The Approval Matrix: Week of December 29, 2014

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies. Mouse over or tap the image for related links.

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In his Christmas address,

Francis, the straight-dope pope, slams the Vatican

bureaucracy's "hardened heart," brown-nosing habits, "funereal" faces.

Amie Siegel's

of-utopian-office-

furniture film

Provenance at the Met.

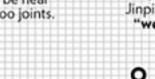
transporting history- O

 ISIS captures women it considers infidels and sells them as sex slaves.



UT Austin and Ohio State researchers find that kids who eat a lot of fast food have lower test scores. Professor McNuggets was shocked at this finding.

Noted punker Paul Tudor Jones II to move his hedge fund O to 51 Astor Place to be near many bong-and-tattoo joints.



 An Illinois woman applied to trademark Eric Garner's last words-"I can't breathe"to put it on clothing.

Après ski.

SPICABL

E

a

According to CityRealty, 2014 was the most expensive year ever for condo and co-op sales in Manhattan-even with O fewer units sold.

American Apparel's

pervy marketing genius Dov Charney

reportedly couch-

surfing, down to his last \$100,000.





China's president, Xi Jinping, calls for an end to "weird architecture."

James Franco reportedly complains that "some" of his fellow film teachers at NYU were "shitheads.

> Sony could lose as much as \$75 million over North Korea's of The Interview.



madcap assassination





with her husband

on Real Housewives



Even if Iggy Azalea is a bit racially daft, she's just a silly young pop star. O Why are hacker-vigilantes trying to ruin her life? ...



According to the British Medical Journal, half of the

health recommendations

on The Dr. Oz Show

were wrong or baseless.

Once banned as unsafe, Chinatown bus operator Fung Wah might be

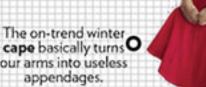


Bobby Shmurda.

(Allegedly.)

Rhymes with

The Downtown Alliance installs a "selfie station" to help tourists get O that perfect pic with One World Trade Center.



Bruno Mars in hair curlers.



Sting ably skippers

of Jacqulyn Buglisi's Suspended Women at Alvin Ailey.

O The often grimly rollicking Pocatello at Playwrights Horizons.



Holiday reading: Phil Zuckerman's Living the Secular Life ...

> . And Grant Wacker's America's Pastor, about Billy Graham.



Slate's "Year of Outrage": a look back at what got our panties in a twist on Twitter in 2014.



American Symphony

Orchestra's doubleheader of Thornton Wilder's The Long

Christmas Dinner, the second

time in opera form.

Jason Sokol's Yankees-are-racisttoo history All Eyes Are Upon Us.



О

Oliver Wasow's collection of found photos of people standing next to their televisions on vulture.com.



.. Still, Q-Tip did a o Twitter-schooling her on hip-hop history.



We'll miss Stephen Colbert's goofball. spoonful-of-sugarcoated-satire incisiveness.



SNL's "Serial" parody. Happy holidays!

Madonna's terrific, ahead-of-o the-curve "Unapologetic Bitch."



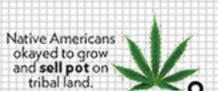
The MTA's new subway-etiquette



Disco: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Cover Art of Disco Records.



Mission Chinese is back.



LOWBROW

RILLIANT