

Fairfield Rises Even Further, With Talks of New Dorm Construction Across Campus



Pictured above is the construction outside of Townhouse Block 8. With student admission numbers increasing yearly, new construction projects are currently in the work and more are planned for the coming years.

By Peyton Perry Opinion Editor

Currently at Fairfield University, students and faculty have witnessed construction taking place near the upperclassmen townhouses.

With a wide fenced area, construction workers working in bright green vests, and big yellow excavators stationed around the premises, members of the University are wondering what this construction is for. According to Charles Sousa, senior associate director of housing operations at Fairfield University, construction of two new blocks of townhouses is what is being witnessed. These two additional blocks will make room for an additional 84 beds to the existing bed count.

These new construction projects are not a part of the "Fairfield Rising Campaign," which raised \$217,762,996 throughout the years 2012-2018. This money, which was generated through many generous donors and alumni contributions, helped fund the construction of the new Convocation Center, Barnyard Manor, Charles F. Dolan School of Business, 42 Langguth Hall, Leslie C. Quick, Jr. Recreation Complex, Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, The Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons and the Aloysius P. Kelley Center.

With all donations under this campaign ending in 2018,

questions are raised as to how these two projects are being funded.

David Frassinelli, vice president for facilities at Fairfield University, was asked by The Mirror to give further detail on the present construction happening on campus, as well, however he did not respond in time for publication.

For the past consecutive twelve years, Fairfield's undergraduate applications have steadily increased, and the incoming class proves no different. As of January 2020, 13,000 applications for admittance into the Class of 2026 were processed, jumping 5.25% from the previous year.

According to Sousa, each year Fairfield establishes a housing projection model with the aim of assisting in short and long term planning. "Based on these projections, we are able to see trends, as well as identify future housing short falls,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The weather on Fairfield Beach this weekend was unusual for the middle of February. On Saturday, Feb. 12, conditions on the beach were



Fairfield Beach, pictured above, where students enjoyed the weather.

reminiscent of late springtime. The temperature reached up to 60 degrees, and the sun was out most of the day, attracting students to enjoy the day by congregating on Lantern Point. The next day, however, was a bitter reminder that it is still winter in New England. On Sunday, Feb, 13, temperatures dipped below freezing with a low of 24 degrees. Stags woke up to snow-covered roads which turned to ice as Monday brought as low as 15 degree temperatures.

The Quad, pictured above, covered in snow after the snowstorm.

INSIDE

News

Fairfield University to lift mask mandate and move to mask recommendation policy.

Page 2

Opinion

Student expresses what they think the role of Title IX should be for students.

Page 5

Vine

A student writer goes to the opera.

Page 8

Sports

Club Ski and Snowboard cap off an impressive season.

Page 15

Fairfield U to Switch to Mask Recomendation Policy

Sophomore Carina

Additionally, Soph-

returning to a state of normal."

omore Brenna Kennedy states

"I am scared to take off my

mask and forget to sensor my

facial expression because for so

long they were concealed but I

do feel like releasing the mask

mandate is a good idea and

congruent with the state of [Con-

necticut's] recommendations"

olas DiStefano states, "I think

this is a good opportunity to

get back to life before COVID.

I can't wait, I'm really excited."

feels as though "it's interest-

ing considering I haven't heard

of other schools doing this."

Sophomore Nich-

Junior Carly Manzi

She says that while

she will probably participate in

it while at the gym, if her profes-

sors require them individually

she will respect their decisions.

her worry that the new pro-

tocol "may lead to more

outbreaks in the future."

Another concern of hers

is related to her job at Les-

lie C. Quick, Jr. RecPlex.

Nemec sent the email too early

and some people will not under-

stand why they have to wear masks

now but not in a week," Manzi said.

"[Students] have the attitude like

'Oh, we're not going to have to wear

them anyway so who cares' but that

makes it difficult on faculty and

staff of the University who have

to uphold the current guidelines."

a Public Health major, shares

similar sentiment to Manzi and

stated, "I am surprised they

lifted the mask mandate due to

Junior Claire Bellucci,

Manzi also states

"I think President

the large number of cases we started off with this semester."

With regards to whether or not Belluci will participate in the mask recommendation she states, "I don't know what I'm going to do yet. Do I think students will enjoy the mask mandate being lifted? Yes. Do I think this is a safe choice? No." Belluci also relayed

her belief of what should go on in the classroom and that "professors should be able to decide whether or not masks are required in their classrooms, not administration who do not have to sit in a packed classroom and have their health at possible risk, not to mention their families' health and well-being if they bring COVID home with them." Senior Ellie Galligan

added that, "A lot of professors are older and at risk, there are also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

has "achieved and maintained Kortick relays her feelings a vaccination and booster rate that, "it will be strange to go to that is higher than that of the general population in our area." class without a mask on since Because of this, effecthis is the first time since 2020, but I am looking forward to

tive as of Feb. 28, the University will shift from an indoor mask mandate to an indoor mask recommendation.

In specific classroom situations, Nemec states that the Provost office will "have discussions with faculty and staff regarding masking as warranted in certain classroom settings or at certain events."

Additionally, the University will continue to "maintain a modified testing program for those in our campus community who are unvaccinated" and "isolation and quarantine processes in place for when they are needed."

The news of the mandate has caused mixed reactions from students regarding the change to be put in place.

By Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief By Madeline West Assistant News Editor



In an email sent on Feb. 14, President Mark Nemec announced the mask mandate will be lifted on Feb. 28.

On Feb. 14 President Mark Nemec Ph.D. emailed students stating that

Fairfield University COVID-19

levels in the "region had fallen to a manageable level." Addi-

tionally, he stated that Fairfield

Comparing Connecticut Colleges' COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts

By Peyton Perry Opinion Editor

Many colleges nationwide, including Fairfield University, provide an online COVID Dashboard for students, faculty and staff to stay up to date on active positive cases on campus. Other important information regarding current policies may be published there as well.

Looking nearby Fairfield, Sacred Heart University, the University of Connecticut and Quinnipiac University are three additional campuses whose COVID Dashboards aim to inform individuals about current active cases around campus. Each platform, however, appears different in design and in the amount of information provided.

Last week, The Mirror reported that following student concerns on a lack of transparency with COVID-19 repopulation testing data, the University added a "Current Testing Data" section to Fairfield's COVID dashboard, further stating that a "7 Day Rolling Average" would begin on Feb. 11.

At the top of Fairfield's COVID Dashboard, the University's campus COVID-19 alert level is displayed as green, meaning there are currently very few levels of incidence of COVID-19. appears to be low and decreasing. Nowhere on the University's

dashboard does it state how regularly the current testing data is updated. The only information similar to this that is shared is that the University's green alert level has been updated as of Feb. 11.

Sacred Heart displays their dashboard, which includes slightly more transparency. Sacred Heart is located on the border of Bridgeport, Conn. and Fairfield, Conn. and is so close that it shares the town of Fairfield with Fairfield students.

Sacred Heart's COVID Dashboard states that there are 10 current positive cases on campus as of Feb. 14, directly specifying that current cases include on-campus and off-campus students, as well as faculty and staff. Thus, it appears their Covid-19 numbers are lower than Fairfield's even though Sacred Heart has 6,071 full-time undergraduate students, whereas Fairfield reports having only 4,486 full-time undergraduate students as of Oct. 1, 2021.

Every Friday Fairfield University updates their COVID dashboard. Last Friday, Feb 11 there were 18 positive cases and three active positive cases on campus.

Quinnipiac University's COVID Dashboard states that there are 22 current active cases on campus and that there have been 24 new cases in the last seven days. It is stated that this date was last updated Feb. 14 and is regularly updated every Monday. Further, it is clearly stated that



A student participates in the weekly Stags Surveillance Testing. Currently, University community members considered to have sub-optimal or minimal/no protection must get tested weekly. Those with minimal/no protection must get tested twice weekly.

their COVID Dashboard "reflects cases reported through a combination of the required weekly testing for unvaccinated students, testing performed through Student Health Services, and students who report the results of their self-administered tests." Fairfield's COVID Dashboard does not directly state results from which population is reflected in the data. This again leads students to question transparency, as reported by The Mirror last week. At the very top of UConn's COVID Dashboard, it states "UConn is committed to transparency in communicating information on COVID-19 to our community. This dashboard is designed to clearly, concisely and accurately reflect the health of our campuses." As of Feb. 9, the current Storrs COVID-19 alert level is orange, which is described as moderate. Out of the 10,741 residential students on Storrs campus, which is the main one, there are 11 reported positive cases on Storrs campus. The dashboard also states that this makes for a 0.10% positive rate amid the residential student population. Thus, transmission is low as reflected by the data shared. Although the previous data for all four universities suggests ranking these universities in order of least to most positive cases on campus as: Sacred Heart, UConn, Fairfield and then Quinnipiac the dates of when the information was updated last differs for each. Thus, making an accurate comparison between the four impossible. One way to gauge potential differences that are reflected in the previous data from each dashboard is by looking at the current testing policies of each university in the face of new eligibility for boosters. . After almost a full year of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most commonly referred to as the CDC, expanded eligibility to all adults for booster shots. As of Nov. 19, 2021, any individual of eighteen years or older who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine could elect to receive a booster dose six months after their second dose of the vaccine.

Based off the current definition of "fully vaccinated" from the CDC, such exempt individuals were those who received their second dose in a two-shot series of Pfiz er-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines at least two weeks prior to testing, or a single dose of J&J/Janssen vaccine at least two weeks prior. This definition has not changed from the CDC with new eligibility of a booster shot. Instead, the CDC distinguishes between being "fully vaccinated" and "optimally protected." To be optimally protected, one must have received their booster dose. Fairfield's Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Protocols chart distinguishes COVID-19 university protocols between three subsets of an individual's level of protection: optimal, sub-optimal and minimal/none. Optimal protection, according to this chart, is receival of a booster shot when eligible or fully vaccinated, as described by the CDC, within the past six months for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines,

As of Feb. 14, there were 18 positive cases reported to the University, three of which remain active on campus. Below this data, a graphic can be seen displaying the seven-day rolling average, which

> **PIO** TO **PIO KEEPING THE** PIONEER PROMISE OUR WELLNESS AT SHU Photo courtesy of @sacredheartuniversity Instagram **IS UP TO YOU**

A Sacred Heart University marketing piece that promotes abiding by the University COVID protocol. This was posted ahead of the 2020-2021 academic year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Compiled by Madeline West Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety.

2/10

2:20 p.m.

Theft from a building was reported. Someone stole internet cables from a lab in the school of nursing. No suspects were reported.

2/11

2:00 p.m.

A student was found in possession of marijuana and mushrooms. Student was issued a misdemeanor form.

2/11

2:15 p.m.

An employee reported the rear license plate of their vehicle stolen while it was parked in the Kelley Garage.





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Recycling for Refugees Brings Awareness to Global Refugee Crisis

By Annie Tomosivitch Contributing Writer



Pictured above is Vincent Rotondo '23, who founded the "Recycling for Refugees" program and was awarded the Newman Civic Fellowship for his work.

Junior Vinny Rotondo was awarded the Newman Civic Fellowship for his program Recycling for Refugees on Jan. 31.

After a competitive application process to this national fellowship program, he is excited about the opportunities the fellowship offers for the future of his program. Rotondo's program

"brings awareness to the refugee crisis, not necessarily just in the United States but world wide" and even "right here in Connecticut."

He says that Recycling for Refugees "is essentially a collection drive of furniture." Rotondo's program

allows Fairfield University students to recycle furniture that they are not using and donate it at the end of the school year. The furniture is

then collected and used to furnish refugee homes,

provided to them by "a program called CIRI, The Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants."

Rotondo was particularly inspired to take action after taking global engagement courses with Associate Director for Humanitarian Action in the Center for Social Impact Julie Mughal, Ph.D. and Humanitarian Action Professor Christopher Madden, Ph.D. They are also advisors to his program.

Specifically, Rotondo took the "global engagement course through the Honors program" with Mughal, in which he "really enjoyed learning about different displaced people, and learning about their struggles," "gaining that basic awareness of all corners of the earth."

Having enjoyed Mughal's class, Rotondo took a "Refugee Literature" course with her later on, where he "studied different novels written or told by refugees, about their journey." In this course spe-

cifically, Rotondo says he "fell in love with their stories." Rotondo recalls writing a journal entry for class, where he toyed with the idea of starting a furniture drive for struggling refugees after the class watched an eye-opening video on the subject. When he turned it in, Mughal "wrote back" to him, and the two got started with the project. Rotondo considered

the fact that "we are at a Jesuit institution", saying, "we should be of service to others." Upon reflection, he asked himself how he can get his community involved to help. Ultimately, this motivated him to launch Recycling for Refugees. Rotondo received a \$500 grant through the Newman Civic Fellowship, which he hopes will "help execute the project" by compensating fees for "the storage unit, the moving van or transportation." The fellowship will

also include an opportunity to meet with other winners from different universities around the country, allowing them to convene and present their projects. The venue will be at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston, Mass.

Michaela Grenier, the program manager for the Newman Civic Fellowship Conference, says that the conference "provide[s] a variety of programming focused on helping students build skills for collaborating across lines of difference or for effectively engaging in cross partisan work." Further, students model "the role of a senator in a historic congress", and all of their programming at the event is focused toward "civic learning and collaboration skills." Next year Rotondo

says he "will be published for an article [...] about the project," and "will also speak at the Research Symposium at Fairfield."

Rotondo is considering "partnering with the Art department" and potentially having the department "make a gallery [...] to illustrate what [the program] has done." Rotondo says he may

"donate some little pieces that aren't approved for donation and put them on a landscape." Ultimately, he hopes

this potential partnership will "bring awareness that this project exists on our campus" and "get it to continue after [he] leaves Fairfield."

Interestingly, this program had formerly been executed at Fairfield, however, it fizzled out when its primary leader graduated. Considering this history, Rotondo is concerned with "making it stick" after he graduates from Fairfield. He is hopeful that

the program will continue

66 We are at a Jesuit institution...We should be of service to others."

- Vinny Rotondo '23

to succeed, however, citing the recent influx of refugees in the United States.

Rotondo believes that this new demand for refugee support, in part, will help the program to continue to thrive even after he graduates next year.

In response to this growing need for action, Rotondo encourages students to get involved with Recycling for Refugees. He says that "student involvement will get started toward the end of the semester," most likely during reading days before final exams.

Rotondo encourages students interested in participating in the program to reach out to him using his email vincent.rotondo@ student.fairfield.edu.

Professors Not Consulted on Fairfield's New Mask Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

immunocompromised professors and students who could be negatively affected by this. Also I don't feel like they took student input for this decision because it came out of nowhere." She continued, "I think they announced it too early, and if there is a bad spike in covid cases within the next two weeks it might have to change and then there will probably be people who are angry." The Mirror also reached out to Professor of Sociology & Anthropology and President of the Fairfield chapter of the American Association of University Professors, David Crawford Ph.D, to get a perspective on the mask recommendation from a faculty point of view. With regards to the announcement, Crawford states "as far as I know, professors were not consulted on this." He then urged that The Mirror should reach out to the Public Health Advisory Committee to see if they were consulted. "If this is not their recommendation. then the question is why our President ignores the committee he set up to give him advice on public health measures," Crawford said. The Mirror then reached out to members of the Public Health Advisory Team to ask if they were involved in the discussion. Public Health Advisory Team

member and Assistant Professor of Public Health, Kimberly Doughty, Ph.D. stated that though the team discussed the possibility of a two-week "mask optional trial" beginning on Feb. 28, it was decided that more data regarding infection rate trends and vaccination status was needed before deciding. "I believe this policy change needed to happen eventually," Doughty stated, "But

I think this decision was a bit premature and I am disappointed that the administration made it without waiting for the Public Health Advisory Team to endorse the plan. She also stated that she hasn't yet

Staff Photographer Kyler Erezuma

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The Mirror is the recognized student newspaper of Fairfield University. Opinions and ideas expressed herein are those of the individual student authors, and not those of Fairfield University or its Board of Trustees 66... I think this decision was a bit premature and I am disappointed that the administration made it without waiting for the Public Health Advisory Team to endorse the plan."

- Public Health Advisory Team Member and Assistant Professor of Public Health, Kimberly Doughty, Ph.D.

decided what she will do in her own classroom.

Crawford stated that "as for classroom policy, anything that impacts pedagogy is rightfully the domain of professors." He emphasizes that professors

"have to assess the vulnerabilities of our students and create a classroom environment that is safe and respectful so that people can learn. In my view, this may include wearing masks so long as the CDC advises it." Another member of the Public

Health Advisory Team, Chair & Professor of the Biology Department Shelley Phelan Ph.D stated that, "Our public health advisory team had begun discussions just in the last two weeks regarding possible modifications to the university's mask policy. No decision had yet been made by our group, and many factors were still being considered and discussed. We were not made aware of the President's decision on this topic, or the announcement on Monday."

She states that their group will meet again on Thursday Feb. 17 and The Mirror will continue to update on the matter as more information becomes available.

Rising Acceptance Rate Results in Need for new Residence Halls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

News

says Sousa. "When we determine that we will have a sustained housing shortfall, we begin the planning process for new buildings."

Many students have been concerned about lack of housing as Fairfield's student population has grown.

There has been much discussion surrounding new converted triples especially, which were established for the Class of 2025 due to a lack of available rooms. Ten percent of the first-year class were placed in forced triples.

To address this concern, Residence Life is further discussing construction of a new dormitory building in the firstyear quad, according to Sousa. Although still in the planning phases, it is anticipated that such construction will occur.

Sousa believes this will help fix current housing issues pertaining to lack of available space. "It helps provide us with more flexibility to help with giving students a positive housing experience," he says.

Sousa was asked by The Mirror to share if any plan has been discussed revolving around the location of the new firstyear dormitory in the quad, however he did not provide an answer to this question. He was also asked to share how many

additional beds are expected to be within the prospective first-year dormitory and if there would still be a need for converted triples, but did not address those questions either. Residential Assistant Pedro Garcia '24

believes there may be further plans to improve first year housing by Residence Life, as well.

"On the topic of future building plans, it seems the plan is to renovate the remaining quad buildings, starting with Gonzaga this summer and following with Regis," says Garcia.

"Renovations would likely include optimized space, updated bathrooms and hydration stations," says Garcia, "but that's just my speculation based on previous renovations."

He believes that he heard through interactions with other RA's that after such renovations, then the prospective first-year dormitory will be built.

According to Sousa, currently there are no other foreseeable plans to build additional housing, outside of these two projects.

Residence Life hopes that through these two projects, students can continue to gain a positive housing experience at Fairfield.



Pictured above is the construction outside of 8 block in the Townhouses. Construction has been happening in the Townhouses since the end of last semester.

Local CT College Students Share Opinions on their University's COVID-19 Policies

Photo courtesy of @quinnipiacu Instagram

Pictured above is an advertisement for an on-campius vaccination clinic at Quinnipiac University from April 2021. QU requires all students to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

page under the Division of Student Affairs.

possible for approval pertaining to medical and nonmedical religious reasons only.

regarding testing strategies for students. At-home

Sacred Heart sophomore student Samuel Eaton is pleased with the University's booster mandate. "It makes me feel safer knowing that Sacred Heart is handling the COVID-19 virus with such diligence," says Eaton. Sacred Heart University's Coronavirus

on campus are required to receive their booster shot.

page states that unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students will be tested weekly, however vaccinated students will be exempt unless experiencing symptoms or deemed a close contact.

This page also shares that testing takes place from 8:30 to noon Monday through Thursday, which is twice as many days as Fairfield currently offers. "Sacred Heart is handling the COVID-19 virus very well," says Eaton. "It was amazing to see how they were able to control such an unruly and widespread contagion." Another Sacred heart student Kate-

lyn Boudreau '24 shares a different response. "Honestly it's kind of messed up," she says, "people [who are] vaccinated don't get tested more than sometimes once a month and people not vaccinated get tested once a week."

"People giving COVID to others are the vaccinated ones. They don't really care if we pull our masks down in the halls or walk around the dorms without them," Boudreau says.

Quinnipiac at first did not mandate the booster shot for students, however according to their COVID-19 and Vaccine Resources website page, all students who are currently vaccinated are now required to receive their booster shot prior to Feb. 15. This page also states that two on-campus booster clinics were held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 for students and employees, as well as that exempt unvaccinated students who have been approved by the University will participate in weekly on-campus testing. On-campus testing is run through Student Health Services, according to the University's site. Quinnipiac sophomore student Olivia Pisegna did not mind the booster mandate, since she planned on receiving the shot anyways. "I think the reason our numbers are so low is because of the plan set in place," she says.

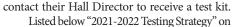
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

or within the past two months for the J&J vaccine. Sub-optimal protection is distinguished as eligible candidates for a booster who still have not received one and minimal/none protection describes those unvaccinated, with their primary vaccination series incomplete or those "not yet two weeks out from the last dose in series." Looking at Fairfield University, fully

> With COVID cases skyrocketing over winter break, I was honestly shocked with how little the school had done upon our return to campus in comparison to other Connecticut colleges."

- Fairfield University Student Elizabeth Decrisanti '23

vaccinated students, faculty and staff of the University were exempt from weekly COVID-19



the website, it states "All Storrs-based students who are not fully vaccinated will be required to submit unobserved, self-collected, surveillance testing kits on a weekly basis. Students who do not submit their

It is also stated that exemptions are

Also on this page, information is shared

testing in the Leslie C. Quick, Jr. Recreation Complex, following return to the fall 2021 semester.

Only unvaccinated and partially vaccinated members of the University were required to undergo weekly testing, as well as any individuals deemed close contacts to a COVID-19 positive student.

This spring 2022 semester, Fairfield COVID-19 weekly surveillance testing policies have changed from the previous fall with new eligibility for boosters. Published under the "Frequently Asked Questions" tab found on Fairfield University's website platform "Healthy Fairfield," booster eligible community members who have not received their booster shot are required to participate in weekly surveillance testing.

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated undergraduates must participate in twice a week testing on Tuesdays and Fridays, and unvaccinated or partially vaccinated employees must participate in weekly testing.

Fairfield sophomore student Elizabeth Decrisanti says, "With COVID cases skyrocketing over winter break, I was honestly shocked with how little the school had done upon our return to campus in comparison to other Connecticut colleges." Sacred Heart takes a different approach.

Unlike Fairfield, Sacred Heart students and faculty

"We have to wear a mask while we're in class, the student center and the library," Pisegna says, "I'm interested in seeing if the restrictions will be loosened because the mask mandate is ending at the end of the month."

UConn also requires "students who will be enrolled and attending class at any of the five campuses, including Storrs, Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford and Waterbury for the spring 2022 semester" to have received their booster, according to the University's Student Health and Wellness

antigen tests will be limitedly available at the Student Union Information Center Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., as well as through the SHaW Pharmacy Online Marketplace.

"Honestly it's kind of messed up," she says, "people [who are] vaccinated don't get tested more than sometimes once a month and people not vaccinated get tested once a week."

- Sacred Heart University Student Katelyn Boudreau '24

Students are permitted one at-home test and must bring their student ID upon pick-up. Storrs residential students may also

required testing kits will be subject to registration holds and will be blocked from the Rec Center."

Those who are symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, should call the Advice Nurse at 860-486-4700, who is available 24/7 seven days a week.

UConn sophomore residential student Allison Slitt says, "Coming back to UConn, I was very worried that I would catch COVID within the first couple of weeks and I was definitely more cautious at first."

'I am now, however, more comfortable and excited to be back in my community, and I have not heard of COVID peaks at Storrs campus," Slitt says.

There are more details regarding COVID-19 policies throughout the spring 2022 semester on each university's web page. Other areas of focus include quarantine protocol, isolation precautions in alignment with vaccination status, and mask-wearing.

Fairfield University is the only of these four colleges in Connecticut to still not require a booster for students, faculty and staff.

Our campus levels are low as of Feb. 11, however, and the University remains within the green level, suggesting very low incidence of COVID-19 on campus.

Opinion Campus Title IX Offices' Primary Role Should be to Support, Not to Investigate

By Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief

According to the Brookings Institute, it's said that around 20% of female undergraduate students will be victims of sexual assault or sexual misconduct during their college career, while 4-6% of all male undergraduate students will be victims. This data shows that statistically, one in five female undergraduate students and around one in twenty male undergraduate students will be sexual assault or sexual misconduct victims. If these alarming numbers are true, then the structures in place to protect and help students after they experience such violations must be strong.

On college campuses, one office that is designated to help victims of sexual misconduct is the Title IX office. Title IX requires schools to protect against sex discrimination in education. To protect equal access to education, schools are federally required to, "prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence."

The issue is that in modern times, the Title IX office has been put into an unnecessary role as "investigator" when they should truly only be there to support the student recovering from a sexual assault, misconduct or harassment and help them return to their education. The University and the public safety officers should not have to play detective in order to seek out if the story is true, they should provide any support the student needs as quickly as possible, because often, the Title IX office might be the only support the student will receive.

Of female undergraduate students who experience sexual assault or misconduct, only around 20% of female college students actually decide to report the incidents to the police. Further, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, commonly referred to as RAINN, if a student does file a report with the police, only 28 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults will lead to a conviction.

If the criminal justice system fails a student, then the Title IX office is supposed to step in to help. This is especially true if both the victim and the accused are students at the same university. In theory, the university can step in and issue No-Contact orders, academic accommodations, dorm transfers and even counseling services faster than the police will be able to act.

Fairfield University states that they "Ensure that: Survivors are provided with clear information and support. The accused are held accountable. Prevention education is provided to all staff and the student body on an ongoing basis. Professional staff treat complainants with dignity and respect, with the intent that re-victimization does not occur during the process."

The University further states that "If reasonably available, complainants will be afforded the opportunity to request immediate on-campus housing relocation, transfer of classes, or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to an alleged assailant. The provision of such accommodations does not constitute a determination of responsibility, but rather is offered to assist the complainant."

The tricky thing about Title IX offices is that they operate within a university. Thus, the question becomes, "If I'm a student reporting misconduct to

someone that works at the university, will it be me or the university that's protected at the end of the day?"

This is the same train of thought that leads court cases involving police to move to different districts for investigations or why external groups step in. There needs to be someone to step in and protect the student first, as often the argument for the University not stepping in is that the report might be false and that the University's role should be more investigative than anything. But, in actuality, just 2%-10% of all reported sexual misconducts are false. If there is a 90% chance that the reported incident might be true, then it's the university's responsibility to step in and protect the physical and mental well-being of the victim.

Fairfield has added some aspects to further protect students, and create an alternative party that will support the student first. There are advocates from the Center for Family Justice that students can utilize as a free and confidential service for short-term counseling, medical/hospital accompaniment and support with Title IX proceedings.

If students need to reach them, they can by email at skabir@centerforfamilyjustice.org and gsuarez@centerforfamilyjustice.org.

And though this is a step in the right direction, I just urge the University and other schools to put more emphasis on third parties. Even if the University attempts to be unbiased and truly protect its students, there will always be something tugging them towards protecting the University and their image first.

Part of this comes from the fact that the University has to report all

crimes on campus due to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The University then has to publicly publish this report for students. Fairfield's had to act with "deliberate indifference" to be found liable.

This changed slightly under the Obama administration when The U.S. Department of Education's Office for



Pictured above are people gathered outside TCF Stadium in Minnesota to show support for rape survivors after sexual assault allegations were cast on football players attending University of Minnesota.

report can be easily accessed on the website or by googling "Fairfield University Clery Act."

Further, in the late 20th century, the Supreme Court ruled that a university could only be held liable for damages, "if they have 'actual knowledge' of misconduct by teachers or students and act with 'deliberate indifference'' and thus damages should only be given for "harassment that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively bars the victim's access to an educational opportunity or benefit." This means that the University does not really have to fear lack of adequate action, as they only Civil Rights realized that the best way to protect students' rights was to aim for the reputation of the Universities. All the names of the schools with investigations into their Title IX compliance would be published publicly. Schools were pushed to ask students to report early in hopes to curb the sexual misconduct from getting worse and schools that failed to comply were, "subjected to lengthy, costly, and well-publicized investigations."

The Trump administration changed all this and added the contro-versial cross-examination aspect.

(To read full article visit www. fairfieldmirror.com)

SDMA Does an Amazing Job Providing Comfort and Support to Students

By Erika Sanchez Contributing Writer



support and learning opportunities.

One of the biggest ways this office has helped my transition from winter break into the new semester has been through their Women of Color group initiative. The Women of Color group is an initiative that was started by Associate Director of the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Yolehma Felican. Every meeting, we start off with ten affirmations that allow us to remember our worth, as this can sometimes be hard to remember. Writing down and saying affirmations out loud is not only empowering to myself but to the other women who are in the group. Hearing their affirmations allows me to gain more perspective on how beautiful and worthy we all are. something casual to watch, this podcast allows me to feel connected to the Fairfield community.

It should be noted as well that Lucky also runs the Men of Color Alliance, which provides men of color the same support as women of color.

Overall, SDMA continues to provide a space for students to feel welcomed in their transition into a new se-

Pictured above is the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs located in the Lower Level Lobby of the Barone Campus Center.

Coming back from winter break can be hard- at least, it is for me. Three weeks of sleeping in, binge watching my favorite TV shows and eating my favorite home-cooked meals, makes it all the harder to come back to school. There are safe havens here on campus, however, that make the moving back process even more delightful.

The Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs is one of those safe havens for me. The office seeks to create a community that is not only engaging for all students but also promotes an inclusive environment that makes students feel valued, respected and empowered. They have achieved this by promoting programs and services that will help students better understand the dynamics of diversity and engage with difficult conversations.

Personally, SDMA provides me with a welcoming space with endless

Once joining this group, I learned how Felican wanted to bring together faculty and staff at Fairfield to foster a space for young women to talk through the difficulties of simply being a woman of color on campus. Through this affinity group, one on one advising is set up for students to have a mentor through all their college years.

As a young woman of color myself, I understand the challenges that come with being a person of color at a predominately white institution. Even though I am a current sophomore student, and have transitioned back into this predominantly white setting a couple of times now, it unfortunately does not get any easier.

Each time I enter new classes, I am faced with the same challenge – being the only person of color in class. The Women of Color affinity group, however, has given me the space to talk with other students of color on campus about this challenge and grow from them. This group allows me the space to transition back into the new semester knowing I have people that support me. It allows me to connect to other students who I know experience similar challenges as myself and who will understand where I am coming from.

Another initiative from SDMA has been their podcast called "Diversity in Action". This podcast is led by Director of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Pejay Lucky. "Diversity in Action" encourages difficult conversations and communication through community partnerships. Every episode invites a member of Fairfield University's community, whether it be faculty, staff or students.

Diversity in Action's main objective is to foster a community that will build and lead a better world. The episodes embody all of the diverse cultures, identities and characteristics of the Fairfield population. Whether it's having an episode play as I get ready for my day or just wanting to have mester. The office itself is a space where students can go in between classes to focus on homework, grab a snack, a cup of coffee and talk to friends.

They offer countless opportunities for students to connect with not only other students, but faculty and staff members as well. During stressful times such as midterms and finals, SDMA brings in tutors from the library to help students with writing resources.

There are positive affirmations and posters on the wall as soon as you walk in that embrace a multitude of cultures. Simply seeing the faces of Felican and Lucky brightens up your day because they continuously show up and support students and create a welcoming environment in the office.

SDMA is hands down one of my favorite offices at Fairfield University. The friendly and welcoming environment makes this office one of my favorite places to visit as I transition back into the new year or semester.

Students Should be Refunded for Canceled Study Abroad Deposit Fees

By Christian Mannino Contributing Writer

The Mirror reported last week that due to a limited number of programs in the face of COVID-19, some biology majors must come to terms with their canceled plans for study abroad. Unfortunately, these students are facing more than the disappointment of their canceled program-on top of it, these students are not being refunded their deposit fee for their study abroad application.

The fact of the matter is that, as an institution, Fairfield University should be held accountable, especially in a circumstance such as this. Studying abroad is not cheap by any means, so it should not be the case that these students are being left on their own without a proper financial plan.

By this point, we're all sick of hearing how "unprecedented" things are during COVID. We all know itstudents and the University alike.

Since the University did not implement a proper backup financial plan by now-two whole years since the COVID era began-it is completely their responsibility to relinquish these deposit fees.

"A prestigious university such as Fairfield should be able to reward students with these opportunities and have a plan prepared in case things go awry," says Elizabeth Kabalian '22, a student who had applied to study abroad during the start of Covid-19.

"This should include refunding students who put a deposit down on the study abroad programs that have now been canceled due to the pandemic," says Kabalian. "You don't know what these students are experiencing at home and they may need that refund to support their families and pay for other important expens-

Some students are incredibly fortunate to have study abroad programs paid for by family, but the individuals who had to put money aside themselves for the study abroad experience now find themselves in an incredibly difficult financial situation. Fairfield's refusal to refund these deposit fees could, as a result, come with long lasting economic impacts-that, again, is an unforeseen burden put upon the student.

Whether study abroad is paid for by the student in question or their parents, what it really comes down to is that, as an institution which is very financially stable, Fairfield University has a responsibility to surrender these funds. All universities, to an extent, are businessesand, as many of us are aware, running a business comes with inherent risks.

In this case, that risk came with conducting a study abroad program. Fairfield University should instead make the student their focus of service; the effort put towards making excuses should be spent considering how to build trust with these affected students and help them

but, for some, is a lifetime milestone. To keep study abroad both gratifying and accessible to the next generation



Pictured above is the capital of Spain, Madrid. This was the view of a current Fairfield junior who is presently studying abroad.

move forward.

The study abroad experience is not only incredibly rewarding

of Stags, the university must make it clear that the program isn't a gamble of both your time and money.

Tully "True Balance" Station is Truly the Best

By Brooke Lathe Vine Editor



Pictured above is the True Balance station located in the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons at Fairfield University.

Since beginning my freshman year at Fairfield, amid a pandemic, the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons has significantly improved. I can distinctly recall when there were limited options, which resulted in days of just eating nothing but rice and a banana. But now, I look forward to every meal at the Tully, so much so that I check the dining calendar days in advance. More specifically, I immediately swipe down to check what the True Balance section has in store for me that day, as it is undoubtedly the best section there.

The True Balance station, previously known as Simple Servings when owned by Sodexo, has easily become my go-to spot for every meal. It is one of the few parts of the Tully where it is almost completely allergen-free. One can view the Tully menu to see which dishes of this station exclude dairy, wheat/gluten, peanuts, soy and egg.

As someone who is allergic to dairy, I feel so fortunate to have a section that I can eat in enjoyment and without fear. Every day, twice a day, they serve what is considered to be the "perfect," balanced meal, providing every Stag with a choice of protein, carbohydrates and vegetables.

Most often they serve pork, fish, chicken and beef with rice or potatoes and a vegetable of the day. My favorites, however, include their pulled pork (both barbeque and citrus marinated), salmon, cauliflower tacos, sausage paella, brussel sprouts and roasted potatoes. But honorable mentions include orange chicken, marinated steak, diced sweet potatoes and their breakfast hash.

Overall, the best dish I had there recently was their new oat milk alfredo pasta. It was so creamy that I actually had to double check with one of the workers before eating it that there was no dairy in it because I could not wrap my head around how similar it was to regular, cheesy alfredo.

I hope they include this meal more often because it's truly amazing.

The only time I ever eat anywhere else is if they're serving meatloaf, which has nothing to do with the True Balance section, I just have always disliked that meal. But I know a lot of students who enjoy it and it's not often that they make it so I have no problem with it!

The only thing that I just wish was different is the dessert selection! The rare times that they do put a dish of cookies or muffins out, they aren't that tasty and the texture is pretty odd (which I'm pretty sure has something to do with the no gluten or eggs). Even so, I encourage them to continue to try different recipes each week and experiment with what allergen-free desserts the bakery world has to offer.

Nevertheless, I'm extremely satisfied with the True Balance station every day, as well as most of my peers.

It's tasty, healthy, allergy free and they're served on pretty blue plates - what could be better?

Hot Take: Broccoli Cheddar is the New Chicken Noodle

By Peyton Perry **Opinion** Editor

as suggested by its pot's consistent empti-

ingly being the most sought-after soup, for your next bite, you see a big piece of broccoli floating on top of the cheddary



By Carina Kortick Contributing Writer

There is nothing better than walking into the Daniel Grace Tully Dining Commons on a Tuesday afternoon and laying your eyes upon the most beautiful words you've ever seen written upon a menu: "broccoli cheddar soup."

We are both avid soup lovers and between the two of us, we've tried them all. Sitting by the window in the Tully, we've sampled the classic chicken noodle, hearty chili, creamy clam chowder, sweet butternut squash, savory tomato soup, salty minestrone, cream of mushroom and vegetable soup. And none of them compare to the mouthwatering, dream-inspiring, cheesy broccoli cheddar soup.

While one of us finds all of them distasteful besides broccoli cheddar soup, the other of us do enjoy the occasional clam chowder and creamy tomato bisque. However, there is still only one clear winner.

Despite broccoli cheddar seem-

ness by the time 7:00 p.m. rolls around at dinner, it is only enjoyed nearly once a week by students.

A soup this delectable deserves to be enjoyed every day.

Why is cream of mushroom soup, a seemingly unpopular choice by most, served multiple times a week, while broccoli cheddar sits on the bench? Chicken noodle soup gets its time to shine every single day in the soup station. Why not the broccoli cheddar soup?

Let's face it: chicken noodle soup is boring. Unless you're sick, no one is craving the overdone chicken noodle soup anymore. It's time to accept the future and replace the traditional, bland chicken noodle go-to with the up and coming broccoli cheddar soup.

For those of you who are still on the fence, let us describe the experience to you. As soon as the spoon touches your lips, you taste a cascade of creamy cheddar cheese, leaving you with no other but a smile on your face. As you go in goodness.

Just as a fisherman casts his rod, you cast your spoon already knowing what you are about to reel in. The broccoli is infused with the cheddar flavor and soft, rather than creating an unnecessary crunch. Even if you are a broccoli hater, such as one of us once was before tasting this soup at the Tully, we urge you to give it a chance - a chance to change your mind.

Don't let raw, crunchy broccoli or steamed steer you away from trying the ultimate form of this vegetable. This comfort soup will guarantee to make even your dark days bright.

Soup enthusiast Catherine Zarella '24 says, "If I could marry broccoli cheddar soup, I would."

Overall, our main argument is that broccoli cheddar soup should be served everyday in replace of chicken noodle soup. If not that, at least more than once a week.

This soup really does have the potential to be the new chicken noodle.



Pictured above is brocolli cheddar soup being served in the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons at Fairfield University.



THE QUICK CENTER'S MET OPERA Performance Was Stunning

By Abigail White Contributing Writer

The Vine

When I learned that Fairfield University would be collaborating with the Metropolitan Opera to screen some of their incredible live performances, I knew that I had to seize the opportunity to see a performance for myself. I was fortunate enough to attend a brilliant live screening of the Met's performance of "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" just this past weekend.

Composed by Terence Blanchard, six-time Grammy award-winning and Oscar-nominated composer and jazz musician, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" is a touching adaptation of Charles M. Blow's memoir of the same title. In its opening season, this opera defined a moment in history as the Met's first performance of an opera by a Black composer. Conductor, Yaninick Nézet-Séguin, claims in a backstage interview that this opera is exactly what the Met currently needs. He explains that the Met already has incredible sets, musicians and performers. However, it is the representation in the cast that makes "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" so special and necessary for today's stage.

Composer Terence Blanchard masterfully combines jazz, gospel and classical styles of music to tell the moving story of a Black man growing up in rural Louisiana. Dealing with themes such as lack of childhood affection, sexual abuse, racial inequality and toxic masuline standards, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" is sure to strike an emotional chord with its audience members.

Fairfield University's Quick Center for the Arts did an excellent job in simulating the atmosphere of the Metropolitan Opera House. As I walked into the theater and took my seat, I was greeted with the exciting sounds of a chattering audience and the tuning of instruments. The screen on stage displayed images of audience members taking their seats in the real opera house. I may as well have been in New York City!

Though I am sure nothing can compare to experiencing this incredible work live at the Met-

ropolitan Opera House, there were many aspects of Fairfield's live screening that I found to be quite special. One aspect that I found particularly interesting about this screening was the inclusion of backstage interviews. As an audience, we were able to witness live interviews from important cast members, conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin and even composer Terence Blanchard. These are the people who are involved in the production of this groundbreaking work. They are the people who are bringing Charles M. Blow's story to life many benefits to this exclusive screening. Now that I am familiar with this work, I can only hope that I am fortunate enough to experience it live at the Met one day.

As I was viewing this performance, I was in constant awe of the way in which Blanchard conveyed such emotion through his music. In a backstage interview, performers Latonia Moore and Angel Blue, explain that although the music of "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" includes both gospel and jazz influences, they both recognize a great



The "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" cast performs on stage.

on the stage. To hear their insight alongside the performance was an extremely unique experience and one that I would not have found in a live performance.

I loved the feeling as if I were backstage with the actors, dancers and producers. I appreciated witnessing the emotion on the performers' faces as the camera focused in closely on a scene. I loved learning what it takes to put on a performance so grand. All of these aspects included in the live screening are aspects that I would not have experienced had I seen this performance live. Though I do not mean to diminish the experience of a live performance in any way, I believe that there were

deal of Puccini's classic verismo style of opera as well. Italian for "realism," verismo is defined by a story rooted in real life, the music matching the drama or the passion of the action on the stage. This is exactly what Blanchard does. His music tells Charles' heartbreaking story.

There were moments when the combination of the music and the storytelling was truly overwhelming. As I sat back in my seat, viewing the performance, I was brought close to tears on more than one occasion. In Charles' singing, I could hear the desperation of a young boy who craves love and attention. In the song "Leave it in the Road," I could sense the pain and longing of

Billie, Charles' mother, as she dreams of a better life and chooses to move on from the hurt of an unfaithful husband. I could feel the utter devastation portrayed in the song, "Peculiar Grace," as seven-year-old Charles is stripped of his childhood innocence.

Perhaps one of the most emotional moments of the entire opera comes when Charles, played by Will Liverman, voices his anger toward the end of the performance. In the third and final act, a grown-up Charles reflects upon the traumatic event of his childhood that he has carried with him throughout his life. After being sexually abused by his older cousin, Chester, at the age of seven, Charles has lived his life in fear, shame and self-doubt.

Every emotion Charles has felt as a result of this traumatic experience is captured in the final scenes of the opera. His anger is felt as we see him waving a gun, intense music accompanying him as he sings "I was seven years old" and "someone must bleed." He was just a child and he resents Chester for causing him such pain. In this scene of built-up tension, we witness Charles lower the gun, his anger fading away as he realizes this is not who he is. The curtain closes as Charles seeks out his mother, ending with the heart-wrenching line, "I have something to tell you."

I felt such satisfaction in this emotional closing to "Fire Shut Up in My Bones". Through the combination of incredible composition and performing, I felt completely immersed and invested in Charles' story and emotional journey. To see him end in such a vulnerable state, a state in which he is ready to speak about what had happened to him as a child, what he had held in for so long, was truly heartwarming.

I am fortunate that I had the opportunity to experience this moving performance of "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" right here on Fairfield's campus. From the start, I was captivated by the story, the music and the incredible performers. I can only imagine how much more spectacular the live performance of this opera is and I hope that I can one day experience it live at the Met.



By Madison Gallo News Editor

On the corner of Black Rock Turnpike, across the road from Little Pub, vou can find Robeks

I personally purchased the "Raspberry Romance" smoothie which includes strawberries, banana, raspberry sherbert, non-fat frozen yogurt and raspberry juice.

The smoothie was refreshing and I definitely recommend it.

Other flavors I was tempted to try and will have to try next time are the "Hummingbird" which is mango, strawberries, banana,

drizzles of lemon and olive oil and sprinkled with chili flakes and pink Himalayan salt.

The everything avocado toast has avocado and tomato sprinkled with everything but the bagel sea-

they have include; their ABC which is apple, beet and carrot, a cucumber apple, lemon and ginger juice called the Cool Cucumber and more.

They also have a variety of

Fresh Juices & Smoothies. This smoothie chain gained national traction in January after a video of a Fairfield man using slurs and throwing a smoothie at the employees in the shop went viral.

But beyond this altercation, Robeks is a great and easy spot to go if you're looking for a good, tasty smoothie.

orange sherbet and passionfruit juice and the "Tropi-Kale" which has fresh kale, pineapple, pineapple sherbet, non-fat frozen yogurt and papaya juice.

> The menu includes way more than just smoothies and juices, so if those are not really your speed, no worries because Robeks also has different kinds of toasts and smoothie bowls.

> > There are three kinds of toasts at Robeks: a classic avocado toast, everything avocado toast and an acai almond butter toast.

The Classic avocado toast features avocado topped with

soning.

The Acai Almond Butter Toast definitely seems the most interesting to me and is topped with acai greek yogurt, fruit, honey and almond butter.

There is no shortage of flavors of smoothies though, so you are sure to find something appealing to your taste buds and flavor preferences! There are all types of smoothies ranging from wellness to low-calorie to performance to tried and true classic smoothie flavors. They also have acai smoothie options.

I personally really like that they have a Naturally Coffee smoothie because that is just a mixture of two of my favorite things: smoothies and coffee.

wellness shots like wheatgrass, turmeric and lemon-ginger.

There are a lot of smoothie and juice places nearby to campus, but I think Robeks is pretty underrated compared to the other more well known options like Playa Bowls and The Granola Bar.

This smoothie shop is just about a mile off of campus and a great stop if you are looking for something refreshing and quick. If you are ever near Blackrock, definitely give Robeks a try.

Due to the abundance of options provided on the menu, you will be sure to find something there to satisfy your taste buds!

Some of the juices



By Olivia Burke Contributing Writer

The world of fashion is an exciting one, bringing to mind thoughts of runways, expensive designer brands and fabulous models dressed in amazing outfits. This week we consulted with Luka Zedginidze '22 to get a feel for the hottest new fashion trends on campus.

After doing so, we were astounded to bear witness to a wardrobe and level of photogenicity that would have Tyra Banks immediately naming

thus allowing him to be seen on the cover of Vogue Magazine. Read on to see the inspired, stunning looks Luka pulled off throughout this week:

Monday's Look - Starting The Week Off Cozy!

Model Zedginidze began this week with a cool-but-casual look consisting of a button-up shirt, sweatpants, and sneakers, with a scarf added to help him keep warm during the biting winter we've been experiencing. Here he is, in all his glory, sipping a cup of hot tea,



Glammed out in full duck fashion, Luka Zedginidze is ready to take on the day.

him America's Next Top Model, nose still red, warming up after coming in from outside. This outfit is modest in comparison to his later looks featured from this week.

Tuesday - An Ode To Ducks

Tuesday's outfit reminds us of summer, with the yellow of the temples of Zedginidze's glasses perfectly matched to the ducks printed onto his blue collared shirt. The walrus in his shirt pocket, an objet d'art that adds to the theme of semiaquatic fauna present in this look, is reminiscent of socialite Paris Hilton carrying her beloved chihuahua, Tinkerbell, in her purse whilst being photographed by the paparazzi. Those sunglasses will help to shield his eyes from the camera flashes of onlookers, when Luka, like Hilton, is sure to be bombarded by photographers who will want to catch a shot of this ensemble!

Wednesday's Outfit -Accessories To The Max!

Coco Chanel is said to have stated, "Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and remove one accessory." Rules, however, are meant to be broken. And upon hearing this unwanted advice, Zedginidze cried out, "How drab! How

plain!", and donned a scarf, wrapped around his arms in a serpentine fashion, placed a hat upon his head, put on his favorite pair of eyeglasses and added two bracelets of differing color patterns to his look. Which added some fun and a touch of feminine flair to the understated gray vest and yellow shorts comprising the rest of this outfit.

Thursday - Innovation At Its Finest

With the weather warming up, Zedginidze decided to celebrate the upcoming spring by baring some skin. Thursday's outfit was created with abilities in fashion design rivaling those of Gianni Versace and Georgio Armani, worn with modeling skills on par with the likes of Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss. With his body gracefully draped over a chair, Zedginidze puts his artfully crafted outfit on display, consisting of a striped scarf wound around his body to create a midriff-exposing halter top, dark green pants and a pair of gray sneakers with vibrant blue socks playfully peeking through; adding a touch of vibrancy to the otherwise muted ensemble. Being cautiously optimistic about the warm weather, Zedginidze de-



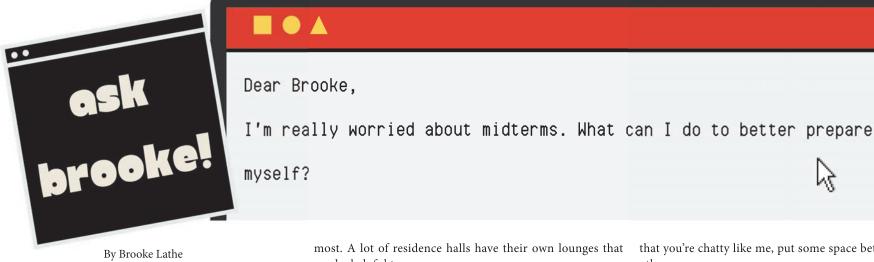
Zedginidze attempts to recreate Audrey Hepburn's signitaure gingham headscarf look!

cided to pair the halter top with a maroon robe, which proved helpful during the chillier hours of the evening.

Friday - An Old Hollywood Throwback

Zedginidze finished off this week with a look inspired by Audrey Hepburn, a fashion icon known for her gamine looks. He perfectly and effortlessly recreates her sophisticated beauty with the use of a gingham headscarf and sunglasses, complete with a pair of gloves. The feminine accessories contrasted by Zedginidze's facial hair and bold brow creates an en vogue androgynous appearance while simultaneously conjuring images of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" or "Roman Holiday," a perfect homage to the late and great actress.

And so, my fellow stags, be sure to keep a lookout on campus for Luka Zedginidze, Fairfield's favorite fashionista, to see more timeless, impeccable and tastefully-assembled attire.



Vine Editor

most. A lot of residence halls have their own lounges that can be helpful to you.

There are also open spaces at the mezzanine near the Stag diner, tables in the lower level of the Barone Campus Center or open classrooms in any of the five main buildings on campus: Dolan, Canisius, Donnarumma, Egan and Bannow.

that you're chatty like me, put some space between you and others.

2

Lastly, no one can work on an empty stomach. Make sure you get something to eat before you hit the books, bring

First off, you're not alone! Every single Stag is experiencing the same overwhelming, exhausting battle you are right now - even me.

And even though a majority of us have already had to trudge through the endless mid-semester exams, projects and essays multiple times, it doesn't seem to get any less stressful. However, you can start by making it a little easier for yourself by taking a few steps in the right direction.

1. Plan

It's kind of crazy that we've normalized a designated period where all of our courses schedule whatever it is that takes up a large percentage of our grades at the same time. Studying for one class is hard enough, but balancing five at the same time?

This is why it's incredibly crucial to intricately plan these next few weeks. Take a look at the syllabi for your courses and find out which order each exam or project is on or due by.

From there, decide which you feel will take you the longest or that you need the most time to complete and follow the rest accordingly.

2. Find your study place

This is tailored specifically to you. Most people spend their days hidden in the campus library, but I encourage you to branch out and see which place sparks your brain the

I say try a few hours at each place and see which one stimulates you the most. Some students thrive in busier places while others prefer silence.

3. Eliminate distractions

With whatever place you feel most comfortable, you must get rid of all distractions in order to work efficiently and productively.

Only you know yourself best, so think of what things are most likely to throw you out of your focus. I know for a fact that my phone is very tempting for me to check while I study or do an assignment.

So, I put it on silent and stow it somewhere out of reach. With the awkward distance, it reminds me that I shouldn't check for any messages because it will inevitably prolong the amount of work I will get done.

If you're someone who needs a friend to be near you to steer you on the right path, ask for a study buddy to join you. Or, if you know a snack or plan a designated time for you to grab a meal.

The growling in your stomach will undoubtedly be a distraction.

All of these tricks haven't failed me yet, so hopefully you find that these are helpful for you as well!

end of the day, it really just comes But at the down to conjuring the motivation to get what you need to do done. I believe in you - good luck, Stag!

TREAT STAGS WITH KINDNESS

By Erica Salisbury Contributing Writer

Hello, Stags! Today we are going to talk about several ways to increase overall kindness and morale throughout Fairfield University.

Generally, Fairfield students are very courteous of their classmates and professors, but here are just a few ways that could help make a difference in someone

else's day. Holding the Poor

Holding the door for the person behind you is one of the easiest ways to spread an act of kindness.

If someone behind you seems to be carrying a lot and will have trouble opening the door for themselves, especially, this can be one way to make a person's day.

Earlier today I was carrying quite a lot into the business school and was far away from the door.

The person in front of me waited for me and held the door for me, which I thought was incredibly nice.

Reach Out to Mutual Friends and Acquaintances

If you are a freshman or sophomore, you should still have meal swipes in the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons since you do not have access to your own kitchen. An easy way to not only make more friends but to become closer with people you normally would not be is to reach out to people from your classes and ask to go to the Tully or the Stag together.

My freshman year, I reached out to a girl in my Calculus course about going and getting cof-

fee after our class, and she ended up being my direct roommate sophomore and junior year of college.

You could make someone's day by sending a simple text message!

Compliment the Person Sitting Next to You

Another great way to spread an act of kindness is to compliment the person sitting next to you in one of your classes, especially if you do not talk to them that often.

Or, better yet, be kind to a random person walking by or standing nearby!

These comments can range from their outfit, hair, makeup,

smile - truly anything.

I like your shirt!

Having a little compliment like that can really go a long way, and it helps to spread positivity.

Reach Out to Your Home Friends

Lastly, while this is not at Fairfield University, as you are away at college, sometimes

you forget to check in on your people at home.

Send a quick text in your group chat with your friends from home and ask them how they are all doing, or tell them that you are thinking about them.

If one of them had a bad week and you didn't really know about it, this will make all of the difference.

> There are so many other great ways to spread an act of kindness at Fairfield University, but these are the easiest to do on the go. Go out and practice those acts of kindness!

A DEFINITIVE RANKING OF SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SHOWS

By MollyLamednola Editor-In-Chief

What started out as just marching bands to keep the crowd entertained during downtimes of playing, the Super Bowl Half-Time show has turned into an American expectation for a fabulous performance from some of the world's biggest celebrities. But, just because the expectation is there, it doesn't mean it's always great (though the worst ones are honestly the most entertaining).

So, without further ado, here is the list of the three best and three worst Superbowl Half-Time Performances coming from someone who only ever watches sports activities for the drama. Oh... and I was born in 2000... so I'm only including the ones I remember watching. Sorry to all the Prince fans! be kind of sunk. It's just a weird choir of people standing behind him punching the air. Then there's the memed section of the performance where he runs through a hall of mirrors with a really close-up camera. Just didn't think it was that good ... kind of "mid," to be honest.

MAROON S/TRAVIS SCOTT/BIG BOI:

This show was just bad- generally, quite awful. This was the year that everyone wanted SpongeBob to do a little performance, so Maroon 5 had it play on a screen. Everyone was also surprised that Travis Scott didn't perform with autotune and the comments solidarity with Colin Kaepernick. So, just generally not a fan of Maroon 5 and this performance... shirtless Adam Levine, you know?

Three Best: Lady Gaga:

She's a star and with 18 minutes of knockout energy: this was a performance. She opens with the National Anthem as drones fly across the sky and then jumps off the building.

She played all her greatest hits, there were fireworks, glitter, flames and amazing background dancers. It wasn't like everyone

COLDPLAY/BEYONCE/BRUND MARS:

I don't care what anyone has to say about it, this was iconic. I love Coldplay and they played some of my favorite songs in such a high-energy, multicolored fashion, that it felt like Summer 2014 ... if you know what I mean?

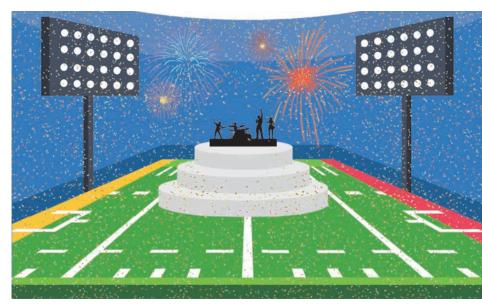
Like when all the kids came out with instruments onto the stage and then the audience started singing the chorus, it felt so warm and fun. Then ... Bruno Mars pops out! He sings "Uptown Funk " with a whole collection of dancers in all leather. And then ... through an explosion of fireworks, steps out Beyonce in all her glory. They all do

THREE WORST: THE BLACK EYED PEAS (2011):

This is notoriously the worst halftime show performance, but even in today's world, where I'd argue 2011 is peak camp, it's horrible. They just don't sound like seasoned performers. They descend from the sky in light-up outfits and then proceed to sound just a half-step better than me at karaoke. But, I'll give it to them, this is an elite group of songs to sing. But, middle school was traumatic for me, so they're at the bottom of my list.

THE WEEKND:

Okay, I'm going to be honest. Not a big fan of The Weeknd, but even so, I just wouldn't say this was much of a performance. If you didn't know his music, you'd



on the YouTube video prove that this was the wrong choice. Further, there was a lot of controversy surrounding their decision to be a part of the show after artists like Rihanna turned down the gig to stand in who played a few songs with some backup dancers, it was just a true concert experience. She had an unbelievable amount of energy and it was just incredible. Lady Gaga is straight to the top! their thing and it's just incredible!

DR. DRE/SNOOP DOGG/EMINEM/ MARY J. BLIGE/KENDRICK LAMAR/SO CENT:

I'm sure this isn't at the top of everyone's list, but I think this was a phenomenal show and a step in the right direction of Super Bowl performances. Though Lady Gaga smashed it out of the park, I think having multiple artists perform their greatest hits is always the best move.

The only tricky thing about this performance was that these artists, other than Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, didn't play their ultimate hits. This is just me not knowing popular music, but I feel like Kenrick Lamar and Mary J. Blige were out-performed by the other guys. So, although this was a fantastic performance, it's definitely not my top choice!

All in all, the best part of the Super Bowl is always the halftime show. So even if the show was particularly bad, it was still better than football could ever be!



By Brooke Lathe Vine Editor

For my entire life, I have considered myself as an incessant lactose intolerant. Despite my tender abdomen and constant stomach aches, I continued to eat dairy products daily even though I know they cause me pain. I just loved anything and everything that's made with it! Pizza, macaroni and cheese, fettuccine alfredo, ice cream, nachos - you name it. I mean, how could you go about your life without eating these delicacies?

I thought that the amazing tastes were unquestionably worth my suffering...until I entered my first year of college and started to question if that was honestly true. Which, in return, jump started my dairy-free journey.

Honestly, I am incredibly fortunate to begin a leap like this during a time where there is a vast variety of substitutions that taste extremely familiar, if not better than real dairy products. Although, don't get me wrong, there are still some pretty nasty things out there too.

Nevertheless, after taste testing a large amount of different brands for a few months I can assuredly say that I've built a solid go-to grocery list. And over time I will hopefully add some more delicious finds to my cart, but for now, here are my top finds! Snacks:

I am a huge veggies and dip person when I'm looking for a small snack to keep me satisfied until dinner. So when I could no longer pair my cucumbers, carrots and celery with Hidden Valley ranch (due to the buttermilk, sour cream and yogurt), I was devastated. But thankfully, Kite Hill has an amazing alternative almond milk ranch dip!

The texture and taste is just as good and works in perfect harmony with not only a large selection of vegetables but potato chips too if you're craving something more "junky".

Another staple snack I would eat is cheese and crackers. Which obviously, is now and no-no. However, my mom intro-

duced me to "Go Veggie" cheese, specifically their american flavor, which I absolutely love to use on my original Ritz crackers. But, I found that it's also great on sandwiches as well. Another alternative I use most of the time is Kite Hill's provolone cheese which has a bit of a thicker, harder texture, but the taste is definitely there. In my opinion, it's best on a hot sandwich when it's melted a little bit.

Lastly, I have loved Cheetos for my whole life and would proudly eat an entire family size bag if no one was there to stop me. As an alternative I have found that the white cheddar Hippeas Organic Chickpea Puffs are crunchy and "cheesy" enough to trick my brain into thinking I get to indulge in a regular brand. It might not be the same, but at least I know I am still able to somewhat indulge in a taste that is similar and healthier.

Desserts:

A strong trait I get from my grandma is a need for a little "something sweet" after my dinners. And because I can't really make my own desserts in a dorm and the dining hall doesn't provide a lot of dairy free dessert options, I have found my quick fix at most supermarkets.

My recent hyperfixation has been Zen almond milk chocolate pudding, which actually tastes even better than Jello pudding in my opinion. It's low calorie and one serving each so you don't overeat. It's the perfect late night snack!

Another product I was so distraught over losing was ice cream. I couldn't even fathom not having this in my life anymore. But thankfully, there are so many tasty options that it actually blows my mind.

For the past few weeks I have lived on Oatly or So Delicious ice cream, as they are both so incredible. These products are made with either oat, cashew, coconut or almond milk. Not only is it better for the environment, but it's better for my body. It's a must try for those who don't even have a dairy allergy or are lactose intolerant!

As for candy, I can no longer have a lot of the usual treats that are at most stores. However, Justin's mini dark chocolate peanut butter cups are very similar to Reese's so I'll have one piece during the night to get a simple, small taste of chocolate.

Overall, I'm super proud of my finds and I'm excited to continue this journey. It's definitely been an interesting learning experience, but I love the feeling of being healthier and happier!

as scary or sad as you think.

If you're like me, I totally recommend taking the leap - it's not But if you don't have any dairy sensitivity, keep enjoying your usual diet.

FEBRUARY MUSIC RELEASES TO ADD TO YOUR PLAYLISTS

By Julie White Contributing Writer

It's only around mid-February, but an abundance of new music has already been released! Here are my favorite singles and albums of this month thus far:

KISSING

"BLACK SUMMER" BY RED HOT

LESSONS

CHILI PEPPERS

Red Hot Chili Peppers released "Black Summer" on Feb. 4. This was their first song since 2016, and their first music since guitarist John Frusciante rejoined the band in 2019. "Black Summer" is the lead single off of Red Hot Chili Peppers album, "Unlimited Love," the band's twelfth studio album set to release on

LUCY DACUS

Apr. 1. This was released around two months before the start of their first stadium tour. According to Genius.com, "this single represents a facet of bassist Flea, as he's of Australian origins and the song focuses on the 'Black Summer' wildfires that devastated the country throughout 2019 and 2020."

"KISSING LESSONS" BY LUCY DAcus

"Kissing Lessons' ' is indie artist Lucy Dacus's second single after the release of her album, "Home Video," in 2021. Dacus teased the song by posting "Kissing Lessons" flyers in several US cities in late January before the song's release on Feb. 2. In her newsletter, Dacus said that "Kissing Lessons" is "an old song [she] wrote in 2017 and tried to put on Home Video but it didn't fit in because it's too fun." Dacus is correct. "Home Video" is somber while "Kissing Lessons" is a sweet, catchy and upbeat tune about a childhood friend with whom Dacus practices "being seduced."

the show would be her last performance in a while. Mitski owed her label, Dead Oceans, another album, however. After a four-year hiatus, Mitski released "Laurel Hell," an album that reveals her struggles with increasing fame, career and identity as a musician. Mitski drew inspiration from 80s synth-pop for songs "The Only Heartbreaker," "Love Me More" and "That's Our Lamp," something distinct to "Laurel Hell" in comparison to her previous albums. My favorite song is definitely "Love Me More."

"ANTS FROM UP THERE" BY BLACK COUNTY, NEW ROAD I was sent this album by a friend earlier



"Kissing Lessons" by Lucy Dacus was released on Feb. 2, 2022.

"LAUREL HELL" BY MITSKI

"Laurel Hell" is Mitski's sixth studio album which was released on Feb. 4. In an interview with Zane Lowe in November, Mitski said that "Laurel Hell is a term from the Southern Appalachians in the US, where laurel bushes basically grow in these dense thickets...When you get stuck in these thickets, you can't get out. Or so the story goes." Feelings of being trapped and escaping from entanglement resonate with Mitski. After performing at Central Park's SummerStage in Sept. of 2019, Mitski announced that she was taking an indefinite break from music. Additionally, in a recent interview with Rolling Stone, she said she believed that

this week after she saw lots of discourse about it on Tik Tok, and after listening to the album, it's evident it deserves all the attention it's getting. "Ants From Up There" is the second studio album from the London experimental-rock band and could be perceived as a breakup album, one similar to The Beatles "Let It Be," as frontman Isaac Wood announced his departure from the band a few days before the album's release on Feb. 4. "Ants From Up There" earned a spot on Pitchfork's list of "Best New Albums." Black County, New Road's art-rock style is a bit of an acquired taste, in my opinion, but I have a large appreciation for the album's unique sound and melancholic songwriting.

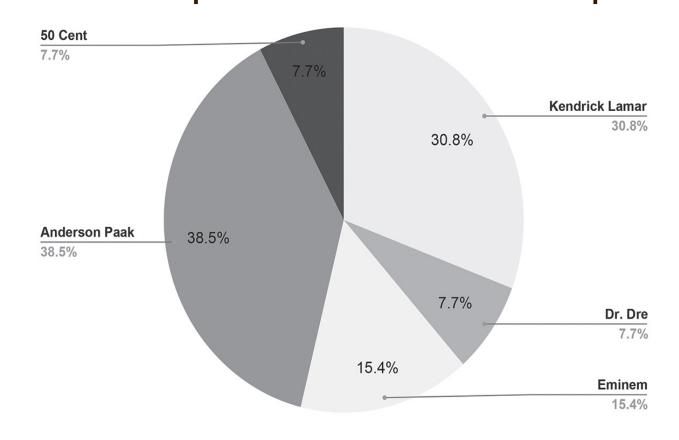
A must listen to the song on this album is "Concorde".

I definitely have an eclectic taste in music and am always introducing myself to new artists and genres. I hope you enjoy these current releases as much as I do; happy listening!



The Mirror's Takes

On this week's segment of The Mirror's Takes, we have a hot topic! We asked The Mirror: Who was the best performer at the halftime show this past Sunday?



Do you agree or disagree? Let us know what you think, because this infamous topic can be debated on for hours! If you have any interesting things you would like to hear The Mirror's take on, DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to let us know, and look for your poll in the Coffee Break section!

Hope these weren't the only texts you got on Valentíne's Day...

CMessages Student	Details			
Hello. My name is Lucas the Stag from the US Army, I am working in				
partnership with your college. Have you thought about combining		K Messages	Student	Details
your college path with a rewarding career in the United States Army Reserves? Txt: STOP to			Serio	ously stop.
cancel messages being sent.		Hello again.	the Army	

STOP.

Hello again. My name is Lucas the Stag from the US Army, I am working in partnership with your college. Have you thought about combining your college path with a rewarding career in the United States Army Reserves? Txt: STOP to cancel messages being sent.

has PART TIME and FULL TIME positions available with \$\$\$ bonus, full coverage healthcare, travel, experience for any career on your resume, and more. In 20 years with two wars...of all forward deployed troops to OIF-OEF...less than 1% saw real combat. If you simply want your questions answered, please respond, I am here to help! Thank you!



Photo Illustrated by Madeline West

Sports

Sports Editor: Tommy Coppola >>thomas.coppola@student.fairfield.edu





Feb. 16	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22
Men's basketball vs. Manhattan College Bridgeport, Conn. 1:00 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. #23 UConn Fairfield, Conn. 3:00 p.m.	Women's basketball vs. Quinnipiac University Bridgeport, Conn. 7:00 p.m.	Softball at North Carolina State North Carolina State Tournament Raleigh, N.C. 3:00 p.m. Baseball at Elon University Elon, N.C. 4:00 p.m. Softball vs. Mount St. Mary's North Carolina State Tournament Raleigh, N.C. 5:30 p.m. Men's basketball vs. Saint Peter's University Bridgeport, Conn. 7:00 p.m.	Men's Tennis vs. UNC Greensboro Wilmington, N.C. TBA Softball vs. Lehigh University North Carolina State Tournament Raleigh, N.C. 10:00 a.m. Women's tennis at Providence College Providence, R.I. 10:30 a.m. Women's lacrosse at Wagner College Staten Island, N.Y. 12:00 Baseball at Elon University Elon, N.C. 2:00 p.m.	Softball vs. Lehigh University North Carolina State Tournament Raleigh, N.C. 10:00 a.m. Baseball at Elon College Elon, N.C. 12:00 p.m. Men's tennis at UNCW Wilmington, N.C. 12:00 p.m. Men's basketball at Iona College New Rochelle, N.Y. 1:00 p.m. Women's tennis vs. Wagner College Trumbull, Conn. 5:00 p.m.	FRIRFIELD	FRIRFIELD

Arena 100: February Progress Report

By Tommy Coppola Sports Editor

Since The Mirror's last Arena 100 Update before winter break, progress looked to be slowing down just a bit. However, Fairfield University students have been able to see major progress since returning back to campus for the spring semester.

Neon-green walls have been placed up, and the entire ceiling of the front section seems to be installed. The extra curve in the front of the design of the arena can already be seen, which pro-



trudes out from the right side of the construction site.

The whole project has really taken shape, with virtually all of the framework in-place. This is different from last semester when most of the framework was still finishing up, but it was not fully connected together. Now, the trusses of the ceiling connect both sides of the project.

Lights have been placed in certain rooms where construction is being done from the inside. This echoes Athletic Director Paul Schlickmann's belief from December that some of the rooms are beginning to take shape.



Pictured on the left is a view of the from the Barone Campus Center parking lot, and pictured on the right is a frontal view of the new arena from the perspective of the Kelley Center parking garage.

In this week's issue...

- A Complete Guide To The 2022 Lacrosse Season(Page 14)
- Club Ski and Snowboard Caps Off Impressive Season (Page 15)
- Four Olympic Events That Fly Under The Radar (Page 15)
- Amateurs Attempt To Explain The Super Bowl (Page 16)
- Stags Snap Losing Skid At Home Over Purple Eagles (Page 16)

Sports

A Complete Guide To The 2022 Lacrosse Season

By Alexander Vulcano Contributing Writer

In the midst of a cold winter, both the Fairfield University men's and women's lacrosse teams are gearing up to start their seasons.

Men's Lacrosse Preview

Coming off a shortened "COVID-19" season in which the men's lacrosse team went a disappointing 2-9, including a 0-8 mark in conference play, the Stags are energized and excited to see what the 2021-22 season will hold.

"We're really excited because this fall and spring, we've had real time to be together," said Head Coach Andrew Baxter. "Building connectivity will be the biggest thing we will emphasize throughout the season."

Look for the men's team to play a tough, physical kind of lacrosse this season. "It's physical. It's loud. It's care about each other," Coach Baxter said when asked about how he wants his squad to compete out on the field. "That's the brand we want. We want people to come to our games and be like, wow, these guys are physical. They're loud. And at the end of the day, they care about each other. And they're selfless."

One key player for fans to watch this season is Bryce Ford '25. A redshirt first-year who played midfield for the Stags during the 2021 campaign, he was a key cog in their offense. This year Baxter and his fellow coaching staff have him playing at the attack position and are hoping for him to continue his ascendance.

"[Ford] is a very dynamic player. He's been incredible for us and made it super easy in terms of who's able to quarterback our offense, he's able to do a lot of different things down there, and we're able to play to his strengths." Said Coach Baxter. "He's a guy I think that's going to surprise a lot of people this year."

The Stags have key games against Villanova University, Sacred Heart University, Harvard University and Towson University as they look to bounce back from a disappointing past season.

Coach Baxter, however, isn't looking past any opponents and says, "every game is a big game because it's the next one; we're trying to focus on one opponent at a time."

They broke their season up into non-conference, conference and playoffs and are hoping to make a splash in the Colonial Athletic Association. For their head coach, ultimate





Bryce Ford '23, a newly appointed co-captain of the men's lacrosse team, earned the honor of CAA co-player of the week. success this season would be winning ball games and getting a CAA conference win.

The Stags' next game is at home on Rafferty Stadium against Wagner University on Feb. 19.

Women's Lacrosse Preview

The Fairfield University women's lacrosse team has enjoyed great success over the past few seasons, winning three out of the last four Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championships, and are looking to make an even bigger splash in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

"We're happy with the MAAC Championship but unsatisfied with the way last season ended," said Head Coach Laura Field. "We always want to perform better [than the last game], and we want more."

The Stags finally have a full slate of games with both outof-conference and in-conference matchups with teams such as the University of Connecticut, Boston University, Siena College and Monmouth University.

"The out-of-conference play is a huge deal," said senior defenseman Caroline Mangan. "It helps us get a good seed in the NCAA tournament and tests us."

The most anticipated match-up, according to defenseman Keyla Bay '22, is against Siena College. "In our four years at Fairfield University, that is the only MAAC team we have lost to," said Bay. "We have this chip on our shoulder when we play them, and we never want to experience the feeling of losing to them again."

The women's program has a brand-new team with many fresh faces that Coach Field expects to contribute out on the field. "We expect a lot out of every class," said Field. "You are going to see faces from freshmen through graduate students contributing."

The Stags have many different points of attack and embody the "next man up" philosophy.

A couple of impact players to watch on the field are graduate student Kelly Horning, Mangan and Libby Rowe ²³.

"Kelly is our foundation of the team," said Bay. "We can turn to her whenever we need a reset or a clutch goal."

"Libby Rowe is going to be a huge leader this year," said Bay. "I'm looking forward to watching her grow."

Mangan is a clutch, shutdown defender who shows up in big games.

Looking ahead, the Stags know they will be getting each team's best shot and relish the opportunity to play in big games.

"We have a target on our back," said Bay. "It gives us the push we need to work harder."

The team is laser-focused on playing one game at a time and getting better each day. Expect the women's lacrosse team to be a mainstay in the MAAC conference championship and potentially make a run into the NCAA tournament.

The squad's next game is against #21 University of Connecticut on Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium on Feb. 16.

Your 2021-2022 5x4 Columnists: Tommy Coppola, Molly Lamendola, Julia Lanzillotta, Tobenna Ugwu and Sheila McCombs

Because we have witty things to say ...



Tommy Coppola **Sports Editor**

Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief



Julia Lanzillotta **Executive Editor**



Managing Editor



Sheila McCombs Managing Editor

What's one now- discontinued snack from your childhood that you wish would return?	Bring back Froot Loop straws or I'm gonna be an unhappy camper.	I ate a lot of toast with butter, and now I do not.	I loved the Gripz snack packs in the chocolate chip cookie flavor.	I couldn't tell ya.	The Oreo Cakester things were so good!!
Who is the most chaotic group in the Mirror office?	Molly and Maddy, especially after their super bowl article. That just sealed the deal.	I'm a big fan of the chaotic trio of me, Brooke and Tommy. But Tristan and Kyler have some fun too.	Brooke and Tommy undoubt- edly. I wish I kept a transcript of their back-and-forth.	I'm gonna have to say me and Molly, if SNL got a transcript of our conversation they'd be funny once again.	Hm, I think I would have to say Toby and Molly, as the original chaotic duo.
What did you think of both lacrosse teams' performances on Saturday?	I was impressed on both sides. Sadly the men's team couldn't bring it home but the women played great!	I have never seen lacrosse, but women are superior.	I was expecting a W for the women's team, but 18-8 was insane. The men's team has room for improvement.	I agree with Tommy.	I think that both teams have bright futures ahead of them this season!
What message do you have for the next Mirror staff?	I can't wait to get started :)	Balance caffeine with water.	Don't be afraid to rock the boat and have fun doing it!	Don't fret, y'all are an amazing combination of people! Have fun, and live in the moment.	Be creative, and change how things were done in the past!

Sports Club Ski & Snowboard Cap Off Impressive Season

By Tommy Coppola Sports Editor

On the mountain this year, the Fairfield University club skiing and snowboarding team has proved themselves as dominant all season.

As a part of the Atlantic Highlands Conference in the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association, the team participates in events against other clubs all around the Northeast United States, including Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. According to team president Cooper Stearns '22, "As a whole USCSA is made up of 175 different colleges and hosts over 5,000 athletes".

Although the team is classified as a club sport, they participate in competitive events at an extremely high level. Even being a club, mostly everyone on the team has experience in competitive snowboarding or skiing. According to Stearns, in order to be a member of the team, experience is not necessarily required; however, everyone is expected to supply their own equipment.

The past few years for the club skiing team have been extremely impressive. Going up against clubs at schools like Columbia University, Drexel University, Princeton University and even the United States Military Academy, their matches are no easy feats.

Regardless, the team still has excelled in the

past and has continued to do so through this year. According to Assistant Director of Competitive Sports Chelsey Wright, the women's alpine skiing team placed second in their division whereas the men's team placed third in their division.

Stearns also mentioned how his team has been able to find success at the national level and hopes to recreate that energy this year and beyond. "Nationals are held at the Olympic arena in Whiteface, N.Y., or out west at a rotation of mountains including Jackson

Photo Contributed by Chelsey Wright

Junior and club vice president Mary Foley skis around a gate in an alpine event.

Hole,

Mammoth, and Park City," Stearns explained. "We are hoping to build a strong team to make it to these competitions again."

The club is co-ed and features a variety of different types of skiers and snowboarders. Some of these differences include slalom vs. giant slalom skiers and snowboarders, as well as "rail jam" and "slopestyle" skiers and snowboarders.

Slalom skiing and snowboarding is much more of an elusive and technical version of the two winter sports. In this type, the skier or snowboarder will make quick cuts around gates, and attempt to get to the bottom

of the hill at the best time. Obviously, the fastest time wins the competition.

Rail jam or slopestyle skiing and snowboarding is more focused on performing and landing tricks. The main difference here is that speed and quickness are not necessarily an issue.

According to Stearns, although the regular season runs from January into March, there is an optional trip to Canada once the competitive season is all finished.

The regional tournament for the division will be held at the end of the month. According to Wright, the team is currently waiting for their official confirmation to attend the tournament, which takes place in Virginia.



The club ski and snowboard team (pictured above) poses for a picture after competing in an event.

Four Olympic Events That Fly Under The Radar



By Tommy Coppola Sports Editor

The 2022 Olympics are officially underway in Beijing, China. In the winter rendition of the Games, there are many sports and events that always steal the show for fans like ice hockey, skiing and snowboarding. However, other events tend to fly under the radar; here are some of the highlights. This link offers a full list of Winter Olympic Games events, but these listed below are some of the lessrecognized sports.

Curling

Curling is just one of those sports that seems to always be on a random TV somewhere. The sport is played with a large curling stone made of granite being slid across a sheet of ice; the goal is to slide said stone onto the middle of a target at the end of the ice strip, called the "house" ac-

Luge

Luge is a high-speed sport that is basically sledding at the most professional level. Now, make the sled tiny, make the course curve and twist and have the player lay down on it; then, you have luge. Its sister sport, skeleton, is the same exact concept, except this time the person on the sled will go down headfirst (making it much more dangerous) according to an article by the New York Times.

Luge is a very easy event to watch for any level of interest in the Olympics. The concept is simple to grasp and the pace is exciting. According to the official Olympics website, in the men's singles, women's singles, doubles and





ties for different countries to take home medals.

Basically, the whole concept of the sport is that the skier tries to build up as much momentum and speed as they can so when they ramp off of the incline, they can fly the farthest out of the competition. The athlete who lands the farthest wins the event.

Although the Ski Jumping festivities have only just started, there are still a ton of interesting medal winners in these aforementioned events. Slovenia, a smaller country in the southern part of Europe, has already secured two gold medals and a bronze medal in Ski Jumping alone.

Speed Skating

The Netherlands has seen spectacular success this year in Speed Skating, which is an event that is explained fairly simply; racers race around a track made of ice to secure the fastest time. The Netherlands has so far taken home four gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze medal all from speed skating. Like every other sport in the Olympics, there are different events that take place based on distance. Both the men's and the women's teams have seperate events that range from the short 500m up to the stamina-reliant 5000m.

cording to worldcurling.org.

In order to perfect the shot, the teammates of the person who slides the stone will sweep the ice with a brush in order to warm the surface, which will allow the stone to slide farther. This means that, with no sweeping, the heavy stone will slow down earlier, but with good sweeping the rock will slide farther. The whole idea of this is to be able to adjust the shot after it takes place so the highest score can be achieved.

There are many more rules that are more difficult to understand for the casual Olympics fan, but these are the basics. This year, fourteen teams will be participating. Most are from Europe and North America. This year, however, will be the first time Australia has their own teams.





Photos Contributed by Olympics.com

team relay events this year, Germany was able to take home the gold medal in each. Austria secured themselves some hardware of their own, with two silvers and a bronze.

Ski Jumping

Ski Jumping is a classic event that always draws many eyes to it. Instead of snaking around gates to show off finesse and skill like the Alpine Skiing event, Ski Jumping literally only relies on speed and a little bit of help from gravity. With both the "normal hill" and "large hill" varieties for men's, women's and mixed team events, it is always a very competitive event and offers a lot of great opportuni-

As of writing this, Austria leads the pack in total overall medals with 13, with Canada, Norway, ROC and the US not far behind. You can find DraftKing's updating medal tracker for Beijing 2022 at this link.





By Molly Lamendola Editor-In-Chief

By Madeline West Assistant News Editor Hello, my name is Molly Lamendola, I'm 21 years old and I've never seen the Superbowl. Hello, my name is Madeline West, I'm 20 years old, and I only watch and enjoy the Super Bowl when the New England Patriots (with Tom Brady) are playing. If you asked me who was playing before I turned on my TV my best answer would be blue versus orange.

Thus, we thought "What better way to cover Super Bowl LVI, the Los Angeles Rams vs the Cincinnati Bengals, than by having two people that are so far from experts it's nearly hilarious, cover the game?" So, without further ado, here's the incredibly noncomprehensive guide to the Super Bowl and what we were feeling while watching the big game.

Firstly, the game opened with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson yelling into a microphone in red chino pants. Which, first of all, is very camp, but second of all made us think about the Disney classic movie, "The Game Plan."

Now seemed like a perfectly good time to go help make some dip, pigs in a blanket and make sure the wings that were critically timed and pre-ordered were arriving shortly. This was arguably the highlight of the game.

The Rams then start with the ball, but apparently, the Bengal's defense is too good and is the reason they made it to the Super Bowl.

Nine minutes in, the commercials start. Though this is a highlight typically, we were quite disappointed in the quality this year. Nothing seemed to stand out and... can they do crypto commercials now? Weird.

The game is back and the ball switches sides and the Bengals seem to be doing a lot better than the Rams.

Do people understand the stats for each player when it pops up on the screen?

Finally, some action when Cooper Kupp is able to do some light running and get the line a bit closer to the touchdown section. Kupp seems to be doing the majority of the work here and the rest of his team seems to be kind of standing around.

A touchdown is finally secured by the Rams by Odell Beckham Jr. just six minutes into the game.

The Bengals then get their chance, but Chris Evans, not Captain America, screws it up and can't catch it. 34 minutes in and people just keep dropping the ball and running around with it and we're left to wonder why this is "America's Sport" and argue about trying to convince Thomas Coppola, Sports Editor, that an article on the cheerleaders would be incredibly more interesting.

Another touchdown comes from the Rams in the second quarter, and it's slightly more interesting again.

Beckham, the cute one with the pink hair, goes down with a hurt knee and though we can't know for sure if the Rock said any encouraging words to try and get him back out "Game Plan" style, he was too hurt to return, leaving the Rams in a bad place.

An hour and 48 minutes into the game and Molly's roommate sat her down to explain the basic rules of football and specifically what a "scrimmage" is, and then Maddy texted in a shared group chat asking if the Rams were the one in orange pants, so we knew we were at a good level of understanding.

And now the moment we have all been waiting for...or at least we have been: the Halftime Show. Dr.

+++++++ **Creative Commons** Stags Snap Losing Skid At Home Over Purple Eagles

Dre and Snoop Dog wearing the dopest sweatsuit of 2022 emerge from a house. Whether or not you like Eminem when 'Lose Yourself' came on everyone was brought back to the '90s.

Personally, Anderson .Paak on drums was the best part of the halftime show- but now back to the game.

The game starts up again with the Rams (the one in yellow pants) at 13, and the Bengals (orange pants) at 10.

We're getting kind of tired at this point, but then the Bengals are able to score in just a minute into the second half which gets us back engaged and the score is Bengals 17, Rams 13.

A bit later on, through some other football shenanigans, more points are scored and it's looking like tough luck for the Rams and it's Bengals 20, Rams 13.

Then more football shenanigans and the Rams finally inched their way up to 16.

It looks like the game is going to wrap up here with Bengals 20, Rams 16. But oh wait, with just a minute left of the game, the Rams score.

The game ended with a score of 23-20 going to the Rams. Confetti and champagne were popped and families stormed the field.

Joe Burrow and everyone who watched the Super Bowl for Joe Burrow were only left to see him get sacked seven times, which is unfortunate.

By Zachary Stevens **Contributing Writer**

The Fairfield University men's basketball team held two home games this past week, hosting Quinnipiac University on Feb. 9 and Niagara University on Feb. 12.

Both games were critical for the Stags, as March is quickly approaching, and their confidence will want to be boosted heading into the tournament.

While home court advantage is usually an overpowering factor in college basketball, the Stags have been dreadful at iac, Fairfield was eager to get back to their winning ways at home, but came out to a cold start, falling behind quickly and struggling from the field early.

Head Coach Jay Young and his players are no-quitters, bringing the game back within striking distances multiple times with help from Supreme Cook '24.

Cook was the star for the Stags, putting up his sixth double-double of the year, scoring 10 points and gathering 10 rebounds. He also secured four blocks, his high and the most by any career

Fairfield player this

student Taj Benning, also had nine points for the Stags, just two shy of his season average.

Although Fairfield had productive scoring nights from three key players, the Stags could not get close enough to take any momentum away from the Bobcats and failed to take the lead or even tie the game throughout the contest.

Fairfield ultimately lost the game 60-69, a disappointing loss for Coach Young and his team. The home losing streak in the MAAC was still haunting the Stags.

With a game three days later, Fairfield

far this season.

Fairfield would end up overpowering the Purple Eagles, diminishing any chance of a comeback and winning the game by a margin of 20 points, ending in a score of 73-53

This was also the first time the Stags won by double digits in conference play. The home win also marked the first of the season for Fairfield in the MAAC, giving them a lot of confidence going into their next matchup.

They will host another home game against Canisius College on Feb. 14 at 7:00 p.m. The Golden Griffins are a dangerous team that the Stags are familiar with, ensuring an exciting contest for supporters.

the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Conn. during MAAC play, failing to win a game in five contests thus far.

Against Quin-

nip

season.

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Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Along with Cook, TJ Long '25 had 11 points and was on fire from three, going 3-4 from downtown. Graduate

would have to have a short memory and move onto the next contest against a strong Niagara squad.

The game started very differently compared to the Quinnipiac affair, as the Stags were heating up from the field at the start of the game and kept their foot on the gas from start to finish.

Graduate student Jesus Cruz led the Stags with 14 points in a balanced Fairfield scoring effort. Graduate student Caleb Green was impeccable as well, assisting eight times, his career high and scoring ten points.

Having these leaders on the court playing at this level will be extremely important going forward for Coach Young and his squad heading into March.

Along with the Stags' successful shooting, they held Niagara to just 53 points, which was their most impressive defensive performance in the MAAC so

Check out the game on ESPN +, where you can stream the game on your mobile device. Show your support and go Stags!



Graduate Student Taj Benning, pictured above, celebrates with a fellow teammate.