll enlighten you. A cryptid is a creature whose existence is debated by science. Think bigfoot, whom I mention in this article; no evidence of him exists, but also no evidence to the contrary exists. Cryptids are all just one big \\_(□)\_. Not listed are the cryptids Kellyanne Conway and Tomi Lahren as they are far too frightening to document.

Bigfoot (honorary mention): Bigfoot isn't my favorite cryptid either. Maybe when I first discovered cryptids when I was like 10 I thought he was cool. Maybe old age has made me bitter, I don't know. Anyway, bigfoot is the posterchild of all things cryptid. I don't even need to describe bigfoot to you, because even if you don't know what this funky word "cryptid" means, you definitely know who bigfoot is. If you don't then you're doing something wrong. Nevertheless, bigfoot is a fan favorite of all new cryptid enthusiasts, and even though he isn't my favorite, he is the mascot for cryptids and deserves an honorable mention.

**9** Chupacabra: If you ask someone what their favorite cryptid is and they say the Chupacabra, they obviously don't know anything about cryptids. But I digress. The Chupacabra, or goat-sucker in Spanish, is famous in southern United States and Mexico, he (it?) is known for sneaking into farms and draining the blood out of goats. The Chupacabra is not my favorite cryptid by any means, but he is famous enough to warrant a place on this list.



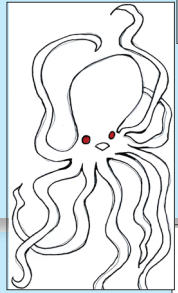
**8** Goatman: The Maryland Goatman. An elusive and under appreciated cryptid, Goatman is rarely reported on. Legend has it that he used to be a scientist who was working on goats until an experiment backfired and BAM he's half goat. For some reason he also wields a hatchet, but I don't know how that part got in there. You're probably wondering "Holden, why is this cryptid on the list?" well I'll tell you: I don't know. Maybe it's the conflicting mythologies surrounding his creation. Maybe I got lazy. But the Goatman is definitely cool enough to be on the list.



**7** Yeti: The Yeti, Bigfoot's Himalayan cousin. Known by many as the "Abominable Snowman," the Yeti is not nearly as talked about as he should be. Once worshipped as a God of the Hunt by pre-Buddhist Himalayans, the legend of the Yeti has transformed him into a gigantic hairy snow-beast. In 2011 Russian scientists even claimed having "95 percent evidence" that the Yeti is real, which I think is pretty cool, you should too. Legend has it he lives somewhere on Mount Everest, and I encourage everyone to go check it out.



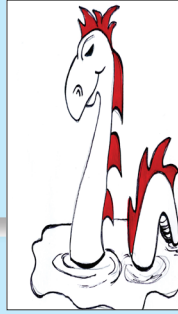
**6** Kraken: The Kraken, or giant squid, is another very popular cryptid, ask any sailor. Now I know what you're thinking, "Holden, the giant squid is real! He is no cryptid!" Wrong. Think bigger, my friends. Imagine a squid (or octopus, I don't care) big enough to take down a ship with its tentacles. Now that you have that image in your head, double it. The Kraken is said to be a beast of immense power. Recorded numerous times by sailors and vikings and the like, tales of the Kraken are almost as common as stories about mermaids.



**5** Wendigo: Now here's a fascinating cryptid! The Wendigo has one of the most interesting backgrounds of any cryptid I've heard of. Found in various Algonquin mythologies, the Wendigo is a malevolent, cannibalistic being associated with famine and winter. One of the best parts about this cryptid is that humans can *become* Wendigos. As the legends state, if a human results to cannibalism, he or she will become possessed by evil spirits and transformed into a Wendigo. Neat!



**4** Loch Ness Monster: Nessie! Arguably the second most famous cryptid other than Bigfoot. The Loch Ness Monster probably has one of the longest recorded histories of all the cryptids on this list, with the first sighting all the way back on 565 AD. First recorded in Scotland's Loch Ness in the *Life of St. Columba* by Adomnán, an author who wrote of the life of his cousin Saint Columba. The book details a man being dragged underwater by a "water beast." While it is never specifically mentioned as the Loch Ness Monster, this is probably the earliest mention of a beast in the lake. Reports of Nessie have continued for centuries, with more and more pictures and speculations popping up every year. Another interesting thing about Nessie is that no one seems to know what she *is*, really, with many people saying she is a plesiosaur and many natives saying she is a kelpie, a shapeshifting water spirit in Scottish folklore.



**3** Dogman: A Michigan cryptid! Huzzah! Half man, half dog, standing at seven feet tall with clear blue eyes and a howl that sounds like a human scream, it's not hard to fall in love with this cryptid. First reportedly seen in northwestern Michigan in Wexler County in the 1800's by two lumberjacks who described a creature with the body of a man and the head of a dog. Later that night their horses died of fright surrounded by dog tracks. In 2007 an 8mm film was uploaded to the internet called "The Gable Film," which many said provided concrete evidence of the Michigan Dogman. Look it up, it's pretty neat. Cryptid truthers intent on ruining the mystery and people's sense of childlike whimsy have dubbed the video a hoax, but I don't know. You decide.



**2** Jersey Devil: Possibly the spookiest cryptid in the game, with probably the best origin story. Also known as the "Leeds Devil," the Jersey Devil is said to have been the 13th child of a Pine Barrens, New Jersey local Mother Leeds. Already having 12 other children, Mother Leeds cursed the new child in frustration, saying he would be the devil. Low and behold when old JD was born in 1735 he transformed into a hideous monster with the head of a goat, wings of a bat and adorned with a forked tail and hooves. He is worthy of the #2 spot.



**1** Mothman: Ah, Mothman, my old friend. Mothman is my #1 favorite cryptid ever, so he of course deserves the #1 spot on my list. The Mothman is described as a seven foot winged humanoid with "glowing red eyes." Mothman has purportedly been seen at various places right before tragedy strikes, most famously at the site of the Silver Bridge in West Virginia just days before its collapse in 1967, and some have even reported seeing Mothman before 9/11. Fun fact: one time my friend (and OHS Press editor-in-chief) Lia Baldori convinced me she saw Mothman and I had a panic attack. Yikes!



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## Satire Staff reporter imagines alternative reality

Allison Murray  
Staff Reporter

Considering that alternative facts and outright racism are now perfectly acceptable, here's a look into the next four years living in this crazy, confusing, wonderful, beautiful alt(right)-world!

Thanks to Donald Trump's massive win in the electoral college and surpassing Hillary Clinton in the popular vote by roughly 2.9 million votes, America is finally on its way to being great once again.

Despite the fact that First Lady Melania Trump speaks every globally recognized language except for English, cyber bullying across the nation is at the same level it was when computers first entered the home.

Since the repeal of ObamaCare, protests have died down immensely

due to "survival of the fittest" mind-sets being restored to the population. If you cannot afford health care you are not meant to survive. It's simple.

On the topic of survival of the fittest, America is now completely and literally underwater due to a rapid increase global warming. In efforts to keep the Aryan race plentiful, only white people have been given genetically engineered gills.

One benefit of an entire country being submerged in water: the seven Middle-Eastern countries listed on the immigration ban that Trump doesn't do business with, and China ("Gina"), now out of business, cannot swim.

Despite the efforts of sissy judges pushing for marriage equality and immigration, gay marriage is illegal once again, thank God, and Mexico's over-rated president agreed to pay for the wall. Immigrants from Mexico have rerouted to Canada after realizing how hot Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is.

Now that church and state are synonymous and white men officially hold the rights to women's reproductive health, Planned Parenthood is merely a fairy tale that will never exist again. Not only are a majority of the country's women scrambling to get IUDs inserted, women have stopped protesting in the streets and have resumed their rightful position in the kitchens.

The shock factor that followed Trump's leaked TMZ recording has subsided now that it is understood that if Donald Trump "grabs you by the p\*ssy," you can't get upset or offended; he only does it because women aren't allowed to shake hands.

Fake news CNN has swallowed up every once-credible news source like a sinkhole, leaving Fox News to be the only news network permissible.

Although Kellyanne Conway and Tomi Lahren didn't quite make it onto Holden's list of top ten cryptids, it is not uncommon to spot one roaming the streets after dark. You won't catch Fox News reporting on the cryptids, however, because they make Trump look bad after rumors of him feeding refugees and illegal immigrants to the Chupacabras arose.

On the subject of censorship, the Broadway show *Hamilton* is banned from being performed literally anywhere. After the cast's brutal verbal attack on Mike Pence, Trump declared an executive order making any form of reenactment, as well as insinuating Pence being "overly sensitive" punishable by Chupacabra, I mean death.

With any great presidency comes a couple of bumps in the road. Even Donald Trump himself, the only president to hold a 100 percent approval rating, cannot prevent that.

History books are currently being revised to include the events of Bowling Green Massacre, the biggest mass killing in U.S. history. Candlelit vigils

will be held every Sunday for the next four years to commemorate those lost.

Killary Clinton has officially retired from trying to pass unconstitutional anti-gun laws. Schools across the nation have been practicing lock-down drills almost every day due to weekly school shootings.

Patriotism has never been more prevalent across a population. Military-grade assault rifles have made it to the top of every legal, natural born, U.S. citizen child's wish list.

Betsy DeVos, Ph.D. in education and grammar, has successfully shut down all public schools. Similar to the natural selection mindset, if you cannot afford private school, you don't deserve an education. Bears are currently inhabiting the empty school buildings.

DeVos has reinstilled good old-fashioned American values to the youth of our nation. Not only are children required to say the pledge five

times a day, history classes for grades K-8 focus on reviewing the legitimacy of President Barack Obama's birth certificate.

Some noteworthy highlights of the Fuhrer's - I mean Donald Trump's - presidency: the Clintons have officially changed their address to Guantanamo Bay, Iyin' Ted Cruz faces 25 to life for the series of Zodiac killer murders, and Brock Turner is currently training for the Olympics with a few of his fellow teammates on the Stanford swim team after everyone stopped overreacting and realized boys will be boys and he didn't *really* mean to rape that girl.

So congratulations, America. You finally achieved the three things that make a country great: racism, alternative facts and restoring fear to any population of people who aren't God-fearing white men. Grab your women and children because this ship is goin' down.