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Julian Nazario/The Mirror

Students, faculty and staff joined to walk around campus and recognize the need for campus diversity.

Black Stags Matter: Fairfield Community Makes Statement on Campus Diversity

By Julian Nazario
Copy Editor, Head News Editor

Fairfield University Student Association organized a student walk on Wednesday, April 19 to recognize the need for “cultural change on campus” and support the students who have been marginalized and silenced. The walk also occurred a year after students interrupted a “Community in Action” event to protest Fairfield’s decision to remove a Black Lives Matter flag in the Student Health Center last February 2022.

The walk started at the traffic circle bus stop around 1:40 p.m. after students, faculty and staff members were conversing and picking up the free shirts that were provided with the event logo called “Celebration of Unity”.

The event started with a small and impromptu speech by FUSA’s Director of Diversity and Inclusion Eden Marchese ‘23 (they/them) in which they thanked all the students who participated in the event and noted the substantial increase in student participation and support in the second “Black Stags Matter Walk”. After that introduction, Marchese led the walk of students to their first stop, the Stag Statue.

In their first stop, current FUSA Vice President and 2023-24 FUSA President-Elect Aliyah Seenauth ‘24 offered remarks on what the walk meant to her and all the underrepresented students of the North Benson campus.

“Students and young people have been leading activists since the beginning,” Seenauth acknowledged. “Today we recognize the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and how they have demonstrated the importance for institutions to encourage and facilitate student participation and organization in leading processes.”

She continued by listing and calling out previous events in Fairfield University’s discriminatory history, like the off-campus, ghetto-themed party in 2016 that made national news, the removal of a Black Lives Matter flag from the Counseling & Psychological Services office in 2022 and the town’s history of slavery. The President-Elect also celebrated the establishment of

the Black Studies department and the integration of the Social Justice tier in the Magis Core Curriculum.

“Today we recognize the 20 Black students in our Fairfield community that demanded our institution of higher education to alleviate embedded racism in 1969. Today we recognize our Stags that were affected by the hatred and ignorance of the ghetto party in 2016.”

Seenauth also addressed last year’s BLM flag removal that prompted the first on-campus Black Stags Matter Walk by stating that “we recognize and highlight the place our minds and hearts were in on our campus on Feb. 28, 2022. The outcomes of that day still linger, and we will never forget to acknowledge that Black Lives Matter—they always have and they always will.”

Her statements concluded by sharing with the participants of the walk that being a Stag of color “means that you always feel like you have to defend yourself” and discussing the constant struggle of having to prove their abilities while “not [feel-

“
For me personally, nothing too bad has happened and I’m very thankful for that because I know other students have had bad experiences on campus in regards to their race.”

-Tayana Jones ‘26

ing] valued amongst our white peers.”

The walk continued through the center of the quad with the Student Health Center as its destination, the second stop of the event. There, first-year students Lliana Joe and Tayana Jones shared their experiences facing discrimination on campus and gave a voice of alert of the changes that are still needed to achieve a welcoming environment.

“We are freshmen, so class of 2026, and we are speaking about our experiences on campus,” Jones’ speech began in the company of another student speaker and Dakota, the campus support dog. “For me personally, nothing too bad has happened and I’m very thankful for that because I know other students have had bad experiences on campus in regards to their race.”

She continued her remarks by sharing part of her application process and the comments her mom shared about Fairfield’s lack of diversity. “When I applied to Fairfield, my mom told me that ‘you should look at the statistics of the school’ and I was like, well I’m expecting it to be obviously a lot more of white students, so that is not surprising to me. But she said that the number of Blacks and people of color were very, very small, and she was not wrong.”

Jones also commented on her admitted student’s day experience and how “lucky” she felt finding a safe space in the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

“They’ve helped me on campus. They definitely helped my experience. They helped me find friends who are like me, so I do feel very thankful and safe because of that community,” concluded Jones.

Meanwhile, Joe shared her perspective on the cyclic nature of discrimination and microaggressions on campus and how she had to prepare herself to confront that before moving to the North Benson campus.

“It’s easy for it to get passed over and get ignored because we are at Fairfield, and the majority of the people here don’t look like me ... [and] so what ends up happening is no one talks about it, no one stands up for it and then it gets ignored and it keeps happening.”

She also narrated that she has confronted three “incidents” during her first two semesters at Fairfield, which she describes as “terrible and honestly unfortunate.” However, what troubles Joe more is “the fact that when I came here, I knew that was going to happen.”

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Fizz Used to Spread Hate Following Black Stags Matter Walk

By Max Limric
Managing Editor

In the wake of the second annual Black Stags Matter Walk, a number of Fairfield University students have taken to the anonymous app Fizz to spread insensitive comments. The walk, held on April 19, was the first time it was student-led. Fairfield University Student Association Vice President and 2023-24 President-Elect Aliyah Seenauth ‘24 and FUSA Director of Diversity and Inclusion Eden Marchese ‘23 organized the walk which featured student speakers.

In regard to the anonymous platform, Fizz, introduced at the beginning of the spring semester, The Mirror published an article about the controversy surrounding the app as not only students but also Karen Donaghue ‘03, Vice President of Student Life, noted its propensity to encourage cyberbullying and spread hateful content.

Students voiced concerns over cyberbullying in the previous article but also brought the validity of Fizz’s anonymity into question based on the need for one to register with their student email. Also, because Fizz requires students to join the platform with their Fairfield identification, it is certain these comments came from the student body.

In one of the Fizz posts, a screenshot of the email sent out by FUSA marketing the Black Stags Matter Walk was uploaded and a comment under the post stated, “We should do a walk for our white stags.”

In another post to Fizz, a screenshot of FUSA’s “Unity in Student Advocacy: Black Stags Still Matter” event, which occurred on April 25, was uploaded, in which students left ignorant and insensitive statements in the comments.

“How come FUSA can’t stop emailing me about Black Stag events, I’m not Black so I can’t attend the event. I can now see where my tuition is going, funding this new Bellarmine school for underprivileged kids in Bridgeport. Disappointed that my money isn’t even going towards my education,” the anonymous comment read.

The Mirror has been unable to verify if funding for Bellarmine College comes from the tuition of students enrolled in the four-year undergraduate program on the North Benson campus. The Mirror reached out to leadership at Fairfield Bellarmine for comment on funding, but they did not respond in time for publication.

However, a FairfieldNews article details that funding for the Bellarmine Initiative comes—at least in part—from donors. The article writes that “a \$1 million gift from alumnus and former University Trustee Kevin Conlisk ‘66, will significantly impact the development of [Fairfield Bellarmine].”

Moreover, the Dec. 6, 2021 Academic Council meeting minutes state that “Fairfield, for a long time, has been well aware of the need for bridge programs for high school students from Bridgeport and surrounding areas, and we now have the resources and the will as an institution to act on that awareness.”

They affirm that “We have never been in a stronger place in the regard of resources.”

These comments posted to Fizz came days before Bellarmine’s Accepted Students Day on April 22, which hosted Fairfield Bellarmine admitted students on the North Benson Campus.

“
Going forward, we must all put equal effort in creating community between students at both Bellarmine and North Benson campuses in order to introduce this initiative with welcome and belonging.”
-FUSA

FUSA’s email highlighting the event details the responsibility that students have this upcoming school year when Bellarmine Campus opens its doors. “Going forward, we must all put equal effort in creating community between students at both Bellarmine and North Benson campuses in order to introduce this initiative with welcome and belonging.”

However, these comments posted on Fizz may allude to negative perceptions of Fairfield Bellarmine by current Fairfield students.

The Fairfield University Bellarmine website writes, “In the Jesuit tradition of serving urban communities and opening access to education for all, Bellarmine will offer strong professional preparation and enhanced academic support to low-income and first-generation students in Bridgeport and surrounding Connecticut communities.” Fairfield Bellarmine is set to welcome its inaugural class this upcoming academic year and began building its inaugural class on Jan. 26.

The concept of a two-year associate program is not a new concept as

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FINALS WEEK HOURS

TUESDAY, MAY 2ND - WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH



MAY 2ND - MAY 9TH — REGULAR HOURS
MAY 10TH — 7:30 AM - 2 PM



MAY 2ND - MAY 9TH — REGULAR HOURS
MAY 10TH — 11 AM - 7 PM



MAY 2ND - MAY 8TH — REGULAR HOURS
MAY 9TH — 5 PM - 10:30 PM
MAY 10TH — CLOSED

FOOD TRUCKS

MAY 2ND - MAY 5TH — REGULAR HOURS
MAY 6TH - MAY 7TH — NO FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE
MAY 8TH - MAY 9TH — 11 AM - 3 PM, **Jack's Burrito** TRUCK
MAY 10TH — CLOSED



MAY 2ND - MAY 5TH — 7:30 AM - 8 PM
MAY 6TH — 7:30 AM - 4 PM
MAY 7TH — CLOSED
MAY 8TH - MAY 9TH — 7:30 AM - 8 PM
MAY 10TH — 7:30 AM - 3 PM



MAY 2ND - MAY 10TH — 7:30 AM - 3 PM



MAY 2ND - MAY 5TH — 7:30 AM - 8 PM
MAY 6TH - MAY 7TH — CLOSED
MAY 8TH - MAY 9TH — 7:30 AM - 8 PM
MAY 10TH — 7:30 AM - 3 PM



Stags Hospitality's bike is the newest addition to our fleet. With rotating products and movement to new locations, this bike will surprise and delight students across campus.

STAGSHospitality



Compiled by Kathleen Morris
Information contributed by the
Department of Public Safety.

- 4/19 at 3:30 a.m.
Two female students in Kostka Hall reported that a male individual walked into their room and left. The Department of Public Safety is in the process of identifying the male individual and will tell him “to stay in his room.”
- 4/20 at 12:15 a.m.
There was a fire alarm in 47 Mahan Road, which was set off after a candle fell and lit a piece of paper on fire. There was minimal damage from the smoke and the students were referred to the Dean of Students for the possession of a candle.
- 4/19 at 10:30 a.m.
A resident discovered a demonic symbol on the floor of their off-campus housing property. The University removed the symbol and Rev. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J., '04 performed a blessing on the house.
- 4/20 at 5 p.m.
There was a burglary in Townhouse 2 Block, as students kicked down the door of a Residence Life closet and stole confiscated candles. The incident is under investigation.
- 4/21 at 2:30 a.m.
The Department of Public Safety observed a vehicle hit a stone pillar in the Jogues lot, which caused it to roll and hit a tree. It was determined that the car belonged to a food delivery driver. The car suffered from front-end damage, but no one was injured.
- 4/21 and 4/24
Four catalytic converters were stolen over the past week. One was stolen from a vehicle on Townhouse 1 Block, two from vehicles parked in the rear of the RecPlex and a final from a vehicle parked in the Fairfield Prep senior lot. These incidents are under investigation by the Department of Public Safety and the Fairfield Police Department.
- 4/23 at 3:02 p.m.
In the upper lot of Fairfield Prep, a catalytic converter was partially removed. The theft was interrupted by a bystander and the thief left. The bystander called the Fairfield Police Department and followed them to the Osborn Hill Elementary School. The police arrived at the scene and the information of the thief’s car was documented. The incident is under investigation.

Students Create Real-World Impact with Recycling for Refugees Initiative

By Grace Lannigan
Contributing Writer

As the semester draws to a close and students prepare to move out of residence halls, they are given the opportunity to donate their unused belongings to a meaningful cause. Three years ago, Fairfield University students Vinny Rotondo ‘23 and Hannah Sencaj ‘23 spearheaded an on-campus operation aimed to assist newly-arrived refugees as they acclimate to life in the United States. Recycling for Refugees is an on-campus initiative that offers Fairfield University students the opportunity to donate their furniture and otherwise unused items to refugees looking to furnish their living spaces in the wake of their arrival. Rotondo says that he and Sencaj were inspired to start Recycling for Refugees after taking a refugee literature course taught by Julie Mughal, the Assistant Director of Humanitarian Action in Fairfield University’s Center for Social Impact. The course was centered around understanding the individual and immeasurable difficulties faced by refugees forced to flee their home countries in search of self-preservation. After watching a film on the magnitude of American greed, the students noticed how American consumerism can lead to material waste and a lack of equitable distribution of resources. Rotondo noted that they both wondered “What if we put our excess commodities to use?” Their purpose was nuanced as it aimed to promote awareness about the plights faced by refugees while concurrently encouraging students to see the ways in which their donations have the opportunity to

meaningfully impact the lives of others. Given that the program started in the midst of COVID-19, it was not until last year that students were able to meet the refugees in person. Human interaction is an essential element of service work, and students were able to further connect with the mission once given the opportunity to see the real-life impact of their work. Rotondo reflects that this interaction was “the most meaningful part of the experience” and a tradition he wishes to continue in future years. Integral to the program’s suc-

cess is the team of student movers who assist in collecting items and ensuring that they are organized and properly assembled for when the refugees arrive. Donations include tables, lamps, rugs, hampers, kitchen supplies and more. Even if students are not in a position to donate, movers are always needed as they play an integral role in the recycling process. As encapsulated by Julie Mughal, “Recycling for Refugees is a wonderful initiative which allows students to donate gently used clothes, furniture, household goods and school supplies to local organizations which can put them to good use while also keeping them out of landfills.” “It is a win-win for everyone and a great way for our campus to advance our commitment to Laudato Si,” celebrated Mughal while referencing Pope Francis’ encyclical addressing ecological issues. As both seniors prepare to graduate in May, their mission is to keep Recycling for Refugees alive in their wake. It is a collaborative effort and a community experience that relies on students joining together to promote their cause. Fairfield University Student Association will be sending a school-wide email with further instructions on how students may participate. The students emphasized that any student donations in the form of items or time are welcomed and appreciated. The impact of Recycling for Refugees extends beyond the material value of the items donated; it is an initiative with a real-world impact and an opportunity to provide comfort and stability to refugees as they resettle in their new country.

“ Recycling for Refugees is a wonderful initiative which allows students to donate gently used clothes, furniture, household goods and school supplies to local organizations which can put them to good use while also keeping them out of landfills.”

- Julie Mughal,
Assistant Director of
Humanitarian Action

School of Business and Imarticus Learning Partner To Welcome Students from India

By Samantha Russell
Assistant News Editor

immersed in components that range from group projects to community acclimation. In the words of Micu, the program is a “tremendous experience” for students engaged in the program, as well as their classmates situated on North Benson Rd. Surely, both professional parties are equally as excited for and supportive of their students and the emerging opportunity. “Both partners are passionate about their student’s success,” she assured, “and crafted a program that would gradually immerse the students in what we can call the ‘American modern Jesuit graduate business academic experience’ that will start in India and culminate on campus in Fairfield.” The Dolan School of Business prides a 98% graduate placement rate as well as graduate specialization areas “consistently ranked in the top 25 by US News and World Report,” according to Micu. Staying true to their resolute ambition, DSB desired a partner as remarkable as themselves. Furthermore, they strove for a company that would achieve outstanding outcomes by providing quality education and a high level of care for their students—just as the Fairfield Jesuits do. Held to this criteria, Imarticus Learning was a clear winner. Imarticus Learning is an award-winning, professional education firm in India that issues professional certification courses and degree programs across five domains: finance, marketing, management, analytics and technology. Through partnering with acclaimed educational institutions and universities, the firm is able to empower a new generation of leaders and professionals. “By organizing knowledge with advanced technology and making learning accessible, our goal is to prepare our global

learning community for a futuristic, tech-driven society,” declares their official website. Similar to DSB, Imarticus Learning holds a placement record of 85%. Moreover, all of its alumni are employed—and 72% of them are at Fortune 500 companies. This partnership creates a versatile program that expands Fairfield’s global expansion goals and brings attention to Dolan’s top-ranked programs in India. On a student basis, however, the program introduces international students to Fairfield’s impressive faculty and relevant courses. Culturally, the program assists in enriching the Fairfield campus through further diversification of the student body, as well as exposure to its unique elements. Micu described that upon the arrival of Imarticus students, working alongside other Dolan graduate students, their previous work culture and habits will be shared and, therefore, “[enrich] the interpretation of the class case studies and projects.” The partnership will begin with one program in Master in Science (MS) in Business Analytics, but will later expand to encompass numerous areas. Dolan’s Business Analytics graduate specialty is a highly attractive option for Indian students, ranking 21st in the nation in 2022. Micu continued to explain that Dolan’s MS in Business Analytics program won the top award of the 2022 Wharton QS Reimagine Education Awards in the “Best Online Program” category. Dolan will spend the next few months building the schedule of courses that will be offered online for Indian students. After the start of Jan. 2024 classes, students will travel to Fairfield during the summer, and join the campus’ fall semester classes.

THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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FUSA Encourages Students to Challenge Biases in Wake of Insensitive Fizz Posts

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it has been utilized elsewhere in the United States. Loyola University Chicago’s Arrupe College program offers similar academic tracks to ensure that any student, regardless of their financial situation, is able to immerse themselves in Jesuit higher education at an affordable price.


The Fizz post referencing Bellarmine Campus received five downvotes, meaning a net total of five users of Fizz did not like its content. Another comment on that same post made reference to the five downvotes, likening the number of downvotes to the lack of diversity on campus, writing that “All the black people at Fairfield downvoted lmao.”

Seenauth, who played a vital role in the organization of the walk, is “disappointed in the words being said on Fizz,” noting that she is “unfortunately not shocked.”

She points out that many of the comments on Fizz are false and if students took the time to attend FUSAs’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events, they would learn about the importance of such events and their thinking would be challenged.

In response to the Fizz comments, the President of the Black Student Union Mekaylia Ingram ‘25 took to Instagram with an official statement:

“I just wanted to let you all know that I am aware of the insensitive and racist comments being made on the anonymous platform ‘Fizz’ in regards to the Black Stags Matter events taking place on campus. Despite all the discouragement we may be facing, I am beyond proud of you all for showing up for you!



BSU President, Mekaylia Ingram ‘25, shares a hug with two student-speakers of the Black Stag Lives Matter Walk after they gave their remarks.

She then addresses those who spread hate: “To those who choose to live a life of negativity and hate. I pray [that] you find peace within yourself and begin to unlearn the habits that are hurtful to other communities.”

This is not the first instance in which the anonymity of Fizz has resulted in an influx of hate comments after an event highlighting students of color. President-Elect Seeaunth recalls her campaign for the FUSA presidency and the comments that arose on Fizz during said time.

“Throughout my campaign I witnessed very hurtful and distasteful things said about

myself and students of color in general on Fizz.”

First-year Blessed Barrios, the BSU Event Coordinator elect, notes that because of hateful comments on Fizz “some people are starting to not feel safe on campus due to these posts and it is horrific that students are being affected and things aren’t being done.”

She believes that the students making these comments on Fizz should be held accountable because their comments affect people’s lives as users hide behind Fizz’s anonymity to spread hate and create an unsafe environment on campus.

“Imagine if students had to sign in to Fizz and have their real names displayed every time they posted,” she said. “No one would be posting all of these hateful comments.”

In the comment section of Fairfield BSU’s Instagram post, Rachelle Brunn-Bevel Ph.D., Chair of Sociology and Anthropology and Associate Professor of Black Studies noted Fizz’s similarity to Yik-Yak.

“I had to Google what Fizz was. This sounds very similar to commentary on Yik-Yak during and after a peaceful protest led by students of color in response to Eric Garner’s murder several years ago,” she commented.

Seenauth also notes the similarity between responses to the Black Stages Matter Walk and the responses to the “ghetto party” in 2016. She continued, “Folks took to Yik Yak at the time to share their ignorance on another anonymous platform.”

Additionally, the Black Studies department at Fairfield shared their response to such acts of hate on Instagram as well.

“The power and audacity of a march: to be forced to see that racism lives and thrives on a college campus in 2023, to disrupt the narratives of racial tranquility.”

Their post then touches upon the fact that the walk—which focused on the power of students’ voices and experiences—incited such negative responses.

“In laughter, friendship and comradery, Black students, Black staff, Black faculty and faculty of color and their allies in their Black t-shirt walked from one spot to the next, telling stories of their experiences and their truths somehow incited negativity,” @blackstudiesfairfieldu on Instagram wrote.

The Black Studies Department continued to note the resemblance between the responses that the walk garnered from students on Fizz and the responses that the removal of the Black Lives Matter flag last year garnered:

“This march and this response suggest that silence is complicity. Like the Black Lives Matter flag, the march made some folks uncomfortable, perhaps exposed. And yet ... and yet this was only an assembly of people ... walking ... no official demands were made. If anything, it was expected that the campus bear[s] witness, and in return, some have behaved badly.”

Seenauth attributes the comments on Fizz to a lack of empathy and a lack of education on one’s implicit biases.

“As Fairfield’s student body is made up of wealthier individuals who identify as white and don’t have to think the way underrepresented students do, when things like this are posted I always tell myself, these people just haven’t educated themselves on their unconscious biases and unfortunately haven’t addressed the way they’ve been socialized,” stated Seenauth.

Marchese echoed Seenauth’s sentiments, and when asked if Marchese believes that these posts reflect the views of the larger student body as a predominately white institution, Marchese stated no and then touched upon the silence of white people on campus in regard to social justice:

“I think it is more telling how silent white people on campus have been, especially when it isn’t ‘trendy’ to join a movement.”

Ingram also challenges students who espouse racist ideologies and asks “those who wake up every day with

racist ideologies to think about what they gain from making negative comments to a group of people. Where does your insecurity lie? How does it make you a better person? Why are you so hurt that a community that faces constant oppression is being uplifted? And last but not least, What if you were being targeted simply for the color of your skin?”

Marchese then expressed the necessity for white people to not only challenge their biases through education but also to join the movements.

“White people have to realize that they need to be a part of the movements to make campus safer for all of our communities. Stop putting the work solely onto the communities being targeted. Do research, educate yourself and speak out when your friends or strangers are acting out of ignorance. Stop being complacent,” they finished.

Student unions on campus are a part of the movement and continue to show their support for the black community on campus as they condemn the comments on Fizz.

“Community goes beyond people like those that wrote on Fizz who are scared of a world in which all people are loved. Their ignorance and hate will never stop movements of love.”

- Eden Marchese ‘23, FUSA D&I Director

The Latinx Student Union issued a statement to The Mirror regarding the recent hate online and noted that hate on campus does not only affect Black students but the entire student body.

“The Latinx Student Union condemns all acts of racism, microaggressions and insensitivity towards the Black community. We stand in unity with the community of color on campus, as these issues severely impact all of us.”

In regards to the walk, Marchese states that “the central theme of the event was one of community.” And that “community goes beyond people like those that wrote on Fizz who are scared of a world in which all people are loved. Their ignorance and hate will never stop movements of love.”

They continued, “It was beautiful to see how many people around campus came together for the event and I know that love will always triumph over injustice and hate.”

Seenauth affirms that the “Black Stags Matter Walk was a success this year and it is not going anywhere. We will continue implementing this walk as it is clear that many do not understand its purpose and need.” She then states that “the remarks being said on Fizz represent the exact reason we have events like this.”

Seenauth encourages her white peers to come out to more DEI-related FUSA events in the future to educate themselves and “to challenge their thoughts, learn more about real-world issues and momentarily walk in the shoes of a Black and Brown student.”

She leaves us with a question: “At a Jesuit University like ours, social justice is at the forefront, and if the majority of our students are not advocates in this journey, how modern of a university really are we?”

Students Speakers Reflect on Campus Discrimination

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“Another thing that I think needs to be talked about is the fact that we have to be more conscious of the things we say and the things that we do. I understand that there are situations where we aren’t from that background, so we really don’t understand,” said Joe. “But I’m not asking for empathy; I’m also asking for sympathy.”

She went on further by saying “We need to honestly question ourselves; we need to challenge ourselves. Why do we have these biases? Why do we say these things? This environment that we are in, because it is so predominantly white, fosters this place where these comments can be made.”

In her concluding remarks, Joe made a call to action for more resources and support to be assigned to Fairfield’s underrepresented communities and the programs supporting them.

After the remarks at the Health Center stop, the participants started to walk to the Canisius academic building, where the Managing Editor of The Fairfield Mirror, Max Limric ‘25, reflected on the paper’s commitment to be the voice of all students and encouraged Fairfield community members to contribute their voice to the publication. Then, the wave of people wearing black shirts continued their walk to the Egan chapel where senior student Kaitlyn Drake ‘23 was about to give her speech.

Drake opened her part by thanking the organizers for having the opportunity to “publicly denounce racism and say the three words that President Mark Nemec has yet to say: Black Lives Matter.”

“Obviously, not everyone at Fairfield is racist, but over these past four years, the university has gotten whiter and richer, just as it has risen in the rankings.”

According to College Factual, Fairfield’s population is 75.2% white, 8.1% Hispanic, 2.8% Asian, and 2.6% Black or African American. A 5.4% of students didn’t report their race or ethnicity, while 4.8% said they were international students.

While working for the Office of Residence Life as a Resident Assistant for the past three years, Drake exposed that “a grand total of one of my residents has been Black.” Meanwhile, she exposed that most staff members are students of color and the RA position “remains the most diverse cohort of workers at this institution.”

“We have a responsibility to each other, to the Black Stags that attend this university, though few, so that they can one day live in a reality where Fairfield University is not characterized by the students who chose not to attend this walk, or who directly oppose our efforts on a daily basis,” added Drake.

Once her comments ended, the walk went to the south side of campus, with stops at the DiMenna-Nyse-lius Library, the Charles Dolan School of Business, the Jesuit Community house and Bellarmine Mansion—the walk’s last stop where FUSA’s D&I Director gave a final reflection.

“As someone who is graduating soon, it was something that I’ve always been nervous about because I was nervous of what comes next for Fairfield in terms of every time a senior class graduates, we lose incredible people,” Marchese confided.

They also encouraged the attendees to reflect on the reasoning why they participated in the walk and “whether that has to do with someone else, your care about other people, your care about the community ... or with the notion of checking a box to say ‘I’m not like other people [at Fairfield]?’”



First-year students share their experiences with discrimination on campus in front of the Health Center.

While making reference to the moment at the start of the walk where Vice President Seenatuh got emotional while reading part of her remarks, Marchese implored the participants to think about the reason behind those emotions.

“Think about why. Why is she in a place, why are other people on this campus community in a place where they are so emotionally overwhelmed with their experiences and so, get to a place of being distraught? What do you make in your everyday life to make sure that doesn’t happen to them.”

The event concluded with a debrief session at the Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center open to all students regardless of their participation in the walk.

Opinion

Editor: Liz Morin
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Faculty Participation on Campus is Necessary to Provide a Welcoming Environment

By Amy Maganoli
Contributing Writer

Fairfield University is an organization. Like all organizations, Fairfield is composed of an organized body of people with a particular purpose, which is educating students for their future career paths.

“For more than 80 years, Fairfield University has been graduating adept, accomplished and socially responsible leaders in an academic community where the learning



Psychology Club's annual "Out of The Darkness Walk" saw low staff and faculty participation.

goes deeper, the friendships are more meaningful and the experiences stay with you long after graduation.”

Aside from the University's purpose of enhancing and supporting students' academic and career goals, Fairfield University has values that promote the overall well-being of its students.

As a student at Fairfield University, I do not consider this place an organization, I consider Fairfield home.

After attending the University for the past three years and living on campus as well, I have built long lasting relationships with my classmates, as well as staff, in which some of them I consider family.

I have spent almost 24 months interacting, living and learning with individuals who attend and work at Fairfield.

Not only do my peers at Fairfield see me at my best, but they see me at my worst when I am struggling and need their support.

Recently, a suicide prevention walk took place on Sunday, April 16.

“Out of The Darkness” Suicide Prevention walk was a way for all members of the Fairfield community to “support those who have lost their lives, know someone who lost their lives, or is currently struggling with suicidal ideation.”

Overall, the fundraising aspect of the walk was a huge success, as Fairfield raised over \$17,000.

Yet, the attempt to depict Fairfield's strong sense of community through the walk was unsuccessful, as all members of the community did not attend the event.

According to the University's values and missions, Fairfield has the obligation to better the entire community as a whole.

“Fairfield also has a further obligation to the wider community of which it is a part, to share its resources and special expertise with its neighbors for the betterment of the community as a whole.”

Unfortunately, it has been reported by the executive

members of the Psychology Club that very few faculty and administration attended this event that promotes mental health for students at the school.

The reported lack of attendance by faculty and administration is not aligned with Fairfield's sense of community and left many students feeling unsupported in their well-being.

In addition, suicide prevention walks help raise awareness about resources and promote open conversations about challenges one may be going through.

Since faculty and administration did not attend, it may send a message to students that mental health is not a priority.

It is essential for members of the University's staff to actively participate in such events to show support for their students and demonstrate their commitment to the University's values and mission.

All students need to be in an environment where they feel heard and cared for.

When faculty and administration partake in events like the suicide prevention walk, it sends a powerful message out to all.

For the future, I think it is important for Fairfield to recognize this and ensure that future events related to mental health are receiving support from faculty and administration.

There needs to be better communication between faculty and clubs at the school in order to make sure there are members of the administration who can attend student-led events and support them and their achievements.

In order to build a strong sense of community, all members must actively participate so that students can thrive academically and emotionally.

All members of the Fairfield community are Stags.

All Stags need to support one another so that we can create a successful academic and emotional environment for all.

The Magis Core Should Be Redone to Include a Finance Class

By Fiona Killeen
Contributing Writer

Thinking back to high school, I probably took one course that involved learning about personal finances.

It is not just me who feels woefully unprepared to tackle future financial decisions; Fox Business has reported that 87% of American teenagers feel that they don't know enough about personal finance.

The Magis Core at Fairfield University offers the perfect opportunity to include a personal finance class that could bring students up to speed on what to expect after graduation.

One of the main aspects of the core is to instill an ability in students to think critically, and what better way to propel this skill than by discussing how to problem-solve fluctuations or gains in income?

One of the Magis Core requirements I had to satisfy was a mathematics course.

I think if Fairfield allowed a personal finance course to fill this content area, more students would be leaving the university with a more thoughtful understanding of monetary responsibility.

Like it or not, money is a huge component of daily life.

Whether it's learning how to invest, buying a house or budgeting, money is at the forefront.

I was happy to learn that Fairfield actually already offers a personal finance course, FNCE 2190, which is intended for non-majors to learn about financial management through the lens of their own life.

According to the course catalog, the class uses elementary principles of finance to discuss risk and return, stocks, health insurance and housing costs.

If the course was listed under the Magis Core, perhaps more students would take advantage of its offerings.

Fairfield also is home to a very impressive and inno-

vative business school.

According to the Fairfield website, Niche ranked the Dolan School of Business as being a part of the top 15% of colleges in America for finance and accounting.

Year after year, it seems that Dolan rises in the ranks for having exceptionally strong programs.

Considering the school's bright reputation, more students who are not business majors would benefit from taking a course that such knowledgeable and respected educators lead.

Personal finance courses are integral to a student's learning experience because they can influence the decisions you make both while in school and out of school when you are in the workforce.

After graduation, you will have to decide between options such as entering straight into the workforce, pursuing graduate school or taking time to travel.

Whether it is figuring out how to finance grad school, allocating money for rent or simply just budgeting for groceries, financial responsibility is interwoven into every facet of life.

Without the foundational principles of financial literacy, it would be very challenging to figure out these situations on the fly.

A personal finance class would help set students up for success by even brainstorming how to be proactive in planning and funding these decisions.

Of course, no matter how much you prepare for the future, obstacles or setbacks can also occur.

That's why having those basic principles and strategies mastered is so important.

By putting in the energy now, there is less risk of unmanageable turmoil in the future.

If a personal finance course was required as a part of the Magis Core or at least strongly encouraged, students would be more likely to learn about these topics.

Fairfield is a school that provides countless classes, and it is easy to overlook or miss one.

I am always amazed when I browse through the course offerings to see the plethora of unique and challenging classes.

By highlighting a personal finance class and including it in the core, more students would gain knowledge on practical and useful skills necessary for financial stability.



"Watertok" Is The Newest TikTok Trend Confusing Viewers

By Kaitlyn Conroy
Contributing Writer

TikTok is known for mass-producing trends about every week.

It still astonishes me how fast a trend can start and end in such a short amount of time on that app.

For instance, just recently, there was a meme trend that started after the Barbie film promotion pictures were posted on the film’s Instagram account.

These pictures are of the film’s cast photoshopped into a bright, colorful background with a short phrase describing the character.

For example, Ryan Gosling, who plays Ken, has a phrase that reads “He’s just Ken” on his picture.

People started recreating these promotional pictures with other celebrities, characters or themselves.

Even our own Stags Hospitality team posted their own rendition of the trend to their Instagram.

However, the trend fizzled out within a few days.

For the past few weeks, a new trend has been taking over the “For You page” of TikTok. “Watertok” is sweeping the nation’s millennials and Gen Xers.

Yes, it is true. This is one of the only popular trends Gen Z is not front-running.

Flavored water is the newest way for people to receive their daily hydration.

Let me briefly explain how a typical “Watertok” video goes.

First, the creator fills their 40 ounce sustainable cup of choice, usually a Stanley cup, with regular water and ice.

Then, they will usually put in an artificially flavored packet mixed with a couple of pumps of zero-sugar, zero-calorie artificial syrup.

Finally, they mix it all up and enjoy their overly sweet “water.” Typically they have at least two more of these concoctions throughout the day.



“Watertok” is dividing viewers, with some who see it as a fun way to drink water, but others not even considering it healthy.

Now I completely understand wanting to have a flavored beverage throughout the course of the day.

I love having the occasional lemonade with my dinner.

My annoyance is geared toward the fact that these creators still call it water because it is not.

Flavored water has been around for ages.

I used to squeeze MiO into my water sometimes as a kid. The difference is that I never drank that regularly for my everyday water intake.

These “waters” are not actually water, and drinking them is not the healthiest of choices.

It is like drinking a non-carbonated diet soda.

Yes, the packets and syrups have no sugar, but they are still artificial.

Drinking them regularly is not healthy. Even dietitians are saying this!

I was on TikTok right before writing this, and I was watching a video of a user named @abbeyskitchen, who is a dietician.

She voiced her concerns about constantly drinking these flavored water beverages because the artificial sweeteners in these packets and syrups can have long-lasting effects on the body: including intestinal issues and teeth staining.

These artificial sweeteners are also not helping your body receive proper hydration.

She suggests that these drinks should be enjoyed in moderation, and I (in my non-professional opinion) agree with her.

She also talks about how we should reduce our reliance on artificial sweeteners and focus on the natural sweeteners of fruits and vegetables.

At the end of the video, she suggests just adding fruit to water to make it sweet and healthy at the same time.

I have never tried these flavored waters, and to be honest I have no inclination to try them.

I know they will be overpowered with artificial flavor, and frankly, I enjoy drinking regular ice-cold water.

It is more refreshing, in my opinion.

However, if you like drinking these flavored waters I cannot stop you.

It’s your life!

I do have to say I find it funny that in retaliation to people with opinions like mine, these TikTok creators are calling their beverage potions.

It’s very creative. In the grand scheme of things, enjoy your water however you like, but I will be sticking with my regular H2O.

A Lack Of Space in the RecPlex is Harming Students Ability to De-Stress

By Liz Morin
Opinion Editor

During my first semester, I had a great schedule going.

I was nervous about going to a college gym compared to my local YMCA, which I had gotten so used to, but I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn't really crowded.

I could go after my class and be able to walk over to any machine I wanted, only occasionally having to wait for someone to finish.

I could sleep in some days without fear of walking into the gym later to find that there is a ridiculous amount of people.

This changed after winter break. At pretty much any hour of the day, there were so many people in the gym to the point where I felt uncomfortable there, even as someone who has been going to the gym for several years and has a relatively good understanding of how all of the machines work and how to do certain exercises.

I felt terrible for my friends and other students who were already anxious enough to start in the weight room because now they have to deal with extreme crowds and fear of judgment.

It helps me to know that no one’s watching me and everyone is doing their own thing, but that is much easier said than done, again, considering the time I’ve had to practice that mindset.

Everyone told me that the crowds would go down by March with the whole “New year, new me,” thing, but it’s approaching May, and I still find myself having to wake up at 6:30 a.m. to get to the gym before the crowd comes.

Even then, there are days when there’s a crowd before 8 a.m.

The other day, I woke up at 6:45 a.m. to get there before my 9:30 a.m. class, and when I checked the RecPlex live section on the Fairfield app, there were already 20 people in the weight room alone.

Now I can’t complain—there have been days where there have been 50 or more people and those are the days I tend to just stick to running.

It isn’t even worth it to try and go once it hits 30 people. You’re unlikely to get a machine, and the small space to use free weights is crowded.

Many people, including myself, use the gym as a way to destress, and I lose that when I’m trying to work out surrounded by tons of people.

At that point, it’s almost impossible to mind your own business and do your own thing because the whole experience is just a sensory overload that takes away from any calming effects that working out is supposed to provide.

That brings me to my next issue. There is no space.

Usually, when I complain about the lack of machines, people will tell me just to use free weights, but even

that space, which takes up less than half of the gym, fills by the time there are five people.

It’s because there are machines just behind and benches just in front.

There are separate open rooms in the gym, but they lack any heavyweight, so for anyone that needs something more than 20 lbs, you’re limited to the small free-weight space.

Even the machines are packed together.

When I’m going to wipe down my machine, I find myself having to wind through other machines and people standing and waiting.

Some people would say that the gym is usable, and that’s fair, some people are more comfortable in crowded and overwhelming situations than others.

But to most, it’s only usable if you change your schedule around its busy hours.

The RecPlex needs to consider dedicating more funding toward expanding the weight room to add either more machines or simply just more free space, as it will improve students’ well-being.

It’s a known fact that exercise can help with physical and mental wellness, and there shouldn’t be any barriers limiting students from participating.

When students can not use a place meant to de-stress and unwind because of limited space, it means that Fairfield has failed its students.



THE VINE

**EARTH DAY
EVERYDAY**

EDITOR: ABIGAIL WHITE

**FAIRFIELD U
ART MUSEUM**

**HANDS ON
POTTERY**





Women's Power, Resilience And Beauty Displayed In New Art Museum Exhibition





"Ethel Fisher Self Portrait" is just one of the many pieces of art curated by Phoebe Charpentier '23 as a part of the newest exhibition at the Fairfield University Art Museum, "In Their Element(s): Women Artists Across Media."

By Jacqui Rigazio
Assistant Vine Editor

On Friday, April 21, the Fairfield University Art Museum opened its newest exhibit, entitled "In Their Element(s): Women Artists Across Media." This exhibit showcases nearly 50 pieces from various contemporary female artists, emphasizing the untraditional and modern techniques used to create their art. The artwork displays female power, resilience and beauty, while also exposing harsh realities that come along with being a woman.

While the pieces in the exhibition are undeniably powerful and compelling, I think that the most amazing thing was that it was completely curated by an undergraduate student, Phoebe Charpentier '23.

This marks the first time in history that an undergraduate student fully developed an exhibition for the Fairfield University Art Museum. I was extremely impressed with Charpentier's dedication to this exhibit, and her pas-

sion for it definitely shines through the pieces on display.

I got the chance to see this exhibit on opening day and I was quite moved by each of the pieces. Seeing the different approaches and techniques that each artist used to depict womanhood was very powerful, and I felt very drawn in by each piece on display.

Upon first walking into the museum, the piece that caught my attention immediately was a painting entitled "Room on East 89th Street" by Ethel Fisher. The bright colors in this painting seemed to jump off the wall and grab my attention, so I instantly walked over to take a closer look. This piece is an oil painting on linen, and is somewhat abstract. It depicts a woman laying in bed, with random items strewn across the messy room. There are colorful posters on the wall and the blue sky is peeking out from the window curtain. The bright colors and messy room gave me a sense of chaos, yet the woman comfortably sprawled out on her bed in the middle of the painting gives a feeling of comfort. I really liked this painting because these contrasting feelings of comfort and chaos seem to coincide, and makes it appear as though the woman is powerfully claiming the chaos in her life.

Another piece that I was especially intrigued by was "Fantastic Attractions" by Scribner Ames. This piece is a collage on paper, and depicts a photo of a naked woman posing powerfully in a chair with quotes from newspapers and books collaged around her. This piece struck me as one of the most powerful in the collection, as the quotes demonstrated traditional and sexist views towards women.

The title of the piece, "Fantastic Attractions," is also collaged above the woman, implying that she is an attraction to be looked at. However, the powerful body language of the woman in the photo seems to claim her natural beauty in a fierce way. In this way, rather than viewing her body objectively, she proudly shows the power and natural beauty of the female body which I thought was very moving.

Among the many beautiful works of art, there are also pieces that are not so enjoyable to look at. There is a section of the exhibit dedicated to domestic violence and includes many troubling images. Although these photos were very unsettling to view, I think that displaying such an important issue as domestic violence on the art gallery wall forces viewers to acknowledge this issue rather than turn a blind eye. It brings awareness to domestic violence while also breaking down the stigma of discussing it.

Overall, I was thoroughly impressed with the variety of artwork on display and all of the different techniques that were used. This exhibition does a phenomenal job of showcasing woman artists and promoting an empowered female view.

This exhibit will be on campus in the Bellarmine Hall art gallery from April 21, 2023, to July 25, 2023, so definitely make sure to stop by before the semester comes to an end!



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY EVERY DAY AT FAIRFIELD



By Fiona Killeen
Contributing Writer

Every year, on April 22, people all over the world demonstrate their commitment to caring for the environment. In 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated by nearly 20 million people as a result of Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-WI) calling attention to environmental concerns through nationwide rallies.

Another factor that encouraged people to become more interested and involved in the climate justice movement was the publishing of "Silent Spring" by author Rachel Carson. The book discusses the harmful outcomes of using pesticides.

Earth Day, and the subsequent awareness that it founded, helped to politically influence policies through the passing of The Toxic Substances Control Acts, The Water Quality Improvement Act and The Clean Air Act. Today, Earth Day is a marker of the environmental achievements that have already been enacted, and a reminder of the still ever-present need for future awareness.

Some ways to be sustainable in daily life:

Plastics are implicated in environmental issues through the materials used to create them. Plastic is made from materials that are derived from fossil fuels that when manufactured, create additional greenhouse gasses. To reduce your plastic use, consider meal prepping or eating at home instead of purchasing pre-packaged meals or snacks.

On campus, it is easy to overdo the amount of plastic you use through all the plastic utensils, bags and containers. Consider eating at locations that don't rely so much on plastic or simply reducing this use. Also, think about investing

in a reusable water bottle instead of a single-use Dasani or Poland Springs bottle.

Consumerism has been recorded as the cause of 60% of all greenhouse gas emissions. The fashion industry is linked to increases in landfill use and pollution. Living in a college town with so many boutiques and retail stores nearby, it can be hard to not contribute to this source.

However,



the next time you are going to purchase something, think about whether or not you will keep it in your closet long-term, or just for a season and then toss it.

Before move-out, brainstorm if there are any items that you could donate and repurpose instead of throwing out. Fairfield University also offers courses in environmental studies such as Ecology and Society, Environmental Law and Policy and Environmental Studies.

If you find yourself increasingly curious or called to action over protecting the climate, taking a class and investigating these topics further may provide an enriching experience.

Another way to become involved in advocating for environmental awareness on campus is to participate in the Leaders for Environmental Action club.

Just like the original Earth Day inspired political change to occur, another way to celebrate this holiday is to research political candidates that honor and respect the need for climate justice.

This could mean expressing interest in either local or national elections.

Over the summer there are also frequent opportunities to partake in 5Ks or walks to raise funding and publicity over the need to protect our earth.

There are many ways to pay tribute to the individuals and organizations who have paved the way for advocacy and legislation to be enacted surrounding environmental justice.

Earth Day presents a helpful reminder of the need to bring focus to preserving the landscapes and wildlife that exist on our beautiful planet.

TAKE A STUDY BREAK AND PAINT AT HANDS ON POTTERY!

By Brooke Lathe
Executive Editor

The other week I had the luxury of returning to my childhood roots by visiting Hands on Pottery located at 1700 Post Rd. With a majority of the crowd being eight years or younger, I was surprised more college-aged people weren't there! Not only was I able to express my artistic ability, which is a rare opportunity these days, but it was just the relaxing activity I needed to indulge in during finals time—much like most of us.

Although the last few weeks of the semester are always hectic and dedicated to studying, I think it's important to remember that you can take an hour or two out of your day for a break. After all, it will only allow for a more productive mindset. We, creative people, call it an "artist date" ... look it up!

Step One: Pick Your Item

Hands on Pottery has shelves upon shelves of different pre-made pottery items you can choose from including plates, flower vases, cups, mugs, gnomes, other figurines and more. I chose a mason jar which was \$19—a steal in my eyes as it will undoubtedly last for years, much like the other choices.

However, I was eyeing this chip and dip bowl which I might have to go back for since I make guacamole quite often. The prices varied from as low as \$10 to upwards of \$40 depending on your desired piece.

Step Two: Choose Your Colors

Once you select your item, think about how you want to transform it! Once you've done so, leave it at a table and

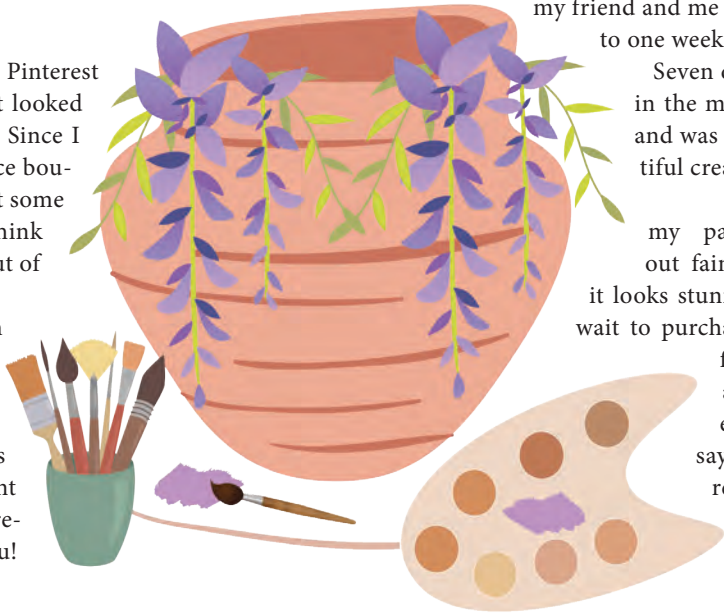
head over to the counter where you will get a paint tray that holds six colors. Of course, you can grab more than one tray if you have an idea for a super colorful outcome, but I suggest just starting with just a few.

On the wall near the paint, there is a large hand that shows the 50+ colors, in varying shades, and what they look like after it's glazed. I chose the "funfetti" for my base color which is a cream shade with hints of orange, pink and green speckles—I absolutely love how it turned out! Because I coated the entire jar and wanted to do multiple layers for a clean look, I had to go up and get a refill, but it was no problem.

Step Three: Paint!

After looking up some Pinterest inspiration, I found a jar that looked as if it was a field of flowers. Since I thought my jar would fit a nice bouquet in it, I attempted to paint some lavender around my cup. I think it honestly came out lovely, but of course, I am biased.

My friend who was with me painted a plate based on Harry Styles's song "Keep Driving" which came out beautifully as well. It just goes to show you all of the different routes you can track when creating something unique to you!



Step Four: Leaving it Behind

In addition to the item cost, you also pay a \$10 service fee. My price overall was around \$30, which I would say it's definitely worth it and reasonable.

Once your painting is out of the way, you'll write your last name underneath your product and give them your phone number. Finally, they create a ticket upfront at the desk for you which you will leave with.

Step Five: Collect Your Masterpiece

Our original return estimate was that it would take two days but they called and told both my friend and me that it would be closer to one week which I didn't mind.

Seven days later, I showed up in the morning with my ticket and was handed over my beautiful creation. So easy!

I was nervous that my painting would come out faint, but after its glaze, it looks stunning and rich—I can't wait to purchase a nice bouquet of flowers at Trader Joe's and fill my jar. In the end, I think it's safe to say I will definitely be returning soon to paint that chip and dip dish. Maybe I'll see you there?

The Future Of Technology Explored In Fiction With Vauhini Vara

By Abigail White
Head Vine Editor

On Thursday, April 20, Vauhini Vara joined professor of English and National Book Award-winning author Phil Klay as a part of the Inspired Writers Series, a companion series to Fairfield's low residency MFA program, to speak of her "The Immortal King Rao" as well as her upcoming story collection, "This is Salvaged."

Born in Saskatchewan, Canada to Indian immigrant parents, Vara grew up in the sub-

urbs of Oklahoma and Seattle. She studied creative writing at the Iowa Writers' Workshop and her fiction has been published in "McSweeney's," "Tin House," "Zyzzyva" and other journals.

Vara was an award-winning technology reporter for The Wall Street Journal when she came out with her widely acclaimed debut novel, "The Immortal King Rao". In her novel, Vara explores some of our most pressing issues and what it means to be human, moving from rural India to the explosion in the computing sector in the second half of the 20th century to a startling vision of our near future, in which big data and algorithms have swallowed up the old political structures without solving our ongoing political problems. Her work was declared a "monumental achievement" by The New York Times and was selected as The New York Times Editor's Choice. The Immortal King Rao was also the winner of the Atta Galatta-Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize and the Rosebud Award for Fiction.

Having an interesting background as a writer of both journalism and fiction, the first question Kaly asked of Vara was how her tech journalism influenced

"The Immortal King Rao" and where the original inspiration for the fictional book came from.

Vara detailed her work as a tech journalist, claiming "I found the industry really innovative and interesting," as she graduated and began writing in 2004, right around the time Facebook, Google and other "Big Tech" companies were starting up.

"If you looked at how far companies had come in the couple of years that I had started covering them, and imagine their trajectory out into the future it looked potentially scary," she said.

Vara clarified that by "scary" she means that these companies had already grown so large and obtained so much power and imagining becoming even bigger and even more powerful brings about a sense of fear. So, taking a leave of absence from her journalistic work at the age of 26, she got her degree in Creative Writing and used her extensive knowledge of the tech world to craft a fictional story.

But it was her father who was the true inspiration for her first full-length novel. Vara explained that while on a trip with her father and his wife in Latin America, he had been teasing her about only writing short stories. "Novels are really where it's at," he teased. Countering him, she asked if he had any ideas for her first novel. After giving some bad ones, he finally said, "Why don't you write something having to do with our family coconut grove in India, there was a lot of drama back home." Considering that her family history has an interesting history, Vara took inspiration from her father's life growing up on a coconut grove in India in the 1950s and the story eventually took this character to the United States, where he started up a tech company and that's where the plot

was born.

"I was writing a story that was informed by my family history but also very much by the things I had seen in writing about the tech industry," she said.

In conversation, Kaly points out that there have been a lot of dystopias written over the years that tie to modern dysfunctional American politics. What Vara does is different. She looks at changes in the economy and technology and how that relates to political structures with her fictional writing in "The Immortal King Rao".

"I find fiction to be a really interesting place for me to just put it all there so I can look at it, and so readers can hopefully look at it and just sort of see it and think about it," Vara said when talking about how she writes of technology, technological advances, world building and the choices her characters make in relation to changes in technology. "Speculative Fiction and speculative nonfiction can be a really interesting place to think about those potential other worlds that aren't dystopian; the potential utopian versions," she continued.

Vara ended her talk with Kaly by explaining what writing means to her, and what she kept in mind while she was writing "The Immortal King Rao". While some may say that "all a book has to be is made up," Vara would counter by saying that "all a book has to be is true" as a lot of fictional work is based in fact, much like her novel is based in technological fact. As a journalist, she claimed that this resonates with her.

She also says that to write a novel is to make it interesting from point A to point B. "Somebody needs to want to turn the page," she said. "Not everybody needs to want to turn the page, but somebody needs to."



Photo Courtesy of quickcenter.fairfield.edu

Author Vauhini Vara joined Phil Kaly in the discussion about her book, "The Immortal Kind Rao", as a part of Fairfield's Inspired Writers Series.

Springtime Sips: Starbucks vs. Dunkin'

By Mary Bevans
Contributing Writer

With spring now in full swing, the shift from hot chocolates and coffees to fun summer refreshers has definitely taken effect.

We are spoiled for choice on campus with two Dunkin' Donuts and a Starbucks—two companies with a notable rivalry when it comes to the beverage game.

Both are known and revered for their coffee—but which one reigns supreme when it comes to fun spring drinks?

Individually both are strong. Shared offerings include iced teas, green teas and chai lattes.

Personally, I feel like they tie in iced tea as both have a good range of flavors for your inner tea lover including green, black and herbal teas.

As an avid tea drinker myself, this makes me very happy.

However, when it comes to chai and green tea lattes there is a clear difference. For me, Starbucks takes the cake for chai—there's a more rich depth of flavor while not being too overpowering.

On the other hand, I prefer Dunkin's green tea lattes, the flavor isn't too earthy and

overpowering and I feel like you get a little more for your money given the size differences of their cups.

Some of the best Starbucks-specific drinks include their refreshers, like their passion fruit iced tea and the strawberry açai with lemonade.

After a recommendation from a good friend, it's safe to say that it's one of their best drinks on the menu.

It's sweet and a little sour with little strawberry slices that make you feel a little fancy.

Dunkin's best drinks for the warmer weather are definitely their frozen coffees and their coolatas.

It's a bit like a milkshake but not as heavy.

My personal favorite is the vanilla bean but they also have blue raspberry and strawberry.

A couple of other noteworthy drinks include their own refresher which has a nice lemonade flavor.



No matter what chain you prefer, it's safe to say there's no shortage of options. If you're feeling adventurous try something new instead of your usual order—you never know what you might find. Happy sipping!

The New Must-Watch Mockumentary: "Jury Duty"

By Brooke Lathe
Executive Editor

Calling all "Parks and Recreation," "The Office" and "Abbott Elementary" fans.

A new mockumentary just dropped and it's unlike anything you've ever seen before.

The eight-episode mini-series called "Jury Duty" is a "Truman Show"-like set-up where all characters on the show are actors, except one.

Ronald Gladden was one of 4,000 people who applied to a Craigslist advertisement that sought participants for a documentary about the judicial process.

And, because of his likable and kind characteristics, he was chosen to come down to the courthouse for questioning.

What Gladden didn't know, however, was that it was a fake advertisement for a pretend trial and the directors had already chosen him as "the hero."

Fourteen jurors, two of which are alternates, take part in a three-week civil case in Los Angeles, Calif. where they fall victim to faulty lawyers, interesting witnesses and unique peers.

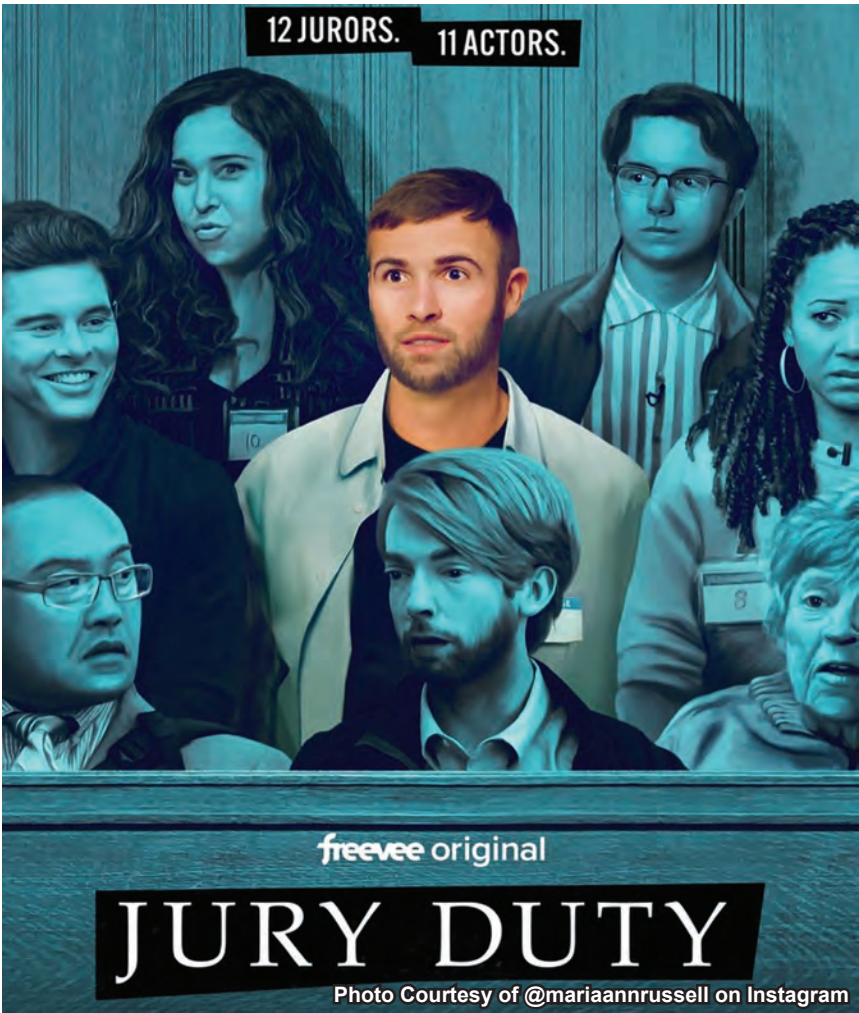
During court hours, the jurors judge the trial of a business owner who sued an employee for having caused damage to the merchandise and machinery.

Allegedly, the accused employee was under the influence during working hours and soiled himself all over countless company t-shirts.

The jurors' jobs: to unanimously find the defendant liable or not liable.

One of the jurors is James Marsden,

a well-known actor who has played roles in "The Notebook," "Hairspray," "Enchanted" and more. It is possibly one of the funniest aspects of the show because he plays himself, only a cocky-arrogant version which is shown by his constant bragging, career talk and audition practices.



The new Freeve original poses a "Truman Show" styled mockumentary mini-series.

Due to this, Marsden causes the entire group to become "sequestered," in the hopes that his identity wouldn't interfere with the privacy of the case.

Like I told most of my peers, I have never laughed at a show as hard as I did watching "Jury Duty."

There would be points when watching that I was giggling so loudly I thought for sure my housemate was going to yell at me for being so loud.

While each episode has a loose outline for what the showrunners wanted to happen, since Ronald is the only one that is not an actor, the characters have to come up with responses to whatever Ronald does or says on the fly—and quickly.

The improv and humor are so impressive as it is hilarious that it is impossible not to smile as the show plays out.

Not only that, but Ronald is genuinely one of the sweetest people I have ever witnessed in my life, and for that reason only, I urge anyone and everyone to take the two and half hours out of their schedule to binge-watch the entire show.

I actually teared up in the last episode watching him process that the past three weeks of his life were a ploy because his disposition is just so full of light.

All eight episodes are available to watch on Freeve, a complimentary Amazon streaming network.

Coachella 2023: Fits, Frank, Flop...?

By Elliot Enriquez
Contributing Writer

These past two weekends marked the 2023 annual outdoor music festival, Coachella. This event attracts everyone, from music/concert junkies and popular fashion influencers to clueless celebrities, Coachella Valley has become a melting pot.

For some, the setlist and headliners draw them to the West Coast, while others use it to show off their methodically planned and perfected festival ‘fits. As a lover of both concerts and good fashion trends, I anticipate this weekend just as much as the celebs themselves.

Arguably, the bigger spectacle than the prestigious set list for the weekend is the concert-goers walking the desert catwalk. Attendees plan their outfits for months, some making full-on spread-sheets, bedazzling every accessory and methodi-



cally preparing for months for this three-day fashion show. The ‘fits that we will see set the tone for the fashion trends of the spring and summer, so it is important to dress to impress! Emma Chamberlain, a frequent Coachella attendee and fashion icon, is always sporting a fun but functional look at these events.

On Instagram, Emma debuted her Coachella glam where she was dressed in a denim corset and mini skirt, paired with seemingly comfy red loafers and a handy-dandy fanny pack. A genius outfit based on creativity and most important: comfort!

The internet's least favorite gals as of late, Hailey Bieber and the Jenner girls showed up in bleak style. Kendall showed up in an all-black tank and pants and Hailey and Kylie in a white top and blue jeans combo. Their lack of ANYTHING in these boring outfits emphasized their goal to stay out of the spotlight. However, denim-focused ‘fits seemed to be the big seller for the weekend. It was incorporated into outfits by the ladies previously mentioned as well as Storm Reid, Camilla Morrone and Suki Waterhouse. In my humble opinion, if there is anyone who truly “ate” this weekend, I have to go with the queen herself, Alix Earle. Her outfits were elaborate and exciting, and I was eager to open TikTok every morning to see her outfit and GRWM (get ready with me) for the day.

Okay, let's talk about

what went down with Frank Ocean. I'm sorry to say you would be living under a large rock if you hadn't heard about the disappointing performance that was the Frank Ocean set on Sunday night.

The R&B artist has been on a performing sabbatical for six years, and after the cancellation of his set at Coachella in 2020, anticipation for his return only grew. If there is anyone that I would give an arm and a leg to see in concert, it would hands down be Frank Ocean, a sentiment shared by many. Well, after showing up about an hour late, Frank performed a couple of songs and then promptly shut down his set because of an imposed curfew and parted with reluctant parting words.

Fans were wrecked. Even I was when I saw the news of his upsetting actions over the weekend. All over TikTok and Instagram, fans were expressing their waiting all weekend to see Frank perform, for it to all be rushed and over in seconds.

The press hasn't let Frank down easily, either. Plastered over every news outlet are reports of upset fans and general disappointment in Frank, you can almost feel bad for the guy!

Unfortunately, he was also supposed to perform during weekend two, which has since been canceled.

On this same token, something incredibly refreshing that I saw surface over the weekend was the lifestyle of the “normal” people attending the event. Most empha-



sized the lack of glamor that went into their morning routines and schedule for the day. Influencers like Alix Earle have a relatively different experience at these events than the majority of those attending the event.

When it comes to discussing disappointing performances of the weekend or the crazy prices of food and water, it is crucial to recognize the majority of folks at these events aren't sent by brands or sponsored. They are regular people like you and me who are excited to welcome the spring season in style and with good music.

Whether walking the valley catwalk in festive denim style or ringing in the summer with good friends and music, Coachella weekend will never fail to provide us with ‘fits and fun!



Three Books For Your Summer Bucket List

By Abigail White
Head Vine Editor

The end of the semester is fast-approaching which means it is almost time to relax, unwind and enjoy the summer vacation.

And what better way to relax and unwind than with a good book?

Though you may be stressed with schoolwork and finals now, I can assure you that in just a few weeks, you will find yourself with a lot of free time to crack open a book!

Here are a few of my favorites from a variety of genres that I would highly recommend giving a try this summer break.

“Malibu Rising” by Taylor Jenkins Reid

If you have been in conversation with me recently, you will know that I have a bit of an obsession with Taylor Jenkins Reid’s “Daisy Jones & The Six”.

As a big fan of Reid’s work, “Malibu Rising” is another stunning book written by this author that I would highly recommend.

The plot follows the four children of famous singer, Mick Riva, three of them pro surfers, one a photographer. In dual timelines, we see the love story of Mick and June and the eventual end of their relationship, and in the 1980s, we see how Mick’s children cope with their fame and the

neglect of their father after all these years. “Malibu Rising” will evoke just about every emotion, from happiness to heartbreak and it is the perfect read for summer with the surfing and setting of Malibu beach.

“If We Were Villains” by M. L. Rio

If you are looking for something a bit more dark academia, this is the perfect pick. The plot follows fourth-year acting students at the Dellecher Shakespeare Conservatory and the murder mystery surrounding Oliver Marks.

Ten years later, we are taken back into the past as the mystery of this murder and Oliver’s involvement is uncovered.

“If We Were Villains” is written beautifully and poetically and consists of mystery and plot twists that will have you hooked.

Some may argue that dark academia is better left for the

colder fall and winter months. I would argue that it can be read at any time and I would recommend reading “If We Were Villains” as soon as you can. It truly is one of my favorite reads as of late.

“The Stranger” by Harlan Coben

I’m not sure exactly what it is about the summertime, but I always find myself wanting to read something in the mystery/thriller genre.

Something about the fast-paced, page-turning action really appeals to me when I have the time to sit down and read in the summer.

“The Stranger” by Harlan Coben is a book I picked up last summer and simply could not put down until I was finished.

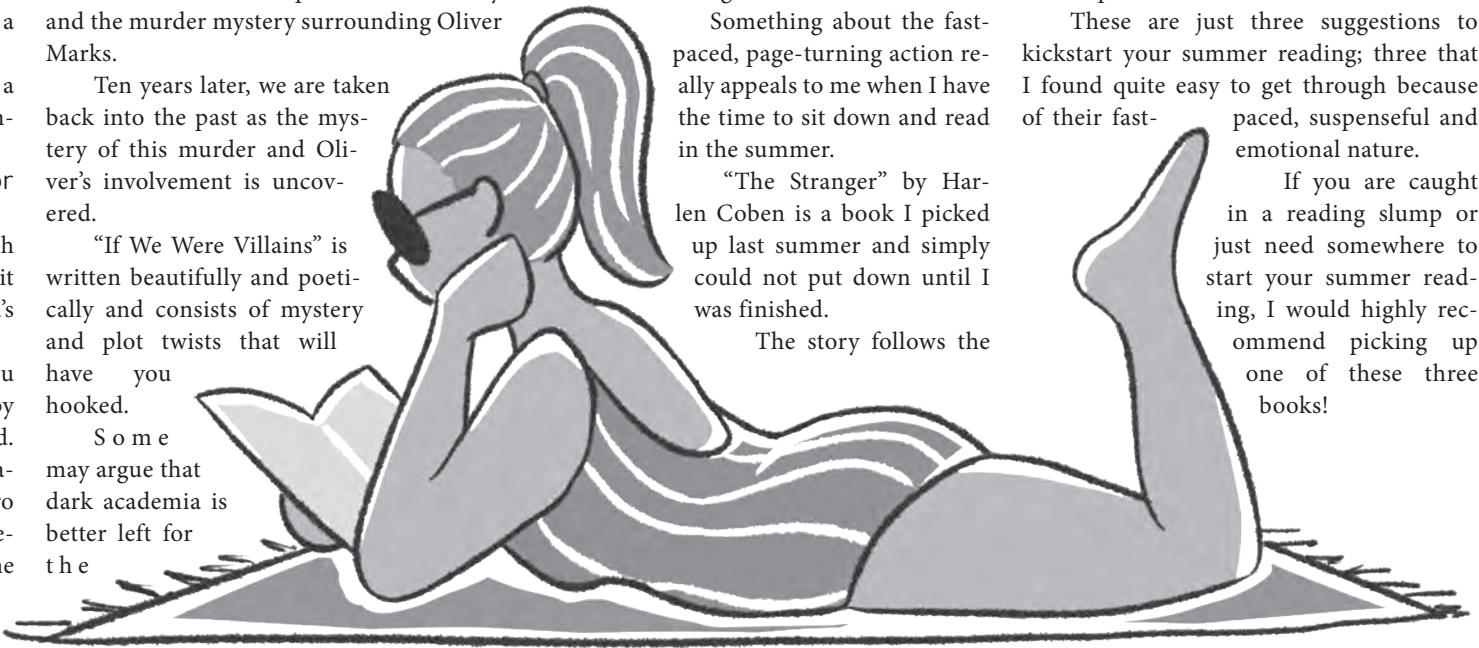
The story follows the

protagonist, Adam Price, living the American dream with a wife, two sons and a well-paying job, when one day the Stranger shows up and tells him a life-changing secret. Following the mysterious disappearance of his wife, Adam seeks answers as to whether or not this secret is true and if the Stranger had anything to do with her disappearance.

If you decide to pick up this book, I can guarantee that just like me, you will not be able to put it down.

These are just three suggestions to kickstart your summer reading; three that I found quite easy to get through because of their fast-paced, suspenseful and emotional nature.

If you are caught in a reading slump or just need somewhere to start your summer reading, I would highly recommend picking up one of these three books!





COFFEE BREAK

SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editor: Elizabeth McLaughlin
elizabeth.mclaughlin@student.fairfield.edu



F.R.I.E.N.D.S

What is the name of the coffee shop the friends hang out in? _____

Who does Joey play on Days of Our Lives? _____

How many times does Ross get divorced? _____

How many seasons of Friends are there? _____

Who's famous line is, "Oh. My. God."? _____

What is Ross' job? _____

Who was "on a break?" _____

What is Phoebe's job? _____



Central Perk | Dr. Drake Ramoray | 3 | 10 | Janice | Paleontologist | Ross and Rachel | Masseuse

World Capitals Word Search



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Dublin

P	P	F	P	S	A	E	J	D	H	A	V	A	N	A
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SPORTS

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April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2
Softball vs Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. 3 p.m.	No games scheduled	Baseball at Rider University Trenton, N.J. 7 p.m.	Women's Rowing vs Bryant, Fordham, Lehigh, Monmouth & Sacred Heart Shelton, Conn. All Day	Baseball at Rider University Lawrenceville, N.J. 1 p.m.	No games scheduled	Baseball at Stony Brook University Stony Brook, N.Y. 3 p.m.
 <p>Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk</p> <p>Baseball is 23-14 and are 9-3 in MAAC play with five games this week led by Charlie Pagliarini '23 who is batting .400 with 16 home runs.</p>			Softball at Saint Peter's University Jersey City, N.J. 12 p.m.	 <p>Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk</p> <p>Softball is 12-21 this season including a 6-7 MAAC record with three games this upcoming week. Charli Warren '25 is leading the team with a .330 batting average.</p>		
			Men's Lacrosse vs Hampton University Fairfield, Conn. 12 p.m.			
			Softball at Saint Peter's University Jersey City, N.J. 2 p.m.			
			Baseball at Rider University Lawrenceville, N.J. 2 p.m.			

Cavanaugh Slots Into All-Met Third Team

By Tommy Coppola
Editor-in-Chief

Graduate student Callie Cavanaugh of the Fairfield University women's basketball team was named to the Metropolitan Basketball Writers' Association's 2023 "All-Met" Third Team on Tuesday, April 25.

A press release from the MBWA website made public the three teams for women's Division I basketball. The association covers teams from all over the metropolitan area in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

According to a press release on Fairfield's official athletics website, Cavanaugh started all 30 games for her team this year, and averaged a team-high 16 points per game.

On the third team, she is joined by fellow Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference competitor Kate Mager of Iona University. Also on the team are Alyssa Fisher from St. Francis College (Brooklyn), Sabria Hunter of the United States Military Academy-

West Point, Kaylene Smikle from Rutgers University and finally, Annie Warren, a Stony Brook University player.

"Making the All-Met team is another addition to her resume that is well deserved and exemplifies her domination in this region of the country. We are so proud of her and the legacy she has left at Fairfield," head coach Carly Thibault-DuDonis stated in the press release.

On March 6, 2023, the Massachusetts native was also named to the All-MAAC First Team. According to her player profile on FairfieldStags.com, she was a member of the All-MAAC Third Team in the 2021-22 season, and was part of the MAAC All-Academic Team in all four of her years as a Stag.

She led her team to a record of 15-15 on the season, according to the team's official schedule.

The MBWA also unveiled their women's basketball Division I player of the year, rookie of the year and coach of the year.



Graduate forward Callie Cavanaugh charges to the rim against Stonehill College in the Leo D. Mahoney Arena opener.

- In this week's issue...
- Rowing Takes Its Talents to the City of Brotherly Love (Page 14)
 - The Most Clutch Hitter in Baseball (Page 15)
 - Snyder Snags Second CAA Rookie of the Week (Page 15)
 - McGinley Stands Out On Top in MAAC Championships (Page 16)

Rowing Takes Its Talents to the City of Brotherly Love

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University men's and women's rowing teams' spring seasons are in full effect, as they competed in the Kerr Cup in Philadelphia, Pa., on Saturday, April 22.

Both units displayed strong results in the City of Brotherly Love, as the men's varsity four earned the right to be in the grand final after obtaining a first-place finish in its heat, with a time of 7:02.82. Representing the varsity four was George Voegele '25, Zach Siwiec '26, Brendan Martin '24, graduate student Ryan Borsy and coxswain Angeles Mendoza '25, who accumulated a final-rally time of 7:54.4, landing in third.

The second varsity four boat took home gold in its final with a time of 8:13.2, completing the course six seconds sooner than Lafayette College, who settled for silver. The Stags leaned on Will LaMotta '23, Reid Van Trieste '26, Tyler Siwiec '26, Mike McCarthy '24 and coxswain Mendoza in its successful quest for gold.

The varsity eight also capped off a respectable performance, as they finished in fourth with a time of 6:03.25 before punching a ticket into the

final heat. The final heat saw them finish in third with a time of 7:03.6, with Michael Hamilton '24, Alex McLaughlin '26, Spencer Chidley '24, Ryan Wrynn '25, graduate student Jake Godwin, Brady Stergion '23, Michael Greene '23, Jerry Malloy '24 and coxswain Thomas Flynn '24 leading the charge.

The second varsity eight locked down a fourth place finish, posting a time of 6:47.4 in the process. The Stags rolled out Nick Borovicka '26, Ryan MacDonnell '26, Patrick Aresnault '25, Lanyon Henwood '25, Alex Hemmat '23, Jack Cartnick '25, Nick Tapinis '26, Tom McLaughlin '26 and coxswain Matt Tarabocchia '24 in the heat.

Flynn, a coxswain who competed on the varsity eight, was impressed with the team's performance.

“Overall, the team performed fairly well on Saturday down in Philadelphia for the Kerr Cup Regatta,” Flynn explained. “In my boat—the 1V8+—we were able to squeeze out a narrow victory over Loyola in our first race of the day, but fell to Loyola and University of Delaware just a couple hours later. As soon as our second race began—which was our petite final—the wind picked up,



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The women's varsity eight boat takes its stride at the Kerr Cup in Philadelphia, Pa.

knocked us around, and we were unable to get back on track in time enough to catch back up to the other two boats.”

Flynn continued that “from my experiences racing the past few weekends, I have come to realize that on any given day, any crew might show out with their best performance yet—and you better be ready for it. Some of our rivals—such as Loyola Maryland and Iona—have battled back and forth with us this season, and although we might win or lose to them one weekend, we know that the results could very well flip the following race. Some of the team was very satisfied with their performance this week, and some guys were understandably disappointed, but we will all continue to keep our heads up and push ahead towards our next challenge,” Flynn finished.

Additionally, the women's unit had itself a day on Saturday, as it picked up a third-place finish in all four grand finals in which they took part on Saturday. The unit was represented by the second varsity eight, the second varsity five, the women's varsity four and the women's varsity eight.

The second varsity eight boat secured two

third-place finishes, once in its heat and the other in the general final. The unit locked down times of 7:11.92 in the Heat before resuming competition later in the day with a time of 8:07.7 in the grand final. Rounding out the second varsity eight unit was Charlotte Roest '25, Sarah Wendling '25, Meghan Megill '23, Caroline McAndrew '23, Isabella King '23, Christina Caruso '23, Emma Szacht '25, Grace McDonough '26 and coxswain Ellery McSpedon '26.

The second varsity four was divided into two shells, an A boat and a B boat. The A boat was comprised of Kara Davidson '26, Alyson Moore '26, Chloe Trudel '26, Lillian Krol '26 and coxswain Alexandra Tomlinson '26, while the B boat included Cassandra Reilly '23, Giovanna Enderle '26, Alyssa Colombrita '26, Megan Rourke '24 and coxswain Michaela Thompson '24. Overall, the second varsity four placed two entries in the event, as the A boat took home third place in its heat with a time of 10:15.8 and sixth in the grand final with a 10:56.7 finish. The B boat took home consecutive third-place finishes in both its heat and in the grand final, as it posted times of 9:48.0 and 9:52.9 in the two corresponding events.



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The men's varsity four boat in action during the Kerr Cup in Philadelphia, Pa.

Weekly 5x4

Your 2023-24 5x4 Columnists: Tommy Coppola, Brooke Lathe, Max Limric, Julian Nazario, Ryan Marquardt

Because we have witty things to say ...

What are you looking most forward to with the Metro Boomin concert this Friday?

What has been your favorite class so far this semester?

What are your thoughts on the Aaron Rodgers trade?

What do you think of the new Chick-Fil-A coming to Post Road?



Tommy Coppola
Editor-in-Chief

The surprise guest performance from Drake that I'm definitely not making up.

My first phone was an iPhone 5c. I dropped it and it shattered about a year in.

There is light at the end of the tunnel for us Jets fans, finally.

I mean, this changes everything.



Brooke Lathe
Executive Editor

Dancing with my friends! And the Super Duper Weenie truck appearance right before.

I'm not sure what year it was but I know it was a red Samsung slide phone.

Who is Aaron Rodgers and what is he trading?

Doesn't mean much to me ... I don't normally get fast-food #cook-withbrooke.



Max Limric
Managing Editor

A fun night out. Something different from the norm, ya know?

An Iphone 5s. Thank you, Santa.

No thoughts in my head ... Brain empty.

No comment.



Julian Nazario
Copy Editor, Head News Editor

Waiting in my room for my friends to come back.

I don't remember, but it had to be some \$50 prepaid android phone.

We are going to the Super Bowl! Also, anyone know about any MetLife discounts???

Finally good fast food in town and better sandwiches than The Stag Diner.



Ryan Marquardt
Head Sports Editor

Hopefully a great performance.

An old LG sliding phone with a keyboard on it that had Pac-Man.

The Jets now have the second best QB wearing #8 in New York.

It is going to be spectacular.

The Most Clutch Hitter in Baseball

By Jordan Dyer
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, April 18 the Fairfield University Sports Analytics Club hosted Villanova University in a competition to determine the most “clutch” hitter in Major League Baseball from the 2021 regular season. Four groups, two from each school, presented their findings to a panel of judges who would later decide which project was the most valid. Junior Paul Logrippo, the president of Fairfield’s Sports Analytics Club, and his partner Aidan Hughes ’24 were eventually declared the winners. The pair gave an in-depth presentation on the strategies they used to determine the most clutch hitters in baseball.

Logrippo began by defining the term clutch, which may seem obvious at first but is actually quite different in the context of analytics. Logrippo further explained that baseball is often a game of luck. A player could hit a ball with great power yet the ball could still be caught for an out. On the other hand, a player



Shohei Ohtani was rated as the most clutch hitter in baseball from the 2022 season by the winning team in the sports analytics contest.

could hit a ground ball directly to a fielder who simply made an error and allowed the runner to get on base. These two scenarios demonstrated that clutch hitting is not always about the outcome. In fact, Logrippo explained that he and Hughes’ project did not focus on the outcome of a hit at all. Instead, the two determined that the best way to define a clutch hit was to find which players hit the ball with the highest exit velocity and optimal launch angle during important moments of a game. With this information in mind, Logrippo and Hughes created their own statistic which would determine the most clutch hitter of the season once and for all. The stat combined three factors: inning, runners on base and exit velocity. Their findings revealed that Shohei Ohtani was the most clutch hitter in the MLB from the 2021 season. With Ohtani firmly in place as the winner, the students cleverly named their new statistic “Shoh Time”. Players like Fernando Tatis Jr, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Giancarlo Stanton were other players with an impressive Shoh Time ranking. Despite the judges naming Logrippo and Hughes the winning group, all four groups presented extremely well-thought-out projects with a variety of outcomes.

Each group attacked the question from a different angle than those before them, yet every case was equally compelling. It was easy to tell how much this event meant to each person involved, especially considering the time commitment the students put forth. After the event, Logrippo commented on the meaning to him. “It was cool to get some real experience in Sports Analytics, definitely something that people in the group can put on their re-

sume and talk about in job interviews,” Logrippo explains. “It was really great to get experience for our club, get our name out there and also help our club members in the future.” He also mentioned that events like the one celebrated with Villanova are essential in terms of growing the clubs at Fairfield. In terms of the experience for the club members, Logrippo described that the impact of this type of event could do wonders for the future of the club.



(L-R): Zachary McLaughlin '24, Paul Logrippo '24, Aidan Hughes '24 and William Koukoutsis '24 won the 2023 Sports Analytics showdown.

Snyder Snags Second CAA Rookie of the Week

By Ryan Marquardt
Head Sports Editor

For the second time in his first-year season as a Stag, goaltender Will Snyder '26 has secured the Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Week Award. This came after his stellar performance versus Monmouth University, helping the

Stags win 15-14 with his 14 saves. Six of his 14 saves came in the final quarter of the game, allowing the Stags to hold onto their lead and win the close contest. Snyder’s first Rookie of the Week Award came after his first two career starts, which were a 17-5 victory vs Sacred Heart University and a close contest vs the University of Richmond, where

the Stags fell short 10-8. Snyder had nine saves in the game versus Sacred Heart, and 11 in the game against Richmond. When asked about how he feels about winning his second Rookie of the Week, Snyder stated that “It felt amazing. I felt proud to see all my hard work and sacrifice be recognized.” Then when asked what most helped him to

transition into playing at Fairfield, he responded, “Definitely my teammates. Whenever I had any questions about academic life or lacrosse, they were more than willing to help me. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home.” He followed it up by stating that “I have enjoyed the memories and friendships the most, especially the memories in the locker room before practice and after wins. The energy was always great with music playing and guys relaxing [and] watching TV. It was a great escape from the stress of schoolwork.” Snyder has a .467 save percentage through his first season at Fairfield so far, averaging 11.545 saves per game, including a 16-save performance against Providence College. He has started every contest in net for the Stags this season. Fellow first-year Will Consoli '26 also won the CAA Rookie of the Week award on March 20 of this year. He secured this after his four-goal game against Hofstra University, helping the Stags secure an important victory. Consoli has 30 points on the season, including 23 goals and seven assists. When asked how it feels that he and Consoli have three CAA Rookie of the Week Awards between them, Snyder stated that “It’s great. Will is an amazing player and I think it helps to show that the future of our team and program is very bright.” The Stags will look to close out their regular season strong with their final game on April 29, at 12 p.m. against Hampton University. For more information, visit fairfieldstags.com.



First-year goalkeeper Will Snyder has received CAA rookie of the week twice so far this season with a .467 save percentage.

McGinley Stands Out On Top in MAAC Championships

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University men's golf team traveled down to Lake Buena Vista, Fla., this past weekend to compete in the 2023 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championships. The unit had itself a successful weekend, as it took second place in the field consisting of their conference rivals, finishing only behind Siena College in the process.

Leading the way for the Stags was Killian McGinley '23, who came out on top of the 45-player field to win the individual title of the tournament. McGinley secured the individual title by shooting six shots under par after 54 holes of play, as well as finishing one stroke over Mount Saint Mary's University player Hank Schaefer.

The London, England standout also became the sixth player in program history to hoist the McLeod Trophy, the award given to the player with the best individual performance in the tournament. Additionally, he became the first Stag to bring home the hardware since 2014.

McGinley obtained the award after opening the tournament at four under par, before pulling off a score of 65 on day two of the round, which was held on Saturday, to hand himself an eight-stroke lead heading into the final round. He eventually held on to win, despite a late-push from Schaefer.

McGinley was one under par on par threes through the tournament, two over par on par fours and seven under par on par fives. Thanks to his superb performance, he will advance to the NCAA Regionals at a date in May that is later to be determined. He will learn of his destination and his date on Wednesday, May 3.

McGinley was not the only Stag to stand out at Disney this past weekend, as everyone representing the red and white

placed at 24th or better in the field of 45. Graduate student Jason Salameno held firm with scores of 74 during the first two days thanks to his consistent play, before shooting one under par in the final round to secure an 11th place finish. Finishing seven spots back of him was Patrick McCarthy '23, as the Bethesda, Md., native recorded consecutive rounds shooting two over par before capping off the round with a score of 73 on Sunday to land in a tie for 18th place.

Sitting two shots behind McCarthy was Shane DeVincenzo '23, to finish in a tie for 21st place. DeVincenzo finished strong by scoring his best round of the tournament on Sunday, which saw him shoot one over overall on the weekend to generate the tie. Finishing in 24th place was graduate student Michael McCarthy, who finished with a score of nine over to round out the Stags lineup.

In addition to the men's side, the women's unit also traveled to the Sunshine State to compete in their conference championship. The unit concluded the tournament with a fourth-place finish, an ending that was helped by a well-rounded team performance led by fifth-place finisher and graduate student Julia Towne.

Towne opened up the tournament strong, as she came out of the gate with a record-setting five-under performance, setting new program records for low round score and score vs par to lead the field on day one. She completed the weekend leading the women's unit for the Stags, and she ended being the highest finisher in the field that did not attend Quinnipiac University, as they ended up taking home both the individual and conference titles.

Rounding out the top twenty included Sydney Nethercott '24, who nabbed a 12th place finish at 11-over across the three rounds, while Addy Douglas '23 locked down the 19th spot with a strong finish, as she shot with scores of 76 and 77 on Satur-



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

Graduate Student Juila Towne placed fifth in the MAAC women's golf tournament.

day and Sunday, respectively.

In the back end of the Fairfield lineup on the weekend was Juliette Prud'Homme '26 and Grace Kryscio '24, who wound up tying each other for a tie for 21st place. This resulted in the Stags seeing themselves elevate in the rankings, as they improved by two places from their first a season ago. Furthermore, the unit finished the year on a high note by capturing two team victories, one in the fall and one in the spring, making the year a memorable one for the group.

This year also proved to be a

memorable year for the coaching staff, as Director of Golf Greg Houlb and Assistant Director Sara Laterza were recognized for the third consecutive season as the Coaching Staff of the Year in the MAAC. Houlb has held this position since September of 2016, after spending ten years in the golf industry as an instructor. Laterza joined the unit this season, as she has been an unsung presence of the talented team the unit has in place.

For more information on the Fairfield University golf teams, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com for more updates.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Senior Killian McGinley placed first in the Men's golf MAAC championships helping Fairfield secure second place and his spot in the NCAA tournament.