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With Spring Break less than two weeks away, students are making plans to close up their rooms and head home or on vacation. However, some find themselves involved in activities requiring them to stay on campus. The Office of Residence Life has relayed information on what this might mean in terms of costs.

Navigating Spring Break Closing and the Cost of Staying On Campus

BY BRIDGET KEOHANE Assistant News Editor

With Spring Break less than two weeks away, campus is filled with rumblings between students discussing their plans for how they will spend their time off from March 2-10.

Some students can be heard expressing excitement to go home and unwind from the first half of the semester, while others have made plans to escape the cold weather and go on a trip with their fellow Stags.

However, some students- such as student-athletes, international students or those who are completing an internship near Fairfield- have found themselves under circumstances that require them to stay on campus during the week-long break.

In an email sent out to students on Feb. 9, the Office of Residence Life relayed the routine procedure students are required to follow to close their rooms as they leave for break. This includes locking all windows, unplugging everything except for fridges and leaving the heat on low.

Included at the bottom of the email is an application

permission to stay, but calls out those who are completing internships by stating "Permission will not be given to students because of their need to pursue outside employment over the break."

Many students have expressed frustration with this policy, especially since those who need to stay on-campus throughout the whole break could be subject to a fee of around \$600 if it is not waived. In comparison, the weekly rate for Fairfield's summer housing for a private bedroom sits at just \$340.

When asked why the University charges this fee, Meredith Smith, Assistant Vice President and Director of Residence Life, remarked "Break and early arrival periods are not included in student's housing costs as the services and staffing are limited during these periods. The University charges a nightly fee to recoup some of the costs of services

66 Break and early arrival periods are not included in student's housing costs as the services and staffing are limited during these periods. The University charges a nightly fee to recoup some of the costs of services and staffing during this timeframe."

fee waived. However, others, such as Lucille Fowler '25, have been met with resistance when attempting to get the fee waived, even for a day.

"I think it's unfair - ResLife waives the fee for students who travel from a distance they deem far and request to come back a day or two early. However, even though I live six hours away, the University has been reluctant to cover my housing fee. That translates into a twelve-hour day in the car for my parents when they drive me back. In comparison, other students who hop on a two-hour flight and come back a day early are eligible to get their fee waived, yet I have to pay because I'm coming from the Northeast area."

Smith does stress that the \$75 fee is "typically waived for students participating in approved University sponsored events. This process requires verification via a written request from the sponsoring department, office, or advisor."

If students find themselves in a situation where they cannot afford the Spring Break housing fee, they are encouraged to reach out to Clinesha Johnson, who oversees the Student Assistance Fund in the Office of the Dean of

for students who find themselves needing to stay on campus following the official residence hall closing on Friday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. The email states: "Housing will be provided only for students with special needs to remain on campus. Any student who feels they have a special need to remain on campus will need to submit their request through 'The Housing Director' by Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 by 4:30 p.m."

The email goes on to detail that students who are approved to stay are required to pay a daily fee of \$75 in advance of their stay by Feb. 27. Those who pay the fee late are subject to a \$50 per day late fee.

The notice directly addresses in-season athletes and international students by urging them to request

-Meredith Smith **Assistant Vice President and Director of Residence Life**

and staffing during this timeframe. The \$75 price point is an average amount among the daily housing rate." In special cases, some students are eligible to get the

Students. In the meantime, students who are working paid internships and "non-academic jobs" are advised to plan ahead for the cost of staying for break.

The cost of staying over Spring Break holds significance to a notable amount of students on-campus, as the Office of Residence Life cites that about 300 to 400 students stay at Fairfield during Spring Break to participate in a range of activities from service immersion trips to departmental research to athletic events.

Any students who have questions or concerns about the Vacation Housing Policy are instructed to contact their Area Coordinator or Graduate Residence Coordinator. The Office of Residence Life can also be reached at residencelife@fairfield.edu.



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SENIOR SESSIONS

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

2/13 6:30 a.m.

There was a motor vehicle accident in the area of Alumni House due to inclement weather. No injuries were reported.

2/13

11:25 a.m.

A motor vehicle spun into a parked car in the Regis lot. No injuries were reported.

2/14

3:15 p.m.

A motor vehicle accident occurred on Loyola Drive, outside of the Fairfield College Preparatory School. No injuries were reported.

2/17

7 p.m.

Three people were trapped in an elevator on the fourth floor of the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies. DPS arrived at the scene and called the company to rectify the issue.

2/19

12:40 p.m.

A fire alarm was set off in Townhouse 4 block, which was caused by a burning towel that was used to put out a flame on the stove. The Fairfield Fire Department was called and the incident was deemed as nonmalicious.

THE MIRROR Incorporated 1977

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FROM THE ARCHIVES A Peek into The Mirror's Feb. 18, 1988 Issue

As a publication, our past informs our present.

This week, we decided to dive into The Mirror archives and showcase our issue from Feb. 18, 1988. The Mirror serves as an outlet for students' voices and offers students opportunities for dialogue surrounding pressing issues. After 36 years, the similarities with campus conversation remain.

here. It is more true to say that	a prejudice for us" (253).	Prof
Snow Day De	cisions unfair	G
To the Editor: Due to the overwhelming the part week, we felt the need to address the issue of snow days. A solution of the second does not give enough and does not give enough and enough does not give enough does not give enough and enough does not give enough does not give enough does not give enough and enough does not give enough does not give enough do	conditions are hazardous, we visit appreciate not having to risk our lives getting here. This becomes expecially annoying when we do get here and the professors were unable to arrive for class due to unable. Thursday, a student was involved in an architecture to a statistic to a series on why we should have to subject order to get to classes. We ask the university to review its policies on school delays and	man
feel as if the school is overlook- ing us when they hold classes on stormy winter mornings.	cancellations. The Commuter Club Officers,	for
We are not unrealistic. We do not expect the university to cancel classes at the sight of	Pamela Revak, Preside Sharon Walko, Vice President	th
every snowflake. However, when the roads are covered with snow and ice, and travelling	Kim Politch, Secretar Raymond Cardosi, Treasurer	y .

"Justice is one thing; life and death is another... We are all enrolled at a Liberal Arts College, where classes are designed specifically for the idea of Independent thinking as a source for fresh, new ideas. How will we be able to think in these creative terms if our own livelihoods are in danger because of lack of knowledge?"

- "Aids and Injustice," Letter to the Editor

In a Letter to the Editor, an unnamed author weighed in on an ongoing discussion about education on the AIDS epidemic. According to the National Institute of Health, 32,399 AIDS cases were reported to the Centers for Disease Control in 1988. The author noted that, despite the pressing nature of the public health crisis, few educators were willing to address the issue. Today, the value of fruitful discourse is of heightened importance within our Jesuit institution.

World' - Fair Welcome to Hard Grounds, Starting Out in the I hir S appoints arroll

Gail English Staff Writer

cessful administration. The FUSA President-elect,

Frank Carroll, appointed his Vice Presidents for the 1988-89 school year on February 5. "Enthusiasm seems to be the overriding feeling among the new administration, stated Carroll.

Maria Orabona was selected as Vice President of Student Activities, Rusty Magner will lead Student Life, and Karen Beedenbender wil head Government Affairs.

After Carroll had conducted a search through present cabinet members, he decided on these three, based upon past performance and dedication. "I chose them because they have a lot of experience and they are actively involved," stated Carroll. Orabona is excited about her position. A "fun, non-stressful environment" is her outlook in

Vice Presidents, and wants t carry on with Chris Ritchie's su Beedenbender was excit and surprised when she was che

sen as V.P. of Government A fairs, because she thought the many others were also qualified She presently heads the Council Student Organizations (C.O. O.), which encompases all of t clubs on campus. "Governm Affairs wil be a good change fro student life because C.O.S.O. is overwhelming, but I enjoy th too," stated Beedenbender. C roll feels that Karen is very w organized and dedicated citing management of Leadership We end as an example.

"We are not unrealistic. We do not expect the university to cancel classes at the sight of every snowflake. However, when the roads are covered with snow and ice, and traveling conditions are hazardous, we would appreciate not having to risk our lives getting here."

- The Commuter Club

The Opinion section featured a piece entitled "Snow and Ice Demand Classes Online" in our Jan. 31 issue. Contributing Writer Olivia Duprat expressed concerns about the slick sidewalks, with wintery conditions hindering students' ability to traverse campus. The Commuter Club echoed these sentiments back in 1988, noting that they would "appreciate not having to risk [their] lives getting" to classes.

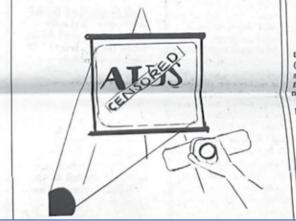
Aids & Injustice

In the February 4 edition of the Miror, a lefter was printed entitled "RA Responsibility Stiffed", where Nazaro J. Propati expressed his feelings about not being able to educate his floor members on the dangers of AIDS, due to the "bu-reaucracy of the Catholic church and this university." In short, he and the RA staff have been forbidden by the ad-ministration to show a film about AIDS in the residence halls. As a reply this week, George E. Lang, of the Department of Mathematics, stressed his support for Mr. Propati's cause, along with his concern for students' fights as a whole. The main issue here is perplexing . Of course, being by "authority", is a problem of justice that has been with us throughout our lifetime, and will continue with us as we enter fact that students are not getting fully educated on a serious, life-inflicting disease that has become a part of the large is not the med doubt h proster.

everyone's life?

Justice is one thing; life and death is another As young people of the next generation, we should be aware of every precaution available, (be it abstinence or condoms). And, more importantly, as the movers and shakers of the next era, being educated about the subject is vital, especially if each and every one of us has the ability to make a contribution to the problem, and perhaps cure it.

We are all enrolled at a Uberal Arts College, where classes are designed specifically for the idea of independent thinking as a source for fresh, new Ideas. How will we be able to think in these creative terms if our own livelihoods are In danger because of lack of knowledege? Granted, many information, presented thematically and carefully is an obvious and integral part of any college curriculum. By being denied this chance, our freedom is being stifled, and our lives are being put into danger.



"The FUSA President-elect, Frank Carroll, appointed his Vice Presidents for the 1988-89 school year on Feb. 5. 'Enthusiasm seems to be the overriding feeling among the new administration,' stated Caroll."

- Gail English, Staff Writer

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News

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On Tuesday, February Carroll and Orabona left for Wa ington, D.C. to participate i National Association of Cam Activities (N.A.C.A.) convent "There will be educational sions and programs on how

"The Mirror welcomes the opinions and comments of its readers. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to Box AA or to the Mirror office in the ground floor of Gonzaga."

A final observation is tied to a call to action. Our archival selection was consumed by Letters to the Editor, as students and faculty boldly voiced their thoughts on published works within The Mirror. The paper solicited such content, asking interested writers to submit their commentary to the office in Gonzaga. We have since moved to a new office in the LLBCC, nestled between the Offices of FUSA and Residence Life. But, our box (which is now a digital folder) is always open for submissions. For more information, visit us at 7 p.m. on Mondays or send an email to info@fairfieldmirror.com

In 1988, the student body was abuzz over the announcement of the latest FUSA leadership. This week, Fairfield students can sense the same anticipation as the 2024-25 FUSA election looms closer. The Mirror is excited to cover the unfolding events, beginning with the Presidential Debate that will take place on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the LLBCC.



Annual Open VISIONS Forum Canceled Unexpectedly

BY ASHLEY DEVLIN

Head News Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Annual Open VISIONS Forum scheduled for the following day, "Going Viral with Juju Chang and Masih Alinejad" was canceled with little to no notice. Set to take place on Thursday, Feb. 15, the event was canceled the night before.

The email that students received had no explanation other than "The Annual Student Forum, presented in collaboration with FUSA and the College of Arts & Sciences Common Ground Lecture Series has been POSTPONED due to unforeseen circumstances and will be RESCHED-ULED for a date in the near future."

The Open VISIONS Forum occurs every year with a variety of guest speakers throughout the school year. These speakers are chosen to allow students to understand more about the world and have an open conversation about global, potentially controversial topics.

Fairfield University began this tradition in 2005 with a discussion led by Helen Prejean, C.S.J. Prejean was a nun who counseled inmates on death row. She visited Fairfield because "Lone Rangers don't do well in social justice ... We need the strength of others." The Open VISIONS Forum has a goal of opening the minds of young students and Prejean hoped to inspire Fairfield to participate more in social justice reform.

In 2010, Dee Dee Meyers and Liz Cheney hosted the Open VISIONS Forum. Meyers is the former press secretary to former President Bill Clinton, a political analyst and a writer. Cheney is the daughter of former Vice President Richard Cheney and has made a lot of progress in political office. According to their event announcement, both came to Fairfield to discuss the state of the electorate at the time and how to exercise a successful political campaign.

Past students, like Vincent Rotondo '23 believe "these events give students an opportunity to learn more about the world outside of the Fairfield bubble and can broaden their understanding of different events".

More recently, in 2023, students had the option to see Kaitlin Collins, anchor and former White House correspondent for CNN. They also had the opportunity to speak with James Campbell, a radio show host focused on finances and Ponzi schemes, Peter Shapiro, the head of Sirius XM's Grateful Dead channel and Rhadika Dirks, the founder and CEO of XLabs, as well as many others.

Having outstanding guests who are professionals of a high level in their fields come talk to students is a perk of being a Fairfield student. Meaghan Toomey '26 described the Open VISIONS Forum as a good opportunity to "have an open conversation."

Many students take advantage of these opportunities



The cover for the "Going Viral with Juju Chang and Masih Alinejad" Open VISIONS Forum. Chang that happen frequently is pictured on the left and Alinejad on the right. The event was cancelled and is set to be rescheduled. throughout the year. Ju-

nior Brynn Murphy said that "Quick Center events are really cool and a lot of profeswsors have their students go to experience something new."

The most recent forum was set to include conversations with Juju Chang and Masih Alinejad. Chang is a journalist who works for ABCNews and currently hosts Nightline. As a professional in the industry who has also worked for Good Morning America, Chang is an expert on journalism and the media.

Alinejad is an Iranian-American journalist. When living in Iran, she started social movements against the oppression of women by not wearing her hijab. She has been described as "the woman whose hair frightens Iran". This movement is called My Stealthy Freedom and it has 11 million followers and participants. Through this she inspired many to break the compulsory law of wearing the hijab.

She has spoken up about the oppressive regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and tried to change the laws there. In doing so, she has inspired many, but also become a target.

Alinejad also wrote a book, entitled "The Wind in My

Hair: My Fight for Freedom in Modern Iran," to tell her story and how she fought back against a government that unjustly controls women.

Many Fairfield University students were excited to hear her and Chang speak at the forum this past week. In political science and social justice classes across the university professors, like Dr. Garcia-Iommi greatly encouraged their students to attend the event to learn more about how the media plays a role in global politics and how the treatment of women, especially women of color is throughout the world. In countries, like Iran, women are trapped in a perpetual cycle of mistreatment, abuse and are granted little civil liberties. Alinejad is working to stop this from continuing.

However, students can remain hopeful because the Quick Center for the Arts has said that the event is only postponed and that it will be rescheduled for a later date. Events such as these shed a great deal of light on very serious situations and help enlighten students on social justice issues across the world — and even in our own backyard.

Dr. Tiky Presents Politics Lecture on Global Issues

BY ERICA SCHINDLER Assistant News Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Fairfield University's International Studies Program and Politics Department hosted a lecture by Assistant Professor of Politics Dr. Lembe Tiky. The event, titled "Addressing Global Issues: Connecting Scholars & Practitioners," was held in the DiMenna-Nyselius Library Multimedia Room.

The event, which marks the first in the series of this semester, centered around the relationship between academia in international politics and the practitioners who craft policy influenced by research and expertise.

When arriving at the lower level of the library, Fairfield students and faculty were greeted by tables of food and refreshments. After some time spent mingling and enjoying the snacks, attendees headed into the multimedia room where Dr. Tiky was introduced to the audience

"International relations really is the subfield that seeks to explain international interactions between actors involved in global politics," he explained.

Tiky has been teaching at Fairfield University since 2021. Previously, he worked at the International Studies Association (ISA) where he was the Director of Academic Development. In this role, he designed programs for scholars and practitioners- the international relations actors that were the focus of his lecture on Thursday.

The professor went on to give examples of the types of global issues scholars and practitioners deal with. Together, with input from the audience, Tiky listed several issues such as climate change, terrorism, war and the pandemic that scholars and policymakers address. These issues, Tiky explained, have something in common: no actor can roundtables." address these issues by themselves. Rather, cooperation is

66

Global issues are issues that the state or any actor cannot address alone. These are transnational issues that require the participation of different actors."

> Lembe Tiky **Professor of Politics and International Studies**

After discussion of the ISA, the latter part of the lec-

Dozens of people were in attendance, filling most of the multimedia room's seats. With many of his own students in the audience, Tiky began his talk by discussing what exactly international relations is.



Dr. Tiky lectures from the podium. His talk focused on the relationship between international relations scholars and practitioners.

needed.

"Global issues are issues that the state or any actor cannot address alone," Tiky said. "These are transnational issues that require the participation of different actors."

Practitioners - those who make policy - depend on the research and work of scholars studying these issues. Tiky emphasized that this is a two-way street; scholars also learn from policymakers. Academics analyze the work of policymakers and apply their findings to new research. When scholars generate theories on international relations, practitioners learn from them and create informed policy.

How does this cooperation happen? One place it's facilitated is at the ISA, where Tiky worked for seven years before coming to Fairfield. The ISA is headquartered only in Storrs, Connecticut on the campus of the University of Connecticut.

The ISA hosts annual global conventions where scholars and practitioners come together to share ideas. More than 100 countries are represented at ISA conventions, which are hosted in a different American or Canadian city each year.

"This year's [convention] is in San Francisco," Tiky noted. "There will be over 5,000 people- 5,000 scholars and practitioners. There will be over 1,000 panels and ture touched on the international relations theories of Realism and Liberalism, how these theories each view global issues and the role of international cooperation in both schools of thought.

Tiky took questions from the audience after the conclusion of his lecture. Students and faculty present at the event asked questions on topics ranging from the impact of tenure on scholars to democratic peace theory.

Once the question and answer portion of the evening had finished, Tiky was met with a round of applause from students and faculty. To conclude the event, Politics Department Chair Gwendoline Alphonso encouraged students to apply what they learn in class to the real world and to continue coming to events like this one. She also emphasized that, while cooperation is key, individuals can also make a difference.

"Individuals also have a remarkable ability to impact the world, Alphonso said. "So, try to do that in some sort of significant way, even if it's small."

Students interested in international relations and politics can find future lecture series events on Life@Fairfield.

Editor: Roisin McCarthy Assistant Editor: Natalie Dripchak

Opinion

Do Fairfield Students' Littering Habits Reflect University Culture?

By ROISIN MCCARTHY **Opinion Editor**

After a long day, the campus is filled with plastic cups, straws, plates, silverware, Dunkin bags and much more. Roaming around the Tully trying to find a seat is difficult due to the trash and mess people leave behind. Red Tully plates and cups are consistently left behind and disregarded by those who use them. It's common decency and knowledge to clean up after yourself, but many Fairfield students lack that ability.

This characteristic could be a product of the privilege higher education yields. Private universities like Fairfield tend to cater to a culture of privileged students who can occasionally behave disrespectfully.

Although leaving waste behind may seem like a silly issue, it affects more than just us. Stags Hospitality workers are not paid to clean up excess waste left behind by students. They work hard every day to feed us with a smile on their faces. Our actions affect the people around us who work to provide for students.

Junior Emily Ashenbrenner feels similarly, "The Department of Facilities Management (ABM) people work hard enough, it's unkind that some students make ABM work harder to clean up after them when they can clean up after themselves."

Stag's Hospitlality commented on the matter, stating that most students do pick up after themselves, but "in any population of individuals, there is always a small number that creates a little extra work for the Tully team. The one helpful recommendation for all students is to take small portions and come back as often as you like. The Hospitality team has worked tirelessly providing most locations on campus with meal exchange to provide variety and reduce any wait times at the Tully."

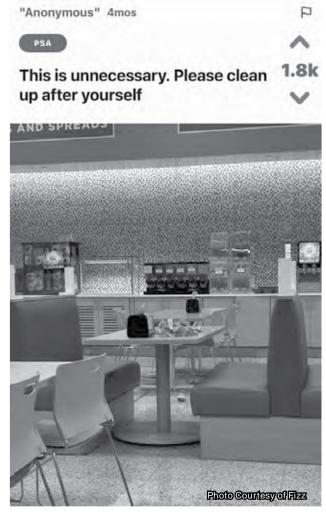
This behavior is also seen outside of our shared eating spaces. Cans line the pathways after many weekends, begging to be picked up. Most weekends I look out my townhouse window to see crushed red solo cups and cans on the lawns. It's not a pleasant sight to look at and makes me feel like I live in filth. It gives the impression that many of my fellow students don't care about keeping our campus clean and welcoming. Fairfield housing is a shared living space, and it tends not to be treated like such.

During "SantaCon" this December, town residents were furious at the mess left behind on the beach. The Mirror reported on the incident, showing residents' true feelings about the actions of students. Town residents view Fairfield University students as disrespectful and privileged, and Fairfield University should not have a reputation of entitled attendees with no manners.

There is an easy fix to this problem. Reminders and reputation are everything. If students are constantly reminded to clean up after themselves, they will start to catch on. Adding signs on Tully tables to encourage picking up after yourself would be a huge help. Encouragement is everything, simple reminders to clean up after oneself could make a difference. Fairfield University Student Association (FUSA) could even get involved, as they are a student association that caters to the school and student body. Gentle email reminders and signs around campus about creating a clean campus would be extremely beneficial.

The school could go even further by adding disciplinary action if students are seen leaving trash behind or littering on campus. People may think one piece of trash left on the ground isn't a big deal, but it is! It not only destroys the environment but it also tarnishes Fairfield University's reputation. Not to mention everyone attending Fairfield University is at an age where they know that leaving behind trash is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

problem continues to get worse students will feel that they can trash the school whenever they please and that is not right. The Dean of Students should step in and start taking action with the student body to decrease the constant staff at Fairfeld University. disrespect this campus receives.



Keeping our campus spaces clean is crucial! If this A picture from the popular app, Fizz that higlights the mess that students leave behind in the tully. Many posts on Fizz call out the student body and their bad habits for leaving behind waste. Students have started arguments in the comments regarding their disrecpectufl behavior towards the cleaning

Rate My Professor: Although A Beneficial Tool, Promotes Negative Dialogue

By NATALIE DRIPCHAK Assistant Opinion Editor

Registering for classes is known for being one of the worst times of the year. This stressful process becomes even more stressful when you realize that the only available section for your intended class is with the teacher with the worst reviews.

Almost every single college student I know uses Rate My Professor as a tool to pick professors. This website is one of the most helpful tools I have used in my college

But, if there is a consistent pattern of negative reviews, shouldn't that be a reason for change? At some point, a professor has to be honest with themselves and reevaluate their teaching skills to see where the disconnect between students is coming from.

On the other hand, Rate My Professor is one of the most important tools I think a college student should be able to navigate. Not only does it give you a rating of how good or bad the teacher is, it also informs



career thus far, but at what cost?

I admit I tend not to think about the professors' reactions when they read their reviews. But, it is something to keep in mind. Some of the reviews I have seen are ruthless and honestly a little over the top. Students will use harsh words to describe a professor's class, but they don't think about how the professor will react when they see these reviews.

It seems that a lot of students have forgotten what constructive criticism means. The reviews of professors don't have to be mean, instead they can simply state why they did not like the professor in a respectful manner without causing distress to the professor.

Reviews of Fairfield professors which state, "I don't understand how he's still employed," "Sorry grandpa this isn't 1898 anymore," and "if you want to actually learn, take someone with a functioning brain" are sure to upset some professors.

you of other vital information.

It lets you know if the class is for credit, if attendance is mandatory or not, if there is a textbook, what grade the student received in the class and if they would take it again. The platform also gives a number scale on the quality of the class and the difficulty, with the lowest score being one and the highest being five.

Personally, I think all of this information is necessary to have and is so convenient to have before class registration so that you know what you are getting yourself into. Along with the general information about the class, a lot of reviews will mention if the class is lecture based, if the grading is hard or how interactive the class is.

The platform is very useful and allows students to get a good idea of what the class they will be taking is about.

Some people may argue that the reviews of these teachers are subjective,

Rate My Professor is a widely known platform used to score and critique professors and thier classes. Some students have gotten out of hand with their responses and they disregard how the professors may feel.

which, yes, they can be!

However, if there are many reviews that say the same thing, I will likely assume that the professor may not be the best fit for me and that's okay! Everyone learns differently and different things work for different people.

If I were to recommend any website for incoming students this would be my top pick! This website is extremely versatile and allows for you to gauge a better understanding about your professor.

With that being said, these reviews should not be the only factor in deciding what professor to choose and you should wait to make your own assumptions about a professor.

As always, treat people with kindness because even though professors are there to teach you they are also people as well!

Downfalls of the Housing Lottery

By **TJ CRAIES** Contributing Writer

It's no secret that an enjoyable living situation can make or break someone's college experience. This sentiment can spark some nerves for Fairfield University students as the yearly housing lottery approaches.

Not only does this anxiety stem from the desire to choose quality roommates, but the process can be overwhelming due to all of the steps required, especially for firstyear students.

There are also multiple housing locations to choose from, adding even more layers to the decision-making process. To be fair, this is not solely a Fairfield issue. In all facets of life and at all universities, choosing where to live, and who to live with, for a prolonged period of time is not meant to be a simple experience.

One perk of Fairfield University is that "housing is guaranteed for four years to all full-time, matriculated undergraduate students", according to the Office of Residence Life. The University, with the assistance of Residence Life, also makes a concerted effort to ensure that sufficient updates about the housing process are given to students. This allows them to have enough time to prepare and utilize the available resources for making their decisions.

These resources include the Roommate Finder Form, the Housing Director with all of the necessary information, and the Roommate Selection Portal. The University's efforts are certainly evident and appreciated by many. However, as with most things, there is always room for improvement and questioning. One major issue that was present in past years was the implementation of forced triple rooms on campus due to a housing shortage. According to an article from The Fairfield Mirror in Sept. 2021, "nearly 16 percent of first years living on campus are in rooms converted from the standard doubles to triples." It is difficult to imagine this being enjoyable for both the students that were living in these as well as the administration fielding complaints.

The construction of Bowman Hall in 2023 and other on-campus projects have aimed to address this issue, but how can the administration make sure these issues don't recur with the undergraduate classes continuing to rise every year? This is certainly a question for the University to consider as it assesses its incoming classes.

In addition to this dilemma, while first-year housing is not exactly meant to provide the most luxurious living experience, the discussion about randomization when it comes to choosing housing locations and roommates is another important topic.

In a 2019 article from The Atlantic, Carlos Gonalez, Executive Director of Residential Services at Northwestern, believes "the primary objective of randomizing roommate selection for first-year students is to have them 'transcend their comfort zone—by engaging with people, disciplines, and ideas that diverge from what they are used to."

Not every school adopts this method of pairing roommates, but it could be worthwhile for the University to get a gauge of student satisfaction regarding its hands-on approach to pairings for first-year dorms, as well as its effectiveness in fostering friendships throughout college rather than allowing students to choose their own roommates. This could be done with modalities such as anonymous surveys and data research.

While Fairfield does a commendable job at providing the most guidance possible throughout this process, all of these points are going to need to be addressed adequately as the school continues to grow.

It is important to acknowledge the inconvenient reality that the housing process is never going to be a perfect formula, especially when trying to accommodate thousands of students and their living arrangements.

Live, Love, Langguth

By Noelle Gori

Contributing Writer

Langguth has a great reputation for being one of the best residence halls for sophomore housing. There are many different views on living in Langguth and what was required of you in the residential college. As someone who has lived in Langguth, I had a great experience! Many of my friends had to go through the rigorous process of applying either early or late. I emailed ResLife during the summer before my sophomore year and ended up getting lucky when they had an open spot for me.

My most favorite part of living in Langguth was the Tasty Hour on Wednesdays where each dorm would have to sign up to host and create a flier. You would also get a budget of how much you could spend on your desired food or snack. I would always look forward to each one on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and it was a great way to spend time with friends and get to meet new people!

There are two retreats, one during each semester where it was mandatory for everyone to attend. The first retreat was at the Dolan School of Business in the morning where we would all be separated into groups with our mentors to meet with them for fifteen minutes. We all listened to speakers, area coordinators, and residential assistants and played icebreaker games. Additionally, there was food, refreshments and some breaks. This lasted until the afternoon when we all went back to our dorms for the day.

The second retreat was an overnight stay at the Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT. On Friday evening, everyone brought their overnight bags and other things they needed onto three big buses. Once we got there we went to a big conference room where we were told to go find our rooms and there would be food provided for us. After everyone ate, we then went to the conference room to meet up with our mentor groups. We then reconvened and got to grab some snacks and do some karaoke. Sadly, I didn't end up participating because I am terrible at singing, but I still had a fun time watching everyone! I then ended up dancing to the "Cotton-Eyed Joe" and "Cupid Shuffle" with two of my friends. As the night progressed, I decided to grab more snacks and head up to my room. Luckily for me, I ended up getting my own room and bathroom which was awesome! The next morning I had breakfast with my friends and did more activities which included creating our own bags where people had the chance to choose who to write a little note to before heading back to campus in the afternoon on Sunday.

The required class that I took was pretty difficult but it ended up being not too bad and my friends were also in that class with me. The class also counted as a social justice intro for my Magis core. The mentor meetings were on Sundays at around one pm for about an hour which was annoying but I learned a lot. Sometimes the mentoring extra class was a lot to handle but in the end, it was all worth it.

Overall, the Res college is worth the extra stress and I absolutely recommend it to everyone who wants to get more involved and meet new people!

Editor-in-Chief Max Limric works as a Resident Assistant in Langguth Hall, and thus did not read, edit or have any part in the creation of this article before publication.



Langguth Hall was built in 2018 that has created a living and learning community. Students have to apply to get housed in Langguth

Wild Turkeys on Campus: Friend or Foe?

By **SOPHIA COSSITT-LEVY** Contributing Writer

Growing up, my backyard was the Woods. As a result, I became familiar with all sorts of animals. We had coyotes, wood-the chucks, foxes, fisher cats – you name it, it probably lived back there. While I didn't like all of the animals I works a huge with the families of watching them splashing the animal of the splashing the animal of the wetlands. Owls – they were always so cool to spot and were usually if all nestled up in a tree somewhere. And of the course, turkeys.

The first time I saw the turkeys, I took pictures and sent them to my family. We loved that they just wandered around campus, seemingly minding their own business.

turkeys' next victim (or the next Fizz sensation). So, I put a lot of effort into avoiding the turkeys. Fortunately, while I have been followed by a turkey (something my mom, who I was on the phone with, got a good laugh out of), I have not been chased. Hopefully, I can keep that streak up for my remaining three years.

They need to install a turkey door so they can come in and out whenever they want

The turkeys were big for me. I loved watching them trot around in the yard. They were just so fun to look at!

When I committed to Fairfield University, I watched as many TikToks as I could find about it. One warned me about the turkeys on campus.

I scoffed. How could turkeys on campus possibly be a bad thing? I was so excited. In my experience, the turkeys were fun and not at all obnoxious in the way fisher cats or woodpeckers could be. My next experience with the turkeys was on a walk to the Media Center. They were on the sidewalk by the library, and completely unbothered, I walked around them. However, the woman behind me started to freak out about the turkeys, saying to whoever she was on the phone with, "Oh my god! They're following me!" Sure enough, when I turned around, the turkeys were flocked around her, and she was doing her best to get away. That was my first clue that the turkeys might be more nefarious

than I had originally thought.

After that, the turkeys were all over Fizz. Students would share tips on where the turkeys were (typically outside the BCC by the Stag Bus or near the library) and post videos of people running away as a turkey chased them at full speed.

I was so surprised, but still chose to stay wary, as I didn't want to become the

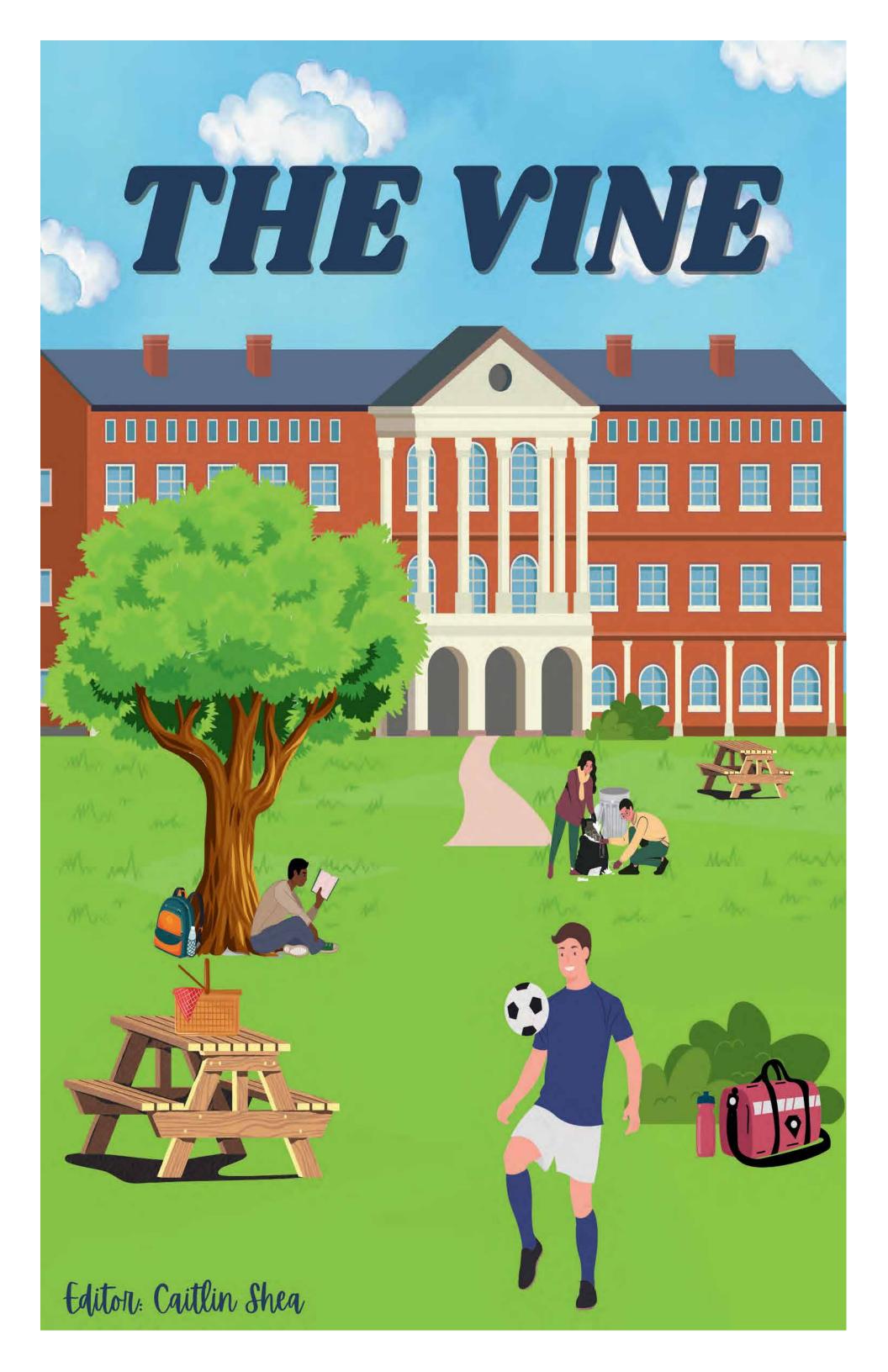
So, the turkeys seem to be iconic in theory. It's funny to catch them on the roof of someone's car, or admiring themselves in the window of the Stag Bus.

I also think that the turkeys are something that brings the students together – we all seem to enjoy complaining about them on Fizz, and most students probably have their own turkey stories to share. That all being said,

I'm inclined to agree with my dad, who thinks that the Fairfield turkeys would make phenomenal villains in a campy horror short film. Simply put, I think they cause a little too much chaos around campus to deserve all our love and admiration.



A post on Fizz captured a picture of a turkey gone wild in the Stag Diner. The turkey's are taking over the world. Watch out.





By ABBY WHITE Contributing Writer

Spring cannot come fast enough! With the beautiful weather on campus and Puxatawny Phil's promise of an early spring just a short while ago, last week's snowstorm came as a shock.

Though the world looks beautiful coated in white, motivation is hard to come by at this point in the semester.

The weather is still freezing cold, the days are still dark and short and at the tail end of the winter season it is not unlikely to feel like you are in a winter slump.

Here are 10 tips and tricks that will hopefully help to pull you out of your slump.

Exercise

This seems like the advice that everyone gives when you are low on energy and motivation.

In fact, I have heard it so much from so many different people, that I was starting to get sick of hearing it myself.

But I promise, it really works! Setting a consistent workout schedule helps me get in the right mindset and boost my energy.

You can even check out some of the group classes the RecPlex offers like Zumba, yoga, pilates, etc. to try something new and work out

with friends. Make Your Bed Every Morning

I know. Making your bed in the morning seems like a given.

But there are definitely days when I sleep late or just don't feel like it. However, I find that starting my morning off with one productive task sets the tone for productivity throughout the day. So even if it is as simple as making your bed, the consistency of a little task may just help you get out of your slump.

Clean Your Room

Keeping with the theme of tidying up your space, cleaning your room is a great place to start if you feel like you are in a funk. I find that when my living space is clean, my mind feels clear. Consistently cleaning your room is easier said than done, especially with the cold weather. I know that in the winter months, I tend to ignore the piles of laundry that build up on my floor, opting to lie in bed instead of cleaning. But as hard as it can be to motivate sometimes, cleaning your room is such a great way to reset and feel comfortable in your own space. You can even set a cleaning schedule for yourself, so you can hold yourself accountable. Go For An Outdoor Walk

When the temperatures

drop below freezing, it is definitely preferable to stay indoors. However, getting outside every day, even just for a few minutes, can be so beneficial. Try going for a short walk around campus, going sledding on the library lawn or even grabbing some friends and driving to the beach. Despite the cold, I can guarantee you will feel rejuvenated after some time outdoors.

Try Meditation

As we near the middle of the semester, the cold weather combined with a heavy workload for school can be overwhelming. Try finding a quiet space and taking a few minutes each day for yourself to meditate. Allowing yourself this time to reflect and breathe can definitely be a great way to decrease your stress and hopefully boost your mood.

Read A Good Book

When the weather is cold, it is so easy to cozy up on the couch and scroll on social media. Despite the loads of work I have piling up, I constantly find myself in bed scrolling on TikTok. But spending hours on social media often makes me feel unproductive. So next time you have a free moment, try picking up a book instead of reaching for your phone to limit your screen time.

Family and Friends

Though I absolutely love Fairfield's campus and love living in Fairfield, there are still moments, even as a senior, that I feel a little homesick. When I start to feel homesick, I start to feel myself slipping into a funk. If you experience the same feelings of homesickness, definitely make some time to call your family or your friends from home. You can even work it into your schedule, so you know you will have this uninterrupted time to talk and catch up with each other. I always find that I feel so much better after getting off the phone with my own family.

To Do Your Work

There are plenty of great spots on campus to study and do work we all need to switch it up some-

times. The routine of classes and homework can be draining, so adding some variety to the locations we do our work can help to break the cycle and add some excitement to our workdays. And finding a local coffee shop comes with the bonus of a good coffee or a sweet treat!

Write In A Journal

Keeping a great journal can be a great way to get all Make Time To Call Your your thoughts out, both posi-

tive and negative. You can make it a creative outlet for yourself or just use it as a place to write about your experiences. I know that when I am feeling down or feeling like I am in a funk, writing in my journal always makes me feel better.

Keep A Positive Mindset

This is easier said than done, especially as the winter months drag on. But despite the cold weather and the shorter days, try to find the good in everything around you and enjoy your time as a college student. It can be stressful, but it goes by fast. Try to enjoy every moment!

These tips and tricks may not Find A Cute Coffee Shop pull you out of your winter slump completely, but they are definitely worth a shot to get you through these last few weeks of winter. Spring is right around the corner!



BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE REVIEW ONE LOVE ONE LIGHT ONE LEGEN BY CAITLIN SHEA world that surrounds

Head Vine Editor

This Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th, marked the world premiere of the highly anticipated "Bob Marley: One Love" biopic. Following the life of the Jamaican singer-songwriter, the viewers watch as the emerging star Marley was beautifully. Stepping away from deals with the outbreak of hate and violence the media's musical megastar persona, Benaround him as he pushes back against ex- Adir was able to portray the heavy vibrations treme adversity to transform the art of reggae. Cultivating mixed reviews at the end of its first week in the box office, critics compliment the movie on its depiction of Marley's legendary influence, but denounce its poor script and lacking storyline.

"get together and feel alright", my roommate and I spent this past Friday watching the biopic and enjoying every moment. Starring Kingsley Ben-Adir as the man himself, the British actor embodied the person that Bob

she pours her heart and soul into the role of Rita Marley, Lynch is able to shed light on Rita's importance, rather than allow her narrative to be overlooked and diminished to that of merely the wife or the mother, emphasizing the notion that "wisdom is better community. than silver and gold."

willing to use his talent for good. Wanting to and beyond in her dynamic performance. As Marley, they are able to observe how he used his music as a tool to promote goodness. While the reggae singer found himself experiencing his own afflictions in life, Marley is able to turn to his music, rather than the violence seen by so many of those in his

> While critics may have harsh Staying true to the musical legend's things to say about the storyline, upon my

Growing up, for me, Bob Marley's music was always on rotation at the beach.

Its calming and peaceful tone was the perfect backdrop for a day in the sand. As I grew older and began to understand his lyrics more deeply, I realized that these songs were so much more than their good-feeling beats. Containing messages about love, life, peace and the presence of God, Marley's music urged to transform the polarized world around him, sentiments that still hold extreme importance today.

Marley was so much more than a man with a guitar; he was a son, a husband, a father and, most importantly, a man who was



Kingsley Ben-Adir showcases his extreme talent in the new "Bob Marley: One Love" movie

and humanity of the reggae icon, depicting words, the soundtrack in this film asserts him in a way that was "pure and true." Award winning actress Lashana Lynch goes above

that "when [the music] hits you, you feel no pain." As the audience watches the unruly own viewing, I thought the biopic did an astonishing job emphasizing the message of the film. That message happens to be the same message that Marley asserted throughout his life and the message that continues on as his legacy: that being granted a life is a blessing, and that one should live that life in a way that promotes ultimate positivity, peace, love and goodness; that each and every one of us needs to, "Wake up and live, y'all/Wake up and live;" that when you see trouble in the world, we need not be afraid, as "All you got to do: [is] give a little."

Whether or not you are a Bob Marley fan, this biopic is a must see. "Bob Marley: One Love" is a perfect piece to celebrate not only Black History Month but the lasting important impact of a musical and political trailblazer. Still holding true today, Marley's message asserts, "We got to fight the system, because God never made no difference between black, white, blue, pink or green. People is people, y'know. That's the message we try to spread."

FAIRFIELD GIVE BACK: GETTING INVOLVED ON AND OFF CAMPUS

By MAX LIMRIC Editor-in-Chief

Oh, do I remember when I first arrived at Fairfield ... with fewer wrinkles than today and definitely more hair as well. Just kidding (I hope).

I knew I wanted to get involved on and off campus, I just didn't know what organizations to engage with.

Now, after some time, I've found that whether you want to work with young children or volunteer your time with senior citizens, there's almost endless options to choose from.

So, I won't list them all, but Fairfield Campus Ministry has a slew of options, from service with children, animals, vulnerable populations and service around food insecurity.

field Public Library, which bolsters a long list of community service opportunities.

Now, let me introduce you to a few community engagement opportunities I have taken advantage of throughout my time at Fairfield.

CIRI (Connecticut Institute for **Refugees and Immigrants):**

CIRI is my favorite opportunity to get engaged and be a part of a young student's life.

Fairfield students can tutor children

who are new to the English language through offers opportunities for this program, getting paired with a student young adults with intelenrolled in a Bridgeport school.

Walking into a classroom to see a shy smile erupt on your student's face is an unbeatable feeling and I'm certain you'll look forward to tutoring every week.

Even if teaching is not in your future, everyone can benefit from getting into a school and learning from the talented teachers and bright students who fill the classrooms.

Apply on Life@Fairifled with the CIRI Mentoring Program - MENTOR APPLICA-TION.

Caroline House:

Caroline House is a unique organization that teaches English as an additional language to immigrant women.

Volunteers can assist the staff by read-Another valuable resource is the Fair- ing, playing and doing arts and crafts with the children and working with computers while caregivers learn English amongst other topics.

> Moreover, courses at Fairfield partner tering for courses, look for with this organization, offering students the ability to receive credits while learning with Caroline House (more on that below).

Best Buddies Club:

Additionally, many clubs at Fairfield are central to students' involvement with community engagement on campus.

lectual and developmental disabilities to engage with their peers.

The pure joy and excitement these events radiate are unparalleled. Get engaged with the events their club hosts on and off campus, such as Halloween parties and karaoke nights.

If these options seem daunting and you're unsure if you can take the first step by yourself - or if you're still not even sure where to start - don't fret, as there are courses designed to get students engaged and learning from local communities.

Next time you're regis-

a class with the CEL attribute – a class that centers on a Community Engaged Learning experience.

Throughout these courses, you will work with a community partner, ranging from a local school to a public library depending on the course you pick!

And finally, one tip I can give about For example, the Best Buddies club community engagement is that it is a recip-



rocal act.

Service, often defined as "the action of helping or doing work for someone" is not usually a word I use to refer to any experiences I have with community partners.

I prefer to use the term community engagement, as you learn from the community and are allowed to branch out and become a well-rounded person!



By TRENT OUELLETTE **Contributing Writer**

Last Wednesday, Feb. 14, was Ash Wednesday, which marked the first day of the Lenten season.

If you attended mass that day then you also received ashes on your forehead and heard one of two phrases: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is the latter of these two phrases that I believe invokes greater, and more immediate, self-reflection upon hearing it.

rigid routine, but only a moment of lapsed judgment to mortally wound the soul.

Any day the soul could be separated from the body, so it is the constant job of the Catholic to heed the reminders of their mortality and strive for repentance.

One tradition, which I give credence to but anyone is free to reject, surrounds the something up in our lives so that we may both improve our condition here on earth and the health of our eternal souls.

We fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as an exercise in both body and spirit to live more in line with God's will.

This year I have decided to give up plaining for lent.

help my spiritual growth and lay the foundation for me to permanently give up the practice.

"Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life, after all? For you are like a mist that appears for a brief time and then vanishes. Instead, what you ought to say is, 'If it is the Lord's will, we shall live to do this or that." - James 5:14-15

You are made up of an immortal soul sustained by God and a mortal body sustained largely by the physical world.

The soul will last forever, but the body will not. We should always keep in mind the idea of Memento Mori: "Remember your death."

This life, while exceptionally important, is fleeting and should be used to seek God in preparation for the next.

The phrase, "Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever, and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow" is attributed to St. Augustine.

This phrase calls us to reflect on the uncertainty of life and our obligations as creatures entrusted with a body and soul. It takes years to alter the body through

life of Lazarus. I

t is claimed that in the thirty years following his resurrection at the hands of Jesus, Lazarus never smiled again due to what he saw during his four days in Hades.

The only exception was an occasion in which Lazarus witnessed a man steal a clay jar and remarked to himself, "The clay steals the clay."

It is quite possible that this story is apocryphal, but even if it is, so what?

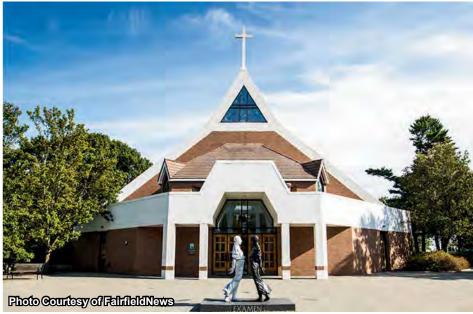
It is still a sobering reminder of not only the reality of death but also the very real possibility of dying outside of God's grace.

There is nothing I can do to prevent my body from returning to dust, however, there are ways I can cooperate with grace to prevent my soul from being eternally cut off from His presence.

All of this is to say that Lent is the solution to any fear or uncertainty that these traditions or phrases may cause us.

It is a time when we are called to give

While it may seem like an unorthodox choice of something to give up, it should



Egan Chapel provides students with a safe and inclusive place of worship and love.



By **JACQUI RIGAZIO** Contributing Writer

Before arriving in Florence, I crafted a bucket list of things that I absolutely had to do during my time studying abroad. While this list is quite lengthy, one of my most valued items was going to a football game. And I'm not talking about touchdowns and the Super Bowl and Travis Kelce. I mean the original game of football—what we Americans call "soccer." I've never been a huge sports fan, but growing up playing soccer gave me a love and appreciation for the sport. Even though I left my cleats and shin guards in the past, the entertainment that I get from watching soccer has remained.

One of my best friends from home – a soccer player himself and the most enthusiastic fan I have ever met – emphasized how important it was for me to attend a real Italian soccer game during my time abroad. Hearing him explain how energetic and hyped-up these games get only made me more determined to witness it for myself.

Luckily, some of my friends here in Florence share this same bucket-list item. Junior Sam Ponessa, who plays goalkeeper for Fairfield Men's Club Soccer, says that he has "been a huge soccer fan for so long and couldn't wait to watch a game in Italy." In celebration of Sam's birthday on Feb. 11, we got tickets to see Fiorentina play. Joined by another friend, Vinny DiNapoli '25, we hailed a taxi and were on our way to Artemio Franchi

Stadium!

Due to the limited wardrobe I packed to study abroad, I did not have any festive Fiorentina purple to wear to the game. Unlike me, Sam and Vinny came prepared, donning their purple Fiorentina jerseys and scarves and looking like true fans. Right when we got to the game, the boys fit in with the crowd perfectly.

Immediately upon entering, we were greeted by a sea of purple as spectators waved huge team flags and were dressed in their best Fiorentina gear. Even just from walking through the crowd, I could feel the energy and passion that the Italian fans emanated.

We grabbed some hot dogs, found our seats and the crowd went wild as the players came out.

Even right from the start, there was not a quiet second throughout the entire game. Fans were singing and chanting in Italian while screaming and waving their flags in the air. Although I had no idea what any of the chants meant, the energy was palpable and infectious. My friends and I were hollering alongside the Italian fans and cheering on Fiorentina.

I will never forget the moment that Fiorentina scored the first goal of the game. Seated on the goal side, my friends and I had a perfect view of the ball hitting the back of the net and the crowd immediately exploded. In a blur of purple, fans rushed from their seats and ran towards the field, climbing and banging their hands against the tall plexiglass barricades (which I quickly learned are there for a



Study abroad student Jacqui Rigazio has a blast at her first Italian football game!

good reason). The players rushed behind the

goal to their fans at the barricade, jumping and screaming in celebration.

My friends and I were in awe. I had heard about how passionate these games were but had no idea what I was in for until this moment. It was without a doubt one of the coolest moments I have experienced while being abroad thus far. The support and energy from all of the fans in the crowd showed how deeply soccer is a part of Italian culture. As the most popular sport in the country, soccer represents tradition, unity and pride for the Italian people. This sport is more than just a game for them, it is a lifestyle, and the spirit within the stadium was undeniable of this.

Throughout the game, my friends and I cheered, chatted, laughed and sang (to the best of our ability) along with the rest of the fans. We watched Fiorentina score five goals, ending the game in a Fiorentina win with a score of 5-1.

On the walk home, my friends and I could not shut up about how much fun we had. In addition to the "great hot dogs," Di-Napoli commented that "the fans were so passionate; it was an absolutely great experience and I would definitely go again." We were all in agreement, and already have plans to attend another game on Feb. 26th!

I am already counting down the days until the next game, but until then you can catch me buying some Fiorentina gear and memorizing all of the chants!



By **FIONA WAGNER** Assistant Vine Editor

When I first saw that Disney+ was adapting Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Olympians," I was very intrigued. However, I do have a confession to make before we move forward: while I love a good YA fantasy, I have never read any of the "Percy Jackson " books nor watched the movie adaptation. I had known that "Percy Jackson and the Olympians' was a well-loved series by many and I had always been meaning to pick up a copy. I did come into the series blind, having no idea what I was about to endure. After watching the first two episodes, I, of course, ran to my local Barnes and Noble to buy all five books. By the time the third episode was released on Disnev+. I had finished the first main as close as possible to Riordan's book material, bringing the iconic characters and legendary moments to life in a way that is both nostalgic and refreshing. Before starting the show, I knew about the 2010 movie adaptation and how disappointing it was for the fans. I have now seen that movie and can safely say that the TV series does a much better job of adapting directly from the book. I would have to argue that the strongest piece throughout this series lies with the actors. Casting for Percy, Annabeth and Grover was no small feat, especially with all of the expectations from lifelong fans. Walker Scobell, Leah Sava Jeffries, and Aryan Simhadri - Percy, Annabeth, and Grover — each embody their character with a level of authenticity that resonates with fans. The show simply wouldn't work without the perfect Percy Jackson and I couldn't see anyone better to play him than Walker Scobell.

intertwining new ideas while still staying consistent with the book. Something the show does really well that is missing from the first book is its ability to foreshadow the future of the "Percy Jackson" universe.

The only complaint I would give is the



Photo Courtesy of The Hollywood Reporter

Walker Scobell in the new "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series on Disney+

book.

In case you are unfamiliar with this YA fantasy, the series follows Percy Jackson, a typical 12-year-old boy who has just learned he is a demi-god (half god, half human). He is forced to move to a camp filled with other demigods where he must complete

> the most dangerous quest of his life. Along with two friends, Annabeth and Grover, Percy is tasked to journey throughout the United States to retrieve a stolen lightning bolt and give it back to Zeus. As he embarks on the quest of a lifetime, Percy must navigate a world of danger and deception, facing off against powerful enemies and uncovering secrets about his past.

This first season is solely based on Riordan's first book, "The Lightning Thief." "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" opens with a two-part premiere that I felt was very strong.

From the very first episode, it's evident that the creators have taken great care to re-

The chemistry among the cast members enhances the overall viewing experience, creating a dynamic ensemble that effortlessly carries the narrative forward.

While mostly staying true to the original narrative, the show also introduces some creative nuances and additional scenes that amplify the storytelling. I thought the show writers and creators did a wonderful job of pacing of the series. It is extremely difficult to match the pacing of a book to a TV series because they are such different mediums. Sometimes, I felt like the show was rushing and breezing over certain events. There were certain moments that I remembered from the books that either got cut out of the series or became frivolous.

Overall, this new Percy Jackson series is a triumph in the world of book-to-screen adaptation. It not only pays homage to the original series, but it adds a new flair to keep the book readers intrigued.

Perhaps the highest praise I can give to this series is it made me want to read the books. If a TV series can persuade me to read the books just from watching the first episode, that is very telling.

Whether you are a die-hard fan or a newcomer to the demi-god universe, this is such a compelling and entertaining watch. With season two getting the green light, there is so much more to come in the "Percyverse."

To Fail or Succeed: Midterm Advice

By **SAMANTHA RUSSELL** Executive Editor

With spring break right around the corner, we all know what is soon to follow: midterms. These dreaded few weeks can lead to significant stress and panic among many students, who must balance necessities such as jobs, social and personal lives around endless studying and frightful grade postings. To make midterm season just a little less hectic, I have provided six tips to make acing your exams a walk in the park.

Organize Your Notes

I know, I know, taking notes is the worst. But, they actually do come in handy, I promise. Personally, I learn better with paper notes, but whether you choose paper or computer notes is up to you! Either way, making sure your notes are in order before your exam is very important to ensure efficient and productive studying. I mean, imagine trying to study when it takes you five minutes to locate the answer to each question. By underlining or highlighting key terms, starring important points and using headings and subheads, organized notes are by far the best notes.

Eliminate Distractions

Although this tip may be a given, it can also be somewhat subjective; a distraction for me may not be a distraction for you. Still, it's important to be aware of those distractions and know how to combat them. As tempting as it is to complete your homework surrounded by a group of your friends- knocking out social and academic life in one- this strategy may not be the best choice when comprehensive studying is required. Or, if outside noise is not your thing, book a library room or hit up an empty classroom for a long study night. With a clear and distraction-free mind, expect astounding results on any test or quiz.

Po. Not. Cram.

I'm sure we have all heard this piece of advice from one teacher or another. They're not wrong, though, and it has certainly become an effective tactic for my studying habits. My boyfriend has definitely made fun of me for studying for tests a week in advance. However, by not cramming information at the last minute, you allow your brain to actually absorb the information. You allow it the opportunity to revisit more difficult content that you wouldn't have time to fully understand in a singular night. A solid three days before is a perfect time to start studying for a test. That way, you can break up lengthy material, take needed breaks and make sure that every topic is as best understood as it can be.

Utilize Memory Tricks

One of my favorite studying tips is making up silly acronyms or rhymes to help me remember specific information. For example, if I need to remember that Michelangelo created Madonna of Bruges and Donatello created The Deposition, I would make a mental note that "Madonna" and "Michelangelo" both start with the letter "M," and "Deposition" and "Donatello" both start with the letter "D." Or, sometimes I connect an event to something that I've experienced in my own life or watched in a movie or television show. Perhaps a certain historical figure reminds you of your favorite rom-com character, or a pivotal event has ties to another event from your past. Use those connections! Students can also heighten memory by using relevant rhythms or songs to stimulate various feelings and ideas. And, we all know through "PEMDAS" that using acronyms can help us remember the order of different terms and processes. Get creative with it, and memorizing facts will become that much easier.

Quizlet is Your Friend

We've all heard of Quizlet, and I'm sure many of us can prove its credibility through homework scores. For studying, however, I always turn to Quizlet, especially if I need to learn a long list of terms. The website's flashcard application has been my savior for the past three years. Although a little time-consuming to make- maybe an hour?- it really does pay off. I'm able to learn a vast amount of terms extremely quickly, and I particularly enjoy that Quizlet puts greater emphasis on the terms you are repeatedly getting wrong. Aside from terms, I've also used it to study different processes and historical figures, and it works just the same! Trust me, you'll never study the same way again.

Create a Pleasant Studying Environment

We all know studying is the worst, blah blah blah, we've already covered this. Do you know what makes it even worse? Crowding yourself on your bed at 11 p.m., tired and chugging an energy drink with five open notebooks surrounding yourself. In order to achieve productive studying, you need to arrange a positive studying environment. This task means utilizing all of the tips above but also including aspects that make yourself happy. Brew a hot cup of tea to keep your mind churning and position yourself at a table instead of un-



der your sheets. Illuminate the room with an appropriate light source that won't put you to sleep and, of course, enjoy your favorite study snacks. Even taking small breaks to respond to your friends or read a chapter of your favorite book will help your working mind to successfully recharge during those long hours. While studying in the comfort of your own bed is tempting, it is not the ideal solution.

It is my intention that at least one of these tips can help my readers establish a positive midterm experience this semester. Remember, stay hydrated and well-rested, too. The best students take care of themselves both physically and mentally, and those students do not exclude you! Happy studying!

THE BEST WAY TO MAKE BANK AS A BROKE COLLEGE STUDENT

By **ABBY WINEY** Contributing Writer

I'm broke, you're broke, we are all broke.

That's the life of a college student. But, thanks to Facebook's Fairfield County babysitting group my bank account has climbed just a little bit higher! and am happy to provide you with some references. I am CPR and First Aid certified, with a car and a clean driving record! Let me lend a helping hand so you can enjoy a worry-free evening out or after school care. I am open to a 10-mile radius around Fairfield, CT! I am looking for a fun loving family to build and grow friendships!" day through Thursday, from from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Though I don't babysit for them anymore, I still talk to his mom today!

I am always updating her on my life and she sends me pictures with updates on their lives as well. "It was a great way to get connected with local families in the Fairfield Community," Leonard said.

"The Facebook group allowed parents to post exactly what they needed which makes it much more convenient to be on the same page when connecting. I messaged my family attaching a few things they had asked for, and from then it was a really smooth process. I love the family I was able to connect with and will 100% stay in touch with them post-grad." I know college schedules can get busy and possibly having a job sounds like a large task, but spending money provides some comfort for a night out!

As an upperclassman, I'm lucky enough to have my car here on campus, so having an offcampus job is pretty easy.

I've always loved kids; at home, I babysit 24/7 and throughout my four years of high school, I worked at a daycare.

I wanted to somehow find a way to use my hands-on experience with kids to also make some grocery, gas and spending money.

The Fairfield County babysitting Facebook group made this nothing but easy for me!

First things first, you can't join a Facebook group without a Facebook account so, before anything, make sure you have one set up.

Then, search and find a Facebook group, yet an administrator must accept your request to join.

Once you're in, it's time to craft a post that makes you look kind, approachable, and responsible. Something like this ...

"Hi, Families! My name is Abby Winey. I am a senior at Fairfield University with a major in Communications and a minor in Digital Journalism. I have an immense background in childcare



I have posted something like this and have found wonderful families to babysit for.

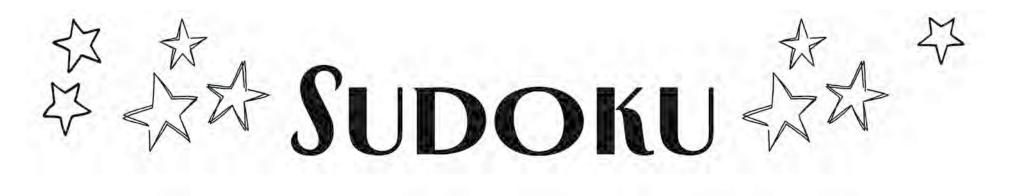
Last year, I came back from my first semester abroad and found a family with a five month old baby.

I babysat for them the entire semester, Mon-

I'm not the only one who has found great work and friendship within the Facebook group. Senior Lily Leonard absolutely loves the family she babysits for, who she also found through the Fairfield County group. Babysitting is such a good option to make some money and also have fun while doing it. Consider joining!

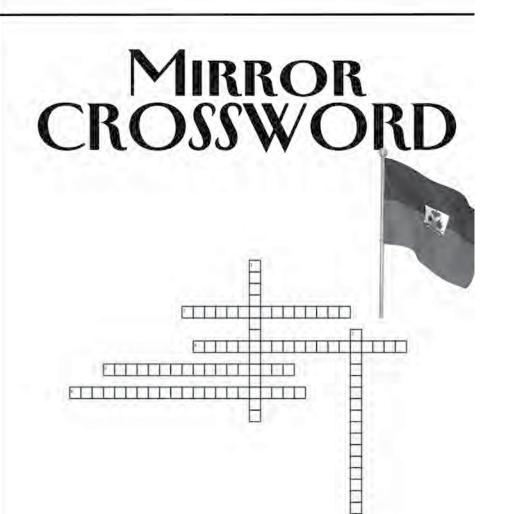


COFFEE BREAK (%) GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE Editor: Matthew Robles



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Port-au-Prince	Citadelle	Carnival	Ayiti
Creole	Jacmel	Haiti	
Mango	Gede		

Down:

- Former President of Haiti and musician known as "Sweet Micky"
- Also known as "Papa Doc," former President of Haiti

Across:

- Haitian-American author known for her novels and short stories
- 4. Leader of the Haitian Revolution
- American rapper, musician, and member of the Fugees
- Leader of the Haitian Revolution and the first ruler of an independent Haiti

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Sports

Head Sports Editor: Ryan Marquardt >> ryan.marquardt@student.fairfield.edu





Alexis Gaulin (left), Devon O'Nalty (middle) and Andrew Cataldo (right) were among many Stags to bring home hardware from the MAAC Championships in Cleveland, Ohio.

Stags Make a Splash in MAAC Championships

By NATALIE DRIPCHAK Assistant Opinion Editor

This past week the Fairfield men's and women's swimming and diving team traveled to Ohio to compete in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championships! The Stags had a very eventful and successful weekend with many first-place finishes and other top-ten finishes.

The women's team placed second overall and the men's team placed fourth overall!

Apart from the incredible swim and dive performances from the week, the team atmosphere was super supportive and encouraging this week! Junior captain, Bella Tejeda, felt that "we were genuinely excited to see each other succeed and that is not something I saw in many other teams at the meet." With the incredible atmosphere this past week the Stags were able to score in many events. Some first-place finishes this weekend are; the women's 200 medley relay (Junior Ereni Pappas, Freshman Tone Sandsjö, Senior Maggie O'Donnell, Graduate Student Segurola-Larrinaga), Senior Alexis Gaulin 1m dive, Segurola Larrinaga 50 free, Freshman Andrew Cataldo 3m dive, women's 400 medley relay (Pappas, Sandsjö, O'Donnell, Segurola-Larrinaga), Sandsjö 100 breast, Segurola-Larrinaga 100 back, Gaulin 3m dive. Congratulations to all!

There were also a lot of record-breaking this past weekend in many different events. To name a few; women's 200 medley relay (MAAC and Fairfield record), women's 1m dive (Fairfield record), women's 100 breast (MAAC and Fairfield record), men's 800 free relay (Fairfield record), men's 50 free (Fairfield record), women's 200 free relay (Fairfield record).

Sandsjö, who took first place in the 100 breast, said "I have never thought about our team as two different teams and I think that that is kind of rare. I hang out and cheer for the men in the same way I do for the women, and that's how I think it should be." Many athletes I think will agree with this, because having a team environment is one of the most important things to have in order for your team to be successful. And it seems like Fairfield Swimming and Diving does an incredible job with that! Tejeda explains that "the season as a whole was a roller coaster, with a lot of swimmers and divers being in and out of the water due to injuries and sickness." However, we were able to pull it together for MAACs and ended with a great outcome." Even though the swim and dive team experienced some setbacks they allowed themselves to bounce back and stay positive to have a tremendously successful season!

To highlight even more accomplishments from this past week, Cataldo received the award for "Most Outstanding Diver" and "Diving Rookie of the Meet", Freshman Lily Tonole received "Diving Rookie of the Meet", Segurola-Larrinaga received "Most Outstanding Swimmer", Gaulin received "Most Outstanding Diver", Coach Devon O'Nalty received "Diving Coach of the Year, and Coach Jacy Dyer received "Swimming Coach of the Year". Another huge congrats for everyone's accomplishments this past week!

Sports

The MAAC championships concludes the swim and dive season! I know a lot of swimmers will agree with Sandsjö, who says "After this season, I feel like it's time to enjoy my time off and do things I really like! I'm excited about not waking up before 6 every morning."

Another huge congratulations to all of the swimmers, divers, and coaches this past weekend for a great season! For more information regarding the Fairfield men's and women's swim and dive team, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com.

In this week's issue...

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- Stags Set Three Point Record During Weekend Split (Page 15)
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Baseball Comes Up Empty in Season Opening Road Trip

By CRYSTAL ARBELO Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University baseball team, voted preseason favorites for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), had an uncharacteristic series loss against the UNC Greensboro Spartans. The weekend games were marked by a slow-to-start pitching staff with lots of men reaching base and coming in on ground-outs. Despite the ultimate loss, the Stags did put on an offensive show when hot, with fiery late innings like Friday's game that hopefully only show that the best is yet to come.

Starting things off with Friday's game, the afternoon atmosphere was perfect for some baseball, yet the Stags seemed to get off to a cold start defensively. The first five innings, led by starting pitcher Colin McVeigh '24, saw the Stags take the lead after losing one in the bottom of the 1st. Thanks to a walked-in RBI from outfielder TJ Schmalzle '26, a single from infielder Luke Nomura '26 to bring in 2 more and a single from infielder Dean Ferrara '25 to bring in another, the Stags were up 4-1 at the top of the 5th, right before McVeigh seemingly ran out of gas and gave up 3 more to make it an even 4-4 before being taken out, earning a final line of 4.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER, 1 BB and 3 K.

RHP Jake Memoli '26 came in to support but unfortunately gave up a run against his first batter before the Stags retired the side and stopped the bleeding. Nomura then came up with a double in the top of the 6th, bringing the Stags back

up to make it 6-5, which was then followed by a UNC error that outfielder and graduate student Ryan Strollo took advantage of, scoring another. The inning was capped with a triple from Ferrara down the right field line, earning him 2 RBI and making it 9-5 Stags.

The Stags were silent after the 6th inning offensively, and Memoli gave up another 3 to give the Spartans a fighting chance at the ballgame, leaving the score 9-7 and earning a final line of 2.1 IP, 3 H, 2 ER, 0 BB and 2 K. RHP Peter Phillips '26 went in for Memoli, to which the Stags retired the side with a flashy 5-4-3 double play and a final flyout.

The bottom of the 9th could've very well been played into the Stag's first win, but RHP Peter Ostensen '24, who came in for Phillips at the beginning of the side gave up a run on a wild pitch after filling the bases; the Stags gave up another on a ground-out RBI, forcing extra innings and ultimately leaving two men stranded in the top of the 10th and giving up another in the bottom of the 10th to make the final score 9-10.

Hoping to even out the series on Saturday, the Stags put up one run in the first inning but were answered with three in the bottom of the 1st. The second inning only got worse, as the Stags struggled to retire the side and gave up five runs. By the end of the second, the Spartans had the eight runs they needed to win despite a rally comprised of a homer and RBI triple from infielder Matt Bergevin '24, an RBI single and run from a wild pitch from outfielder Matt Bucciero '26,



Senior Outfielder Paul Catalano tosses the ball. Despite their best efforts, the Stags fell short in all three games of their season opening series to the University of North Carolina Greensboro an RBI double from Ferrara and an RBI ground-out from graduate student and catcher Ethan Hibbard between the 3rd and the 8th, to make the final score 7-8. Starting pitcher Bowen Baker '24 saw a final line of 1.2 IP, 7 H, 4 ER, 0 BB and 2 K, and earned the loss.

Sunday's game saw a leadoff triple from outfielder Matt Lussier '27 that was followed by a passed ball that brought him home, giving the Stags hope for a better outcome against the Spartans. The next score change was seen in the top of the 3rd, thanks to an RBI double from Hibbard. In the bottom of the 4th, the Spartans finally answered with a 2 RBI homer to even out the score, but the Stags fought back

with a 2 RBI triple from Bucciero, an RBI single from Schmalzle and a 2 RBI homer from Nomura to put the Stags back on top with seven. Starting pitcher Ben Alekson '27 left the game in the 5th with an impressive line of 4 IP, 3 H, 2 ER,1 BB, and 7 K for his first career start. Unfortunately, the Stags then lost the lead and then some, giving the Spartans 10 more unanswered runs by the time the final out was called.

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In gearing up for the first series of the season, three players were chosen for the Preseason All-MAAC squad: Matt Bergevin, Colin McVeigh and Matt Bucciero. Coming off a 37-win season, the Stags are met with high expectations and have the potential to

extend their three-straight regular season title streak and reach the MAAC Championship Series. Fueling these expectations is the fact that the Stags had one of the most productive offenses in the country, with 9.4 runs per game, a .540 slugging percentage, a .424 onbase percentage and an impressive combined batting average of .321; the Stags also hit the most home runs by any team in the MAAC in its history (97) and scoring the second most runs overall in a single

Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The Stags will be back in University in another three-game series starting this Friday at 3 pm.

season.

action against James Madison

The Weekly 5x4 Five People. Four Questions. Because we have witty things to say.





Max Limric Editor-in-Chief

Deer are pacifists, those



Samantha Russell **Executive Editor**

Oh my God, probably



Kathleen Morriss Managing Editor

I'm a lover, not a



Claire DeMarco Copy Editor

The deer. I could get



Crystal Arbelo Assistant Sports Editor

Would you rather fight 100 turkey- sized deer or 10 deer-sized turkeys?	Deer are pacifists, those turkeys are out for blood.	Oh my God, probably 100 turkey-sized deer ??	I'm a lover, not a fighter. (I'm intimidat- ed by both hypothetical species.)	The deer. I could get them on my side easier than the turkeys.	100 turkey-sized deer just seems so cute, I'll catch them like Poke- mon.
How are you prepar- ing for midterms?	Unfortunately, I do not think I will be.	Nothing yet, all of mine are after Spring Break (I hope).	I'm hoping my color- coordinated Google Calendar will bring me peace within the chaos.	Midterms???	Pretending they don't exist, tbh.
In honor of President's Day, who's your favorite president?	Probably Aliyah Seen- auth.	Hmmm, can't say I have one.	Calvin Coolidge. He owned a raccoon named Rebecca need I say more?	When we get a woman, she'll be my favorite.	As a politics major, I should have a go-to, but this week I'm feel- ing Jimmy Carter.
Excited for baseball season?	Sure I guess. Go hit some baseballs!	Yes!! I doubt I'll go to any games but I love the sport. Go Stags!	The closer I am to devouring a Fenway Frank at a Red Sox game, the better.	Of course! Go Pirates!	I'm defrosting for Opening Day like Mariah Carey does for Christmas. (So excited)

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Late Game Heroics Help Stags Win On the Road

By **BILLY MCGUIRE** Contributing Writer

Make that twenty in a row. The wins keep on coming for the Fairfield University women's basketball team, as the Stags defeated Mount St. Mary's University 61-59 on a last-second, game-winning layup from guard Emina Selimovic '26. Selimovic capped off a crusade in which the Stags scored eight points in the final 30 seconds of play. Her efforts were helped out by guard Kaety L'Amoreaux '27, who shot two three pointers on an impressive 6-for-8 three-point range in the final 20 minutes of action.

"What a gutsy win," Head Coach

Carly Thibault-DuDonis said, according to the game's official press release. "We talked going into the game that we would have to show some grit. Mount is playing great and we knew they were playing great defensively. We knew it was going to take the entire 40 minutes and we took all 40 to get that win. I'm just proud of us for not hanging our heads and continuing to fight with some grit."

The Stags rebounded after a slow start, with the herd trailing 42-30 with four minutes to go in the third quarter. The Stags began the comeback effort by going on a 10-2 run, connecting on the final three field goals of the quarter. L'Amoreaux led the surge, sinking down two long range shots in the process, including one that beat the final buzzer of the quarter.

The fourth quarter saw the Stags and the Mountaineers in a feisty battle. L'Amoreaux stepped up big for Fairfield, proving to be a difference-maker in the contest by knocking down back-to-back three pointers within the first three minutes of play, putting the Stags within one point at 48-47. They gained their first lead of the game shortly thereafter thanks to a layup from guard Janelle Brown '24 to make it 50-49.

The lead did not last, as the feisty battle continued as the teams traded leads over the final half of the fourth quarter. The Stags stepped up when it mattered most, and they did so by sinking 10 vital points in the final 1:14. Brown and L'Amoreaux were the catalysts for this endeavor, with Brown driving up for a layup before racing back to the other end of the court to shut down a Mount Saint Mary's possession.

This set the stage for L'Amoreaux to add on to her impressive day, as she hit the game-tying trifecta with 30 seconds left before doing the same 16 seconds later to put the Stags up two.

Mount Saint Mary's, down 59-57, answered right back off of a Jessica Tomasetti layup to tie the game with three seconds left. Shortly thereafter, the Stags had their prayers answered when Izabella Nicoletti-Leite threw a successful pass to Selimovic, who was able to find the back of the net to give the Stags the win off of a wild ending.

Coach Carly was quite impressed with her team, and singled out L'Amoreaux, who was coming back from injury and shot 7-for-13 with 20 points on Saturday.

"She's tough," Coach Carly said. "She stays ready. I never doubt her for a second that she's going to be ready to go when her number is called. Obviously she was battling back from an injury but I'm really proud of how she showed up for us today."

The Stags now have a commanding 22-1 overall record and a 14-0 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference record as a result of the win. The Stags will next travel to Siena College and take on the Saints on Thursday, Feb. 20. For more information on the Fairfield women's basketball team, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com.

Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

Women's basketball managed to extend their win streak with some great late game plays that led to them sneaking out a win on the road.

Stags Set Three Point Record During Weekend Split

By **Fiona Wagner** Assistant vine Editor

This past weekend, the Fairfield University men's basketball team hosted two games at Leo D. Mahoney Arena playing Niagara on Friday and Mount St. Mary's on Sunday. Following a three-game winning streak, the stags lost to Niagara but were able to pull through with a win against Mount St. Mary's.

Even though they lost, Friday's game against Niagara was still rather entertaining. Mahoney Arena was packed full of eager and enthusiastic fans. The Stags were down 30-36 at the end of the first half but were able to tie up the game in the middle of the second. The game went back and forth for a while making it very tight towards the end. Ultimately, Fairfield was not able to pull through and Niagara took the



win with a 65-63 victory.

Jalen Leach '24 and Graduate Student Alexis Yetna both netted 14 points apiece while Graduate Student Caleb Fields had an impressive second half scoring all 13 of his points in the closing 20 minutes. He made a stunning threepointer within the last seconds of the game that got the whole arena on their feet. After missing the last couple of games due to an injury, Peyton Smith '27 was finally back on the court, knocking down one foul shot.

"Last Saturday at Saint Peter's, we were fortunate enough to make a few more plays than them, and tonight Niagara made a few more plays than us. That's what happens when two good teams get together, especially for the second time," says Interim Head Coach Chris Casey. "The teams that can keep grinding and keep finding ways to win consistently will be the teams that are in a position to be successful in March. There's no secret to how it's done, we'll just keep grinding and keep fighting and turn our attention to a good Mount St. Mary's team on Sunday." Sunday's game against Mount St. Mary's Junior guard Jasper Floyd and the Stags connected on a program record 18 three pointers in Saturday's game against Mount St. Mary's .

was more rewarding, as the Stags pulled through with an impressive win of 94-80. Brycen Goodine '24 scored 20 points and Jasper Floyd '25 scored 16 points with a game-high of 9 rebounds. However, it was Fields who had the most impressive game. He was on fire, reaching 26 points total. Yetna continued his amazing comeback, with 8 points and 7 rebounds. The game was tight early on, but the Stags were able to get a nice lead against the Mount. Fairfield scored the final five points of the half, including an exciting Leach basket at the buzzer to make it 43-31 at the end of the break.

On top of all this success, there was a program record broken on Sunday, with the Stags making 18 three-pointers, Caleb Fields accounting for 7 of them. The previous record was 17 three-pointers held in 2015 at Maryland Eastern Shore and again six games later at Bucknell.

When asked about Sunday's game, Head Coach Chris Casey commented, "Intensity and tenacity can go up and down over the course of a long season. But today, we came out with intensity right from the opening tip, and that helped get us into a flow where we got open looks and took advantage of them."

Fairfield is now 16-10 overall and 10-5 in the MAAC. They will face a tough battle against Quinnipiac on Friday, February 23 at 9 p.m. and then head back to Mahoney Arena next Sunday, February 25 hosting Siena, tip-off at 2 p.m.

@FAIRFIELD MIRROR **SPORTS 16** fairfieldmirror.com Week of February 21, 2024 **Stags Softball Struggles Out of the Gate**

By DANNY MCELROY Assistant Sports Editor

Fairfield softball kicked off their season in Greenville, N.C. last weekend as part of the Pirate Clash. Despite several hard fought efforts against teams with game experience already under their belts, the Stags ultimately came up winless in their five contests across the three-day event.

The first game of the trip came against Marshall on Friday morning. Led from the mound by Allie Bridgman '24, the Stags surrendered just two hits and a single run through the first four innings of play. Outfielder Quinn McGonigle '26 launched a solo home run in the top of the fifth to knot the score at 1-1, before the Thundering Herd responded with a run of their own that same inning to take a 2-1 lead.

After the Stags came up empty in the top of the sixth, Marshall finally got a pulse on Bridgman's pitching, using a quartet of sixth inning hits to drive in five runs and take a 7-1 advantage that would remain unchanged through the final inning of play.

The Stags then regrouped that afternoon to challenge the host East Carolina Pirates, who entered the contest undefeated through their first seven games. It was yet another largely stingy defensive effort for Fairfield, spearheaded by pitcher Alyssa Weinberg '26 who posted eight strikeouts as part of a four-hit shutout through regulation.

The Stags broke the 0-0 stalemate in the first inning of extra play, as graduate student Megan Forbes hit a ground ball to shortstop that drove in a runner from third base. However, the Pirates finally had an answer of their own in the bottom of the inning, scoring the first run off a sacrifice fly before connecting on a game-winning RBI double for a 2-1 victory.

"I like the way we came out with controlled energy today," head coach Julie Brzezinski said after the opening day games. "We received two really strong pitching performances today. [Bridgman] kept Marshall off balance for five innings and really competed. [Weinberg] was awesome against a big hitting team in East Carolina by striking out eight batters and setting the tone for our defense."

Saturday afternoon kicked off another doubleheader for the Stags, beginning with the rematch against East Carolina. After another strong start with Bridgman returning to the mound, the Pirates broke the game open in the bottom of the third inning, taking a 3-0 lead off the back of an RBI single and a



Sophomore infielder Anna Paravati led all Stags with four hits across their five opening weekend contests

two-run homer.

The host team then followed that up with a five run performance in the bottom of the fourth, bolstered by a three-run home run by infielder Morgan Johnson. After the Stags were unable to answer in the top of the fifth, the game was called due to the eight run deficit.

Despite not being able to drive in a run, the Stags were led from the plate by infielder Anna Paravati '26, who registered a hit in both plate appearances.

Later that day, the Stags took on their third different team of the Pirate Clash in Longwood University. For Fairfield, it was a similar story to their previous match, as the Lancers used a three-run second inning to open up a lead that wouldn't be relinquished for the remainder of the contest.

As the Stags continued to struggle to drive runs in, picking up just three hits for the game, the Lancers widened their lead with a two-run third inning, before a three-run shot in the fifth brought the score to 8-0, once again enacting the mercy rule.

In their final game of the weekend, the Stags returned to the diamond Sunday morning for one more crack at a victory, this time in a rematch of their day one loss to Marshall. The Thundering Herd got out to a fast start, driving in four runs in the top of the first to set the tone.

However, the Stags responded quickly, as Bridgman hit one over the fence in the same inning to put two runs on the board and keep the team within striking distance.

The score remained the same until a fourth inning explosion for Marshall, who used five base hits from five different players to drive in seven runs. After a scoreless response from the Stags, the game was called in five innings with a final score of 11-2.

Though they weren't able to pick up a win, the Stags will have plenty to build off of and improve upon as they gear up for the season ahead.

The team now will have a week off before heading south for the University of Delaware Invitational on March 1-3.



Fairfield softball returns to action March 1-3 for the University of Delaware Invitational, where they will take on Bucknell twice, Maine once, and the host Blue Hens two times