THE MIRROR

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Fairfield Expands Southwest with Opening of Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies in Austin, Texas



The Austin campus will mirror the program offered in Fairfield and will feature classrooms and several simulation labs, including a simulated intensive care unit and a surgical suite.

By Tommy Coppola Editor-in-Chief

On June 22, 2022, Fairfield University announced that it would be expanding into new territory with its new Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies facility in Austin, Texas, according to an official press release.

On Jan. 27, 2023, however, the program, which will be admitting its primary cohort of students this upcoming May, leaped to new heights as the Texas Board of Nursing approved the program being offered. The new Austin Campus seeks to fulfill the need for the "critical shortage of nursing professionals around the country," according to the press release.

According to Dean of the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies Meredith W. Kazer, Ph.D., APRN-BC, FAAN, the idea to expand the school came all the way back in 2019, in which she

claims that "Geographic expansion was among the priorities grounded in Fairfield's Jesuit values." In order to begin the expansion pro-

cess, Kazer worked alongside Huron Consulting, LLC in order to conduct research that "prioritized those areas of the country in need of nursing care." Ultimately, the decision to choose Austin, Texas as the landing point for the new campus was made due to the alumni network in the area and the clinical partnership possibilities.

According to the Egan School of Nursing program overview, many clinical opportunities are made available for nursing students in order to give them real-world experience in the nursing field. These partnerships include "hospitals, outpatient department, rehabilitation and community health centers, public health departments, long-term care facilities, health care clinics and the Fairfield University Health

Promotion Center" according to the website.

In short, Austin was the right place for Fairfield University to "make a strong impact," according to Kazer.

With the Nursing program being approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON), it also marks a growing national presence for Fairfield. As the Egan School of Nursing intends to turn its students into leaders in the healthcare field, Kazer notes that they are bilaterally working to "educate men and women for others."

The Nursing program offered in Fair-field, states Kazer, will be replicated in Austin.

Lucina Kimpel, Ph.D., MSN, RN and Pro-

gram Director for the new Austin campus, weighed in on the program itself, as well as its recent approval.

"It feels exciting to have TBON

"It feels exciting to have TBON approval!" Kimpel shared. "The process was much like writing and defending a dissertation."

Kimpel also shared the nature of the program and doubled down on the fact that the opportunities in Austin will be the same as the ones in Fairfield. "The Austin program is the same program as the second-degree nursing program [SDNU] offered at the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies in Fairfield," she stated.

With the Nursing program being "second degree," students with degrees in different academic disciplines will have the opportunity to pursue a Fairfield University nursing education. The program, according to Kimpel, will be accelerated, meaning that the Egan School of Nursing will look to "speed the launch

I would add that the Austin Campus will extend Fairfield's geographic reach and support Fairfield's rise as a Nationally Ranked institution."

Jennifer Anderson,
 VP of Marketing and
 Communications

of new nurses into the critical Austin market."

Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Anderson echoed the ideas that Kazer shared.

"I would add that the Austin Campus will extend Fairfield's geographic reach and support Fairfield's rise as a Nationally Ranked institution," Anderson stated. "The first cohort of students will begin in May, with a second cohort in January of 2024."

In the aforementioned press release, Kazer stated that she is "confident that the residents of Texas will benefit greatly from the care of Fairfield-educated nurses."

Now, with the approval of the Texas Board of Nursing, the program is officially set to begin in May, as Anderson stated.

Dean Johnson Surprises Students With Email Regarding Clam Jam Guest Passes

By Brooke Lathe Executive Editor

"The University has decided no guest tickets will be sold for Clam Jam this spring," Dean of Students, William Johnson, Ph.D. sent out in a school-wide email Monday, Feb. 13.

The mass message served as a long-awaited follow-up to a previous email sent on Tuesday, Dec. 20 of last year that discussed "Santa Con," a student-organized holiday-themed gathering that took place ten days prior.

In Johnson's letter, he brought attention to "poor behavior" that circulated throughout the Fairfield student body crowd during the afternoon of the event.

Johnson noted three reasonable expectations that were broken: avoiding any disorderly conduct, carrying open alcoholic containers and trespassing on private, residential property.

Specifically, he wrote

"Individuals were observed urinating in public and misusing alcohol to the point of being incapacitated. Additionally, there were reports of physical assault, littering and trespassing."

The more troubling result of Santa Con was that the high numbers of intoxication "resulted in a significant and unnecessary strain on town resources—namely the Police Department and Emergency Medical Response System," which reportedly put the health and safety of both Fairfield students and town residents at risk.

At the end of his original message, Johnson noted that "The University will take action to address the collective behavior of the student body [but] at this time, we have not determined exactly what measure(s) will be taken."

Almost two months after the original email was sent, Johnson declared the University's decision: "Individuals who are not current Fairfield University students will be unable to gain admittance."

While the event has always been strictly designated to be a junior, senior or graduate student event, these guest tickets have not

only been used for non-Fairfield affiliates but have also been used to invite underclassmen in previous years. Those who are not a part of the 2023 or 2024 class year at Fairfield, however, will not be able to attend the event this year as the additional passes are prohibited.

In the days that have followed Johnson's email, upperclassmen have been voicing their frustration with the new and unexpected rule.

Junior Meghan Morrissey noted that "While I understand the Dean's concern about the safety of the students, especially at another big event like Clam Jam, I think Clam Jam is a very different event because it is monitored by the University, unlike Santa Con."

Morrissey continued that she believes "students should still be allowed guest passes as the behavior at Santacon can not all be blamed on Fairfield students. There were several students from neighboring schools, as well as non-college students."

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STAGSHospitality

Do you have questions about allergens or dietary needs? Our Campus Dietitian is here to help!



Joanna Schipke is a Registered Dietitian who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics from the University of Connecticut. She went on to complete her 1200-hour dietetic internship at Keene State College.

Joanna started her nutrition career in K-12 working for several different school districts across the state and most recently was employed as the Food Service Director for Watertown Public Schools.

Joanna is available as a resource to students to provide one on one nutrition counseling, assistance with food allergies and other dietary needs, and help students find healthy options on campus. She looks forward to helping students form a positive relationship with food and teaching them healthy habits they can take with them for the rest of their lives.

To schedule a consultation with Joanna, email ischipke@fairfield.edu.



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

2/17

One driver was reported attempting to squeeze between two cars, which caused paint damage on both vehicles.

2/18

10:11 a.m.

There was a gasoline spill next to a car in the parking lot of the Conference Center. The Department of Public Safety dried the spill and

2/19

10:08 p.m.

An individual called to report that they accidentally hit another car, which resulted in minor damage.

2/20

9:25 p.m.

An individual reported a verbal argument with his roommate after a disagreement over the recurring stay of a guest. The students were referred to Residential Life and the Dean of Students.



THE MIRROR

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Tommy Coppola, Editor-in-Chief Brooke Lathe, Executive Editor Max Limric, Managing Editor Julian Nazario, Copy Editor

Editors

Julian Nazario, Head News
Samantha Russell, Assistant News
Kathleen Morris, Assistant News
Liz Morin, Opinion
Abigail White, Head Vine
Jacqui Rigazio, Assistant Vine
Ryan Marquardt, Head Sports
William McGuire, Assistant Sports
Elizabeth McLaughlin, Coffee Break

Staff Photographer Kyler Erezuma

Business Department

Email: info@fairfieldmirror.com William McGuire, Chief Financial Officer

> **Advisor** Tommy Xie

Contact Information

Fairfield University
1073 North Benson Road, BCC 104
Box AA, Fairfield, CT 06824
General email: info@fairfieldmirror.com

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Rev. Matthew Carnes, S.J. Highlights Role of Jesuit Universities In Building "Hope-Filled Future"

By Julian Nazario Copy Editor, News Editor

On Feb. 15, Fairfield University hosted the Rev. Matthew Carnes, S.J. for the annual Bellarmine Lecture, which centered on the global challenges faced by the current generation of students, and how Jesuit universities can serve as a beacon of hope to society.

Carnes, who served as the director of the Georgetown University Center for Latin American Studies from 2016 to 2022, is currently taking a sabbatical and flew directly from Oxford, England with the sole purpose of talking to students and faculty of Fairfield University. During his visit, he was housed on campus at the Jesuit Community Residence.

In his hour-long presentation, titled "Forging Hope, Reforging Democracy: A Contribution of Jesuit Universities to the Future," Fr. Carnes emphasized the "transformative moment" in which Generation Z lives. In making this statement, he shared multiple graphs from Freedom House that illustrated how this generation of college students has only experienced a world in which everything, from the number of democracies to air pollution and global temperatures, is only worsening.

"Now notice the timeline, 2005 is the inflection point ... so this is actually your whole lifetime. We have seen a decline in the quality of democracy. That makes your generation a bit different from older generations, like my generation," Fr. Carnes said. "It means that your experience of the world in which democracies and civil liberties have been in decline has been part of your reality for the entire time you have been alive."

The associate professor in the Department of Government and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University dove deeper into this topic. He explained to the students present in the room and those on Zoom how, since 2005, the number of people living in free democracies has declined and now, 80% of the world lives in partly free or not free countries. And he emphasized that this trend is also visible in what were once "democratic strongholds" around the world.

According to Fr. Carnes, those challenges to democracy occur through systemic efforts to undermine the government, which have been seen playing out in countries like Turkey, Hungary and Brazil. This is executed by questioning the electoral process, influencing the judicial branch of the state, and using migrants as scapegoats or enemies of the state.

In response to these threats to democracy and the overall unhappiness of people, Father Carnes argues that Catholics, more specifically Jesuits, should come out with their innovative ideas and contribute to building a better society.

"This world that we live in is incredibly complex in terms of the



Rev. Carnes served as the director of the Georgetown University Center for Latin American Studies from 2016 to 2022.

environment, in terms of the government, in terms of economic opportunities, in terms of happiness. What does this Jesuit educational tradition say on how to respond?" mentioned Fr. Carnes before introducing the strategy that the Jesuits have established to respond to these challenges.

Basing his responses on a presentation that the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., gave to a group of Jesuit colleges and universities in Boston College, Fr. Carnes highlighted the need for governments to use Catholic ideas like the common good and reconciliation to respond to the current challenges.

"First of all, as universities, in a moment where there could be so much

decline in the quality of democracy. That makes your generation a bit different from older generations, like my generation."

-Rev. Matthew Carnes, S.J.

cynicism and so many questions on the very idea of objective facts, objective truths, we have a responsibility to educate people in the laws, data, data gathering ... and ultimately allow us to look for something we might call truth" he added.

Fr. Carnes also talked about how the idea of "reconciliation" is a unique tool that Jesuits and Jesuit universities have and that other entities should use in their efforts to relate with other community members.

"Our stance is an openness to reconciliation," he said. "This makes us different from the sort of adversarial way that, again, in democracies or business, we can relate to one another."

He also described how being part

of a group that was looking into Georgetown University's historical involvement in African American slavery allowed him to understand the power of reconciliation in practice and how it serves as a mechanism to pursue amendments and rebuild relationships with the community.

Before closing the lecture, he listed three Jesuit contributions aligned with the topic of "forging hope, reforging democracy."

First, he established that Jesuits believe in the idea of "discernment with presupposition," which involves relating and listening to the other person with good faith and togetherness, not creating doubt and confusion by questioning. And in case an issue cannot be resolved by having a good interpretation, we should ask more questions until it is resolved.

"This presupposition changes our relationship in democracy because it means that we come together with more trust in one another, trust that even though we come from different backgrounds, we can together listen to each other and we can hopefully strive for some kind of common good," Fr. Carnes said while connecting the idea of "presupposition" to democracies.

Secondly, he talked about how Jesuits have been moving beyond multiculturality to give space for interculturality, which emphasizes developing a critical awareness of one's own culture, its gifts and limitations to then go out to meet other cultures and have an exchange between each other.

Lastly, he called attention to the fact that the Jesuits bring attention to the generational gap that exists in the world, and to solve this, he mentioned that universities are the best place to have multigenerational exchanges of ideas as they are a place that intentionally brings generations together in one single place.

He closed the 2023 Bellarmine Lecture by stating that the Jesuit spirituality is one that believes in a "hope-filled future" that serves as a counter-position to cynicism and fear, as well as in the value of "holy boldness," which Fr. Carnes described as the audacity to believe in a better world.

Removal of Clam Jam Guest Passes Causes Disappointment in Upperclassmen Students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More notably, some Fair-field University students like Dermot Warner '24 were not in attendance for the events that transpired at Santa Con and are still facing the consequences.

"I was studying abroad in Ireland last semester so I wasn't here for Santa Con," Warner shared. "It would have been nice to have the option to invite a friend to Clam Jam."

Senior Madison Clancy also expresses her "extreme disappointment."

"I do not think that it is fair to punish the junior and senior class for actions that were not caused by them and have it reflect our next memorable school event," Clancy stated. "Many of my friends, myself included, are upset that we can't bring our significant others to join in on this fun event."

Senior Hailey Johnston echoed this. "Getting the news that Fairfield decided to not allow guests to Clam Jam this year was incredibly disappointing. I think that it is unfair to pin the irresponsible actions of many on such a small group of students who were largely not the cause at all."

Johnston noted further, "As a senior, I have been looking forward to this year's Clam Jam since 2019 and since then have planned on bringing my significant other who has supported all of the other Fairfield events throughout the years," and continued, "I am incredibly disappointed by Fairfield's decision to punish seniors in our final few weeks at this school and hope they

I think that it is unfair to pin the irresponsible actions of many on such a small group of students who were largely not the cause at all."

- Hailey Johnston '23

can take the time to reflect on different ways this situation could have been handled."

Students Encouraged to Leap Towards **Success at Spring Career Fair**

By Samantha Rusell Assistant News Editor

Fairfield University's Career Center hosted opportunities for connections and success at their Spring Career & Internship Fair on Feb. 15.

Over 105 companies and organizations represented themselves to 625 university students, open to any major and class year; conveniently, the event took place in the Leslie C. Quick Jr. RecPlex field house.

Deidre Bennett, the Associate Director of the Career Center and Employer Engagement and leader of the fair, dubbed the event's main goal as creating an easy outlet for students to connect with employers.

"Career fairs are an effective way to get over 100 employers together in one space so students can connect with many of them in a convenient, effective way," she said. "No matter what the class year or major, there are employers looking to connect with all students."

Many of these company representatives are Fairfield University alumni themselves, furthering that aspect of connection between employee and employer, and past and present Stags.

Sophomore management and marketing major Ainsley Corriveau recognized the impact and valuation of establishing and engaging with alumni while building those crucial connections.

'[It was] such a great opportunity to have, and being able to connect with alumni really shows the full circle of the Fairfield community," she said.

Tables housed with company representatives lined the field house's interior. Flyers, brochures and informational sheets advertised employers and supplied students with sufficient information regarding each company. Additional and attractive items, such as candy, balloons, interactive games and branded bags, were present on most tables to draw in prospective students and increase guest engagement. points of interest within their conversation. Bennett relayed that the most "rewarding" aspects of running a career fair are "when a student tells us they received a job or internship offer, or when alumni return with their employers to recruit current students."

These career fairs are certainly no ploy; members of the Career Center have watched their students achieve positions directly by attending the event.

"A company reached out to us this week to say they extended an offer to a current senior who will start working for them this summer," Bennett reported. "They met her while at the fall career fair and were so happy they participated."

Additionally, Bennett conveyed another story of internship successes.

"We also got feedback from several employers at this week's Career Fair that they filled their Summer Internships with students they met. Other employers planned to interview many of the students they met."

Despite Fairfield University's prominent business school, career events do not solely benefit business students. Stephanie Gallo, Director of Career Planning for the College of Arts and Sciences, reported a career success from a math major after participating in the Fall Career Fair.

"In the Fall, one of my former students, Carly Manzi, made a connection with Pratt & Whitney, which eventually led to a full-time offer," Gallo stated. "Further proof this is not just for business students."

A wide array of companies attended the event, with the point of attracting a wide array of student interests. From Girl Scouts of Connecticut to Aptar Beauty & Home and Sherwin-Williams, students were given an abundance of choices not just to browse, but to interact with.

At the check-in station, students were handed a document with a list of all attending companies, as well as the companies' table num-

bers. These companies were also posted on Stags4Hire "No matter what the class year or previous to the event, with

Stags4Hire is a career-oriented platform Center and Employee Engagement used by Fairfield University students. It allows students to connect with job seekers,

and job seekers to students, "at all career stages." Users can create a job profile, upload resumes and supporting documents and receive alerts about job openings and postings. And, Fairfield's vast array of academic choices provides opportunities regarding any career interest or experience needs.

This outlet is heavily endorsed by Fairfield's Career Center for students actively seeking job positions.

Aside from the companies themselves, the fair encouraged students to take advantage of several professional resources. A LinkedIn photo booth gave students the chance to update their profile pictures, a printing station was available to print extra copies of resumes and coat racks stood on the sidelines to hang up jackets and backpacks-ensur-







During this semester's Career Fair, over 105 companies and organizations visited Fairfield University to recruit talented students from all fields of study.

event!" said sophomore finance major Colby Zelano.

Moreover, Career Counselors, Career Peer Advisors and an "Ask an Advisor" table were available at the fair to answer any questions students may have held.

The University Career Center works diligently, and far in advance, to produce these well-liked career fairs-which occur multiple times throughout the year. Bennett summarized their process, which includes regular staff meetings "to select the date and venue and create the registration process and marketing plan."

'The staff also works closely with many other departments on campus to coordinate all the logistics," she said, "such as food, equipment, electricity, parking, marketing materials, setup and cleanup, etc."

The Career Center takes pride in its students and truly wants them to succeed. In the days leading up to the Career Fair, they hold workshops for students to improve their resumes, networking skills and Stags4Hire and LinkedIn profiles.

'The University Career Center serves as a one-stop shop where students can drop in to meet with Career Peer Advisors, borrow professional attire from the Career Closet and get a LinkedIn headshot," said Bennett.

The Career Closet is a resource for students to browse and borrow business casual attire in the instance they do not have their own, particularly for professional events such as a Career Fair.

Furthermore, the companies who participate in Fairfield University's Career Fairs hold a genuine desire to recruit the talent of Fairfield University students. According to Bennett, because the university has hosted career fairs for several years, employers look forward to attending each time.

Not only does the Career Center maintain contact with employers to invite them Additionally, Handshake creates an easy route to bring in dozens of employers.

"With Handshake, we are able to expand our distribution list to hundreds of employers throughout the region," commented Bennett. Apart from company and faculty

enjoyment, students are eager to participate in an event that pushes them even closer to success.

"It was very engaging and showed me the many paths that I can endure through my career," said Zelano. As an administrator con-

stantly encouraging and creating the success of her students, Gallo noted her sense of admiration towards the event as well.

"I was really impressed with the engagement of our student body. I also can say that students made some wonderful connections," she said.

This semester's fair introduced some new faces. First-time attendee and sophomore psychology major Caroline Smith disclosed that although she was nervous, the event turned out to be an exciting and impressive experience.

"I was overwhelmed at first by all the tables, but I realized everyone was super approachable and were excited to talk about their companies and careers," she said. "I learned a lot about my potential career in behavioral sciences and overall I think it was a great experience."

The Career Center is continuously hosting events to build the professional futures of students. Each Fairfield University school-College of Arts and Sciences, Dolan School of Business, Egan School of Nursing & Health Studies and School of Engineering-has its own center to focus on the closer details of individual and professional goals.

To learn more about future events thank you notes to employers they spoke with, foling a smooth and productive experience for all. to future fairs, companies independently reach to get in contact with a career counselor, reach "Shout out to Fairfield for the well-planned out to them, hoping for student recruitment. out to 203-254-4081 or careers@fairfield.edu.

"elevator pitch," and ask representatives relevant

Students were also encouraged to send

to connect with all students." -Deidre Bennett, Associate Director of Career powered by Handshake and

major, there are employers looking the intended purpose of preliminary student research.

Upon arrival at the fair, students approached a check-in station, in which staff printed name tags through students' Stag Cards. These name tags included the students' names, majors and graduation dates.

This business-casual occasion required students to take their own professional initiative. It centered itself around student-led networking in which they approach desired tables, state their questions as well as for their contact information.

An elevator pitch is a brief introduction used in professional settings. It communicates a person's key qualifications and experience and expands on future career goals the speaker hopes to achieve.

Black Student Union to Host Celebratory Gala on Feb. 25

By Grace Lannigan

On Feb. 25, The Dolan School of Business Event Hall will present "Celebrating Resilience and Strength," a gala hosted and organized by Fairfield University's Black Student Union.

Contributing Writer

While this event serves as the second annual gala of the Black Student Union, it also seeks to honor the sixth anniversary of the Union's existence on campus. The doors are open to the entirety of the student body as members of the Union will speak about accomplishments the group has achieved to date while also sharing their plans for upcoming months.

In the words of Mekaylia Ingram '25, the newly appointed President of the Union, "the purpose of the event is to foster solidarity and community both for students of color and allies interested in exploring what the union has to offer."

The gala is set to feature a range of speeches and activities. These events include student performances, a raffle, comments from members of the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and speeches from Fairfield University alumni passionate about the causes the Union promotes.

The gala will conclude with an afterparty filled with dancing and music accompanied by a guest DJ. Tickets remain available to the student body, and all of the proceeds will be donated to "#100 Girls Leading," a non-profit organization based in neighboring Bridgeport, Conn. with the mission of empowering and mentoring underserved girls ages 9-18.

General solidarity and fellowship will be the leading themes present at the gala. It is an event in which everyone should feel included, and students should participate not out of obligation but out of the desire to experience the uniqueness and often unhighlighted culture embedded within Fairfield.

"The union is about togetherness," says Ingram. It is for both Black and non-Black students wishing to learn and engage more with the community.

Last year, the gala was hosted in April near the conclusion of the academic year; however, as newly-elected President, Ingram was proactive about moving the gala to February to coincide with Black History Month in order that it may act as both an informative event and a celebration of Blackness and culture.

The Union, at its core, is a safe haven, and it is a place where the diversity of Blackness can be expressed and appreciated in its varied forms. Therefore, an essential aspect of the gala centers around engaging in proactive and constructive dialogue about topics surrounding blackness and solidarity.

As an aspiring nurse, these topics are of special interest to Ingram. As she expresses, the upcoming classes of students have been met with the unique challenge of restructuring traditional approaches to important topics in a post-covid world where the events of recent years have impacted the current student body and necessitated them to adjust to unprecedented circumstances.

Not long ago, an event of this magnitude would not have been possible. This knowledge carries a special excitement as members of the Union prepare for their work and message to be experienced by the broader Fairfield community.

In the spirit of cultivating togetherness and encouraging the student body to engage with the work the Union is promoting, Ingram gave a glimpse into an upcoming event.

> CONTINUED ON WWW.FAIRFIELDMIRROR.COM

Opinion

Editor: Liz Morin Email: elizabeth.morin1@student.fairfield.edu

In DeSantis' Florida, Educational Freedom Is A Myth

By Julian Nazario Copy Editor, Head News Editor

We live in an era of tremendous and record-breaking political polarization that is present everywhere we go.

It has even made us afraid of sharing our own political opinions because of the fear that we might be 'canceled' or lose personal connections because of what the consequences of saying the incorrect thing might represent.

That's why one of the rules for Thanksgiving dinner is to avoid politics and religion!

However, in Ron DeSantis' "Floridian Utopia", the choice for thousands of students, professors and citizens has already been taken for them. And if DeSantis becomes the Republican nominee for President of the United States, our Founder's aspiration of forming "a more perfect Union" will be forever delayed.

I know that's a strong statement to make, but if we are being completely honest with each other, we just need to look at what the two-term governor has done recently to know that with a bigger platform, his threats to gained liberties will also increase.

So let me provide you with a small sample of what the "DeSantis Playbook," as the governor calls it, looks like in Florida and how that represents a threat to freedom everywhere.

First, we need to discuss DeSantis' signature policy, the "Parental Rights in Education Act" or the "Don't Say Gay Bill" as critics who oppose it call it.

Under this legal framework, the presidential hopeful successfully accomplished banning the instruction of "sexual education and gender ideology" from kindergarten to third



Governer Ron Desantis has been a popular figure in the news for the controversial laws he has signed regarding education rights in Florida.

grade. As a result, those who intentionally teach these topics in classrooms will be exposed to "revocation or suspension of the individual educator's certificate" as stated in a state Department of Education policy.

Along with that bill, DeSantis also signed the "Curriculum Transparency Bill," a law that prohibited the instruction of Critical Race Theory (CRT), abolished the Common Core in the state and gave parents the authority to review and object to any instructional material their children might use.

The result of this law? 41% of reviewed math textbooks were deemed as "woke math" and banned by the state government for classroom use. It also caused the removal of a children's book depicting the biography of Puerto Rican baseball player Roberto Clemente, an ac-

tion that the governor later described as "fake news" (what a surprise, right!) and a political move by local education unions to make the governor look bad.

More recently, the state rejected College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) African American studies class claiming that it "significantly lacks educational value" and violates state law, without specifically mentioning the law by name.

This action, as you might know, caused the College Board to remove topics like critical race theory, the queer experience and Black feminism while adding "Black conservatism" to the curriculum.

And the latest development includes DeSantis hinting at getting rid of the College Board in Florida, meaning that students in the

state wouldn't be able to take AP courses nor the college admissions tests offered by the company and required by many universities.

Do you see the pattern? It's either you agree with DeSantis' vision of "freedom," "liberty" and "anti-wokeness," or the government will make sure that you have no other choice than to accept them eventually. He did it with Disney, he is doing it now with the College Board and he will keep doing it if he gets to the White House

Let me give you one more example that might resonate with you.

Earlier this year, Ron DeSantis appointed six new conservative members to the New College of Florida Board of Trustees, unofficially staging a hostile takeover of Florida's progressive liberal arts college.

One of the smallest schools in the state's university system, New College says on its website that they are "a just, diverse, equitable and inclusive community," which goes against the state policy of teaching anything related to diversity, inclusion and equity.

Now, imagine if you choose to be in a particular university because of the values, the educational philosophy they practice and because they offer a diversity of classes and professors with different backgrounds. That is what I call the freedom to choose your education but in Florida, there is no such thing anymore.

What's the next thing? Is the government also going to select a major and concentration for you?

Ron DeSantis recently said during his inaugural address that "Florida is where woke goes to die." I guess he meant that Florida is where liberalism and liberties go to die.

We Need To Leave Taking Class Attendance In High School

By Liz Morin Opinion Editor

When I was in high school, I would quite often text my mom or dad asking if I could leave math early when I had it last block.

It was my senior year, and I did have a car but because I was still 17, I needed a parent to call me out of school. Almost every time, my dad would text me back and say, "When you're in college, you can skip as many math classes as you like."

He made it a point my senior year to remind me that in a year, I would have a freedom that I had never had in school before and that I should prepare for it.

He wasn't encouraging me to skip classes in college at all, but he was just reminding me that I would have complete freedom over whether or not I would want to skip class.

When I first opened my syllabus in September and saw that I could only miss three History classes without failing the class, I was confused. We weren't allowed to debate this rule, it was three classes and an F. This wasn't what I was told at all. In three classes, I could be sick, I could have a family emergency, I might just even need to take a mental health day and I could fail an entire class

Something about this felt wrong to me. I think it's different from saying you get three unexcused absences (though I still think that's ridiculous), but you are being

asked to drag yourself across campus and up three flights of stairs to avoid getting an F.

I know the next argument already. If you're so sick, why don't you just go to the Health Center and get a note?

I have a few issues with that statement. For starters, the Health Center is not always accessible.

Especially at the beginning of the year, there was a mass amount of freshmen getting sick from getting accustomed to a new environment, and then there was a flood of people with allergies and other winter colds.

I made two attempts over my first semester to go to the Health Center, one time was more severe than others because I literally could not breathe without having a five-minute coughing episode.

I could not get an appointment for three days after I called, which I got. They're busy, but what about my classes with required attendance?

Did I have to pick sitting through class while I was incapable of breathing just for the sake of not hitting three absences?

I felt particularly bad for several of my friends who experienced lengthy illnesses throughout the last semester.

I couldn't imagine how they dealt with classes where they had a limit to the number of classes they could miss.

I remember a friend in a state of panic because she had to email her professor that she spent the night in urgent care and could not make it to class. That should not be happening.

My next question is, what about mental health days? I know that many people think that if mental health days are approved, then people will take advantage of missing classes.

To that, I have a few responses. If people want to miss class and ultimately do poorly on a test or the class entirely, that should be on them. We are adults and in order to learn from our actions, we should experience the consequences. There are also ways to prevent that. If there can be a limited amount of classes missed, and certainly, there can be limits to the number of mental health days you take.

I have a professor this semester who does take attendance, but he explicitly said at the beginning of the course that if we ever need to miss a class here and there, we should just email him, and it's okay. It's when it becomes a pattern that he would say something.

Can't a professor put in the syllabus that if a student needs a mental health day here and there, it's okay, but if they notice it becoming a consistent pattern every week, they will have a discussion? I see no issue with that, and I actually think that would be very beneficial for a professor to acknowledge that sometimes students need that time off.

I had a particularly hard transition to college, and from September to October, I was waking up before sunrise and getting probably only five hours of sleep because of how busy I was. In November, I crashed,

and I wanted to take a mental health day. I was terrified to "waste" one of my absences, but I ultimately decided to take the day off.

I also want to point out something interesting. Last semester, in my classes that required attendance or had some sort of absence equal failure rule, my grades were lower.

Actually, my best grade was in my one class that didn't take attendance, and then my classes that took attendance but were easygoing in terms of the missing class had high grades as well. This is an interesting pattern that I'm predicting will be the same this semester.

There are many reasons why people skip class. Sickness is the most common, I would say, but family issues, needing a day off, having to help a friend with an emergency and more are all valid reasons to skip class. I believe that because there are so many reasons that people cannot attend classes, attendance needs to be kept out of college classes.

I would say attendance should not be taken even without all of these reasons. We are adults, and especially for those of us who are just starting college, learning the consequences of missing many classes can be helpful.

It shouldn't be shoved in every student's face that you will fail for not attending because a majority of students do attend classes. But for people who regularly skip, they should have to learn the consequences of that, not the entire class.

Fairfield Dining Needs To Provide Higher-Quality Water Options

By Brooke Lathe Executive Editor

Fully stocked in The Leeve, the Stag, vending machines and most places on campus, countless stout, muted blue Dasani water bottles sit mostly untouched. And, there's no question why: Dasani is arguably the worst water brand.

Before ever watching conspiracy theory videos, such as clips posted by Shane Dawson, and doing my own research, I always found that Dasani tasted off. It turns out, it's because other bottled water brands are often derived from natural springs or purified water while Dasani is obtained from a municipal source and filtered through a process called "reverse osmosis," as written in small print on the bottle's label.

This process of purification removes countless natural minerals and contaminants found in other companies like Fiji or more affordable options such as Poland Springs. In simpler terms, the drink is collected from tap water, filtered and infused with artificial minerals before shipping them off to be sold in stores. With this major difference in production, it's not surprising

why we find the flavor odd when comparing it to other brands most of us are normally conditioned to enjoy.

Dasani is also notoriously known for adding salt to the water–a fact that they share on the FAQ section of their website with the explanation: "Dasani adds a variety of minerals, including salt, to create the crisp fresh taste you know and love."

Most consumers, including me, believe that it's a cover for a consumption tactic, however, as the increased sodium will make you thirster and therefore force you to want (or buy, in this case) more of their product.

One of the more glaring problems: Have you ever noticed the 'hiss' sound it makes when you snap open the bottle's cap as well? You don't hear that with any other brand that isn't marketed as a sparkling drink (except for Aquafina, but it's incredibly close in rank to Dasani's low favorability). So, why is this?

The company claims it's a reaction due to the pressure sealing, but I personally believe it's from the higher acidity. According to Santevia Canada, "Dasani is one of the most acidic bottles on the market with

a pH of 6.25."

Since most drinking water pH levels are desired to be within the 6.5-8.5 range, the low score qualifies Dasani as a "soft" drink since "water is considered soft as the level drops toward the lower side of 6.5 and out of the recommended range," advises ATS Environmental. More importantly, it

is noteworthy to add that hard water is usually preferred for drinking due to the increased minerals and better flavor in comparison.

Ultimately, Dasani is a brand that is owned by the Co-ca-Cola franchise, and I personally wouldn't choose water distributed by a mass-producing soda company as my first, second or even third choice.

Ever since my arrival to Fairfield at the start of my freshman year, I was incredibly disappointed when I found out the only water offered by the school is Dasani. Never once in my life has the drink ever fully satisfied me and my mouth is always left

with a strange aftertaste.

So, after three years, I am still hoping that the university will make the necessary switch to another company like Poland Springs or Evian. If not, at least take any other options into consideration when thinking about students' health and overall preference.



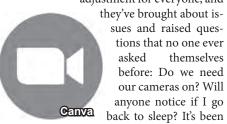
Dasani water is the only water brand that Fairfield provides on campus.

Online Classes May Not Be As Easy As They're Made Out To Be

By Peter Torre Contributing Writer

Ever since COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, virtual learning has remained an option for Fairfield professors and their students. I've enjoyed online classes personally—some more than others—but as far as education goes, I think school would serve college students better in person.

Online learning was definitely an adjustment for everyone, and



a wild ride, but I think it's time to get kids back into school. Otherwise, how long are we going to keep sheltering ourselves from the outside world, something that college students desperately need experience with?

Don't get me wrong, asynchronous classes have a multitude of benefits. Aside from limiting contact with sick people, it's also lightened people's workdays. I remember taking an Art History turbo in the second semester of my freshman year, which involved the simple task of rolling out of bed, getting dressed and hopping on Zoom.

That spared me the hike across campus and the prospect of being late. (Shout-out to freshmen with classes in the Dolan School of Business or McAuliffe Hall, or both). Plus I'm sure my Art History professor enjoyed the luxury of not having to drive through traffic to get to campus.

As for assignments, it depends. Some online classes have less homework, but some could have even more if the class requires more self-teaching, which I never liked. Also I've often struggled learning everything I had to know off a screen.

For instance, I dropped my asynchronous Biological Anthropology class last semester because I had a hard time teaching myself all the material. Science was never my favorite subject, and our professor wasn't there in person to go through each lesson and answer questions when someone raised a hand.

Regarding the cameras on or off, again, it depends on the professor. But whether on or off, (unless you felt like going back to sleep) you would have to stare at a screen for an hour. Turbo professors give five or ten minute breaks somewhere in between, but class on Zoom, for me, is more mentally taxing. You're

surrounded by too many distractions: your phone, your homework for another class, your roommate trying to sleep or just getting out of the shower

Having that asynchronous option was a very good idea, either for students afraid of getting sick or for students enrolled in summer classes.

But the in-person experience allows much more room for learning, and it also makes the college experience more meaningful. It's hard to get to know your professor through Zoom and email. Making a connection with a professor helps students get internship opportunities and maybe even jobs.

I've enjoyed online classes because of their convenience, and especially when our assignments could be handed in at the end of the week. But as far as education goes, I've found it more difficult to learn through a screen.

On Feb. 13, three Michigan State University students died and five were severely injured at the hands of a gunman.

That Monday at 8:18 p.m., the first call reporting an active shooter on campus took place. At that point, over 20,000 students feared for their lives, marking this event as the 67th mass shooting of the new year.

Since then, five more attacks have been reported, totaling 72 mass shootings in America in just 2023–a number that exceeds the total of days we have had in the year so far.

President Joe Biden spoke the following night and renewed his call to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. But will it ever see fruition?

As a country, we have been debating gun violence for decades; with the nation divided on whether or not gun ownership should be easier or stricter to access. According to a 2021 Pew Research poll, about "half of adults (49%) say there would be fewer mass shootings if it was harder for people to obtain guns legally, while about as many either say this would make no difference (42%) or that there would be more mass shootings (9%)."

But when you look at how other countries have dealt with gun violence, how can you not spot the extreme difference? Twelve days after Australia's Port Arthur massacre in 1996, their government initiated a major gun reform, and there have been no mass shootings in the 27 years since.

The United Kingdom has proved the same results as they have not had a mass shooting in the same time frame

after the Dunblane massacre of 1996. In the following year, Parliament banned private ownership of most handguns and semi-automatic weapons while also requiring mandatory registration for shotgun owners.

The list of countries that have experienced traumatic events, passed laws and succeeded in preventing these violent acts continues—and America is not on it. What is it going to take for us to initiate change? How many more children, spouses, parents and loved ones have to die for us to finally enact stricter laws?

There are several students-several-that currently attend Michigan State University who were previously subjected to mass shootings in their short life. Survivors from the Oxford High School and Sandy Hook Elementary shootings came forward in multiple publications such as The New York Times and The Washington Post to speak on their experiences.

How insanely heartbreaking is it for multiple young adults to have been subjected to such horrors by their early 20s? How heartbreaking is it that anyone has to experience this at all?

While weapons are not the only attribute to blame for these occurrences, as we need to take a deeper look into mental health and other potential causes, making it harder to obtain these destructive weapons is a start to making a difference.

May Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser and Alexandria Verner rest in peace, and may the United States start taking the needed precautions to start saving their people.

"YET ANOTHER ESSAY BEGGING FOR GUN REFORM"

Brooke Lathe Executive Editor





By Erica Schindler Contributing Writer

As part of the Quick Center's with professor Phil Kay about aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. her new book during an event on Thursday, Feb. 16.

novel "On the Rooftop" and her tone of the book more hopeful. writing process.

story of a Black woman and her sion about research and finding "Fiddler on the Roof". daughters living in the Fillmore plot inspiration. District of San Francisco.

success as singers.

As Sexton and Kay discussed, tion novels. each of Vivian's daughters eventually enters marriages that she dissource: Sexton's mother.

adapting the story of Fiddler on real history. the Roof-about a Jewish father, his

everyone in my family always has a tics, and race and also music," Sexbrilliant idea for me that I need to ton said. turn into a book," Sexton explained at the event. "I wasn't super hopeful about the conversation."

spiration behind "On the Rooftop," with some changes.

The original idea was for Inspired Writers Series, author the book to take place in Sexton's the past, Sexton knew she wanted Margaret Wilkerson Sexton spoke hometown of New Orleans in the this book to be different from her

Sexton explained during the event that she decided to change the thor deliberately set out to write The virtual talk focused on her location as well as make the overall a book that is joyful, despite the

As for her writing process, the

The mother, Vivian, is the reads nonfiction accounts of hismastermind behind her daughters' torical events in order to inform rible, tragic story, obviously, but how she writes her historical fic-

ticular, she researched music and tween the members of the commuapproves of. This idea for the basis the community surrounding it in nity that endure. And that's what I of the book came from an unlikely the Fillmore District during the wanted to do." time that the book takes place. The She suggested the idea of story in the book was shaped by discussion of the relationships that

daughters and their marriages-to from history because the fact patbe from the perspective of a Black tern of the situation actually just characters and how that differed lent itself to this coalescence of from her own experiences with her "Now this is very common, community and you know, in poli- husband.

> plained that she "hates" research Award. but that it is an important com-

This idea ended up as the in- ponent in her process and finds plot inspiration in past real-world

> After writing about Katrina in other work.

For "On the Rooftop," the auhardships the characters face.

This is another parallel be-"On the Rooftop" is the event featured an extensive discus- tween the book and its inspiration,

> "For this book, I wanted it to Sexton explained that she be different ... You leave the play Fiddler on the Roof and it's a terwhat we remember is the music and we remember Tevye's humor and For "On the Rooftop" in par- remember the tight-knit bonds be-

> The event ended after some help drive the story. In particular, "I feel like we get these gifts Sexton discussed writing the interracial relationship between two

> "On the Rooftop" was named a Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick Sexton, a former lawyer, ex- and was awarded an NAACP Image

> > It is Sexton's third novel.



Day In The Life Of A Fairfield Nursing Student

By Max Limric Managing Editor

Meet Gabby Clune '25, a nursing student at Fairfield University.

CLINICAL ROTATION

At the start of the spring semester, she embarked on her clinical rotation journey.

Nursing students begin clinicals in the second semester of their sophomore year and have the chance to get placed in two rotations: geriatrics or mental health.

Clune was placed in geriatrics, and will spend five weeks getting hands-on experience at a nursing home in Greenwich,

Her clinicals are Saturdays

at 7 a.m., but that is not the case for everyone, as clinicals could take place any day of the week.

Geriatric clinicals are commonly Tuesdays and Saturdays.

-STARTING HeR_ Day

Her Saturday morning begins at 5:15 a.m. since her clinical is the farthest one away-a 40-minute drive compared to other nursing students placed at a nursing home in Fairfield, Conn.

Clune carpools with other nursing students, grabs Dunkin' for the road "to charge up" and arrives before 7 a.m. ... "to be early."

She prepares her lunch the night before, eats her meals when she's not working and snacks throughout her day.

Clune has loved her experience so far.

"I love feeling

like a real nurse

and helping real people. It's rewarding to see how studies are implemented in my life and how I can make a difference in people's lives," she shared.

Her_ Tasks

Clune assists the residents with personal hygiene, helps feed them and keeps them company.

She continues, "This experience has given me insight into my future career and I've been able to build a good foundation throughout my experience thus far."

AFTER A LONG DAY

She heads home at 3:30 p.m., after an eight-and-a-halfhour day.

Fellow sophomore Erica Adams is excited to begin her clinical journey, as the next rotation of clinicals starts on

Starting then, Clune will have the rest of her semester off as she makes way for the next batch of nursing students.

Stay tuned for her story!

Just Three Weeks Abroad ... Finding Family In Florence

Amy Magagnoli Contributing Writer

Studying in Europe is a dream for all students.

However, with being away from home already being super intimating, an entire semester abroad may be extremely frightening for most students who are "homebodies".

Rather than spending almost four months away from home, Fairfield students can choose between three to six-week programs in their favorite destination, while also earning class credit and an experience of a lifetime.

With a large variety of options, from Athens to Paris, London to Berlin, etc., the three-week program I selected was in Florence, Italy. I selected this program knowing that I always wanted to travel far away from home, experience new cultures and meet

As my ancestry is from Italy, Florence was my first choice in order to gain knowledge of my family history.

But, what frightened me the most about going abroad was being alone. Being alone is something that is terrifying for many, but unfortunately, something we all have to get

As my decision became finalized, I kept repeating the same sentence in my head: "Putting yourself in unfamiliar situations is how you grow as a person."

Even though I was scared of being alone, and potentially being super uncomfortable for three weeks in another country, I knew I wanted to grow as not only a student but as a person.

Studying in a different country, an eight-hour plane ride away from home, alone, is definitely an unfamiliar situation.

But I can reassure you this was one of the best decisions of my life.

When you speak to a student who has traveled abroad, most of the time, they speak about the food, where they traveled to, and

But for me, what I love to speak about

While in Florence, I took a three-week course in Art and Architecture.

On one of the first days of class, I met my friend Jordan, who attends the University of Tennessee. Days before I met Jordan, I had left my Gucci Bag in Venice, and Jordan offered to go find my bag with me, after only

the middle of Dolo, Italy, I had Jordan next to me reassuring me we will find the bag and make it home tonight.

Jordan only met me three days before this experience we shared together, and treated me better than the friends I have had my entire life. Jordan taught me what it means to not only be a good friend but how to be an overall well-rounded individual.

Weeks later, on a weekend trip to Croatia, I met my friend Natalie. The two of us explored together, and she taught me how to always make the most out of everything, and to appreciate every moment.

Not a second went by in Croatia where Natalie and I were not exploring, taking pictures and spending time with one another.

The people in the city of Florence were able to teach me life lessons as well.

A young man who I walked past on the way to class every morning, reminded me to always follow my passions and to utilize my creativity, as he created unique clothing with his own custom designs.

The friendships and the people I met abroad are the most important takeaway I had from my experience.

During the time period I went abroad, I was struggling mentally, and was in desperate need for inspiration in my life. The people I met abroad gave me more than inspiration and taught me life lessons that I will carry with me wherever I go. Not only did all these individuals teach me new life lessons while studying abroad, but they inspired me to want to continue to travel and meet new people.

And, I loved the trip so much that I will be studying abroad in London for the semester in the Fall of 2023!



Three-week abroad programs allow students to study aborad in the summer. from my experience abroad is the people.

To begin, my suitemates from Fairfield

University and Providence College showed me that no matter how far away from home you are, you can always find the feeling of "family" wherever you travel.

From making home-cooked meals together during the week to walking each other home at night, my suitemates gave me the reassurance that I needed to be able to come home to individuals who care about my well-being, and are there for me when I

knowing me for a couple of days.

After a total of twelve hours, seven different train rides and some train station Mconalds in our stomachs, Jordan and I were able to find the bag successfully.

But after that day, the bag was not the most important thing I went home with. I went home with the meaning of true friend-

In all my life, I have never had a friend stay by my side and support me through my absolute worst. Panicking, afraid and lost in

HELLO "YOU" ... SEASON 4 REVIEW

By Jacqui Rigazio Assistant Vine Editor

"YOU" has just dropped season four on Netflix and it is like nothing we've seen before. This

Hello, YOU. That's right, the chilling series means that stalker and serial killer Joe Goldberg

HE'S DOING A LITTLE REFLECTING

Netflix released season 4, part 1 of "You" on Feb 10.

Photo Courtesy Of @you

is back, yet facing quite different challenges than we have seen in previous seasons. Fair warning, if you aren't caught up with Joe's latest crimes don't read any further, spoilers are ahead!

Season four meets us with new characters, a new country, a new name and even a new

> YOU. Joe Goldberg has rebranded himself as Johnathan Moore, and is now an English professor in London in an attempt to escape his incriminating past.

While in London, he becomes entwined with posh, wealthy, British snobs who are hiding a lot more under the surface than they let on. Joe-or should I say, Jonathan-takes a particular interest in a woman named Kate, which makes things quite complicated when he wakes up from a night of heavy drinking to see Kate's husband, Malcolm, dead in his apartment with a knife through his chest. Joe has no memory of what happened the night before, but for the first time, Joe isn't the killer.

In every prior season Joe has been the stalker, always keeping diligent watch on whatever woman he was fascinated with at the time. He would refer to these

women as "you," making his narrative voice overs even more creepy. First, "you" was Beck, then it was Love, then Marienne.

Season four is the first season in which the "you" is unknown, and in which Joe isn't doing the stalking, but instead being stalked. After the murder of Kate's husband, Joe receives anonymous texts from someone who knows his every

The plot takes a "Pretty Little Liars" shift in this way, as Joe's anonymous correspondent knows everything about his life and his past... enough to ruin his life for good. Joe refers to this nameless texter as "you" throughout the season, providing an unexpected shift in the show's usual pattern.

Season four shows viewers a side of Joe that we have never seen before. For once, Joe is actually trying to stay out of trouble rather than causing it.

And he was succeeding, that is until the wealthy Brits that he has associated himself with begin to get murdered by what the news calls the "Eat the Rich Killer."

Joe is faced with speculation, anonymous texts and trying to protect Kate from harm all while attempting to start a new life and shake his troubled past. The creepy anonymous texts cause Joe to become suspicious and untrusting of everyone around him as he tries to identify who is out to get him.

While many things have changed in season

Joe's sarcastic narration and dry sense of humor are a constant. Penn Badgley plays Joe so flawlessly and realistically that viewers can't help but root for him and want the best for himwhich is messed up once you remember that he is a serial killer.

I think that this is the most brilliant part of the entire show, getting viewers to subconsciously take a liking to a stalker and serial killer. It doesn't get more messed up than that!

While I did enjoy season four and thought the new 'whodunit' plot was interesting, I will admit that I missed the twisted craziness and high-stakes action of prior seasons. As much as I like Kate as a new love interest, I really do miss Love Quinn, Joe's former wife.

While Love was definitely psychotic, arguably more so than Joe, she kept the action moving and there was always something new going

Luckily, season four part two is coming out on March 9, and the trailer dropped a huge spoiler: Love's return. Needless to say, I can't wait to see my girl Love Quinn back on the

Overall, Joe is Johnathan, the rich Brits are crazy, there's a murderer on the loose, Joe has a stalker, Love is coming back to spice things up and March 9 can't come fast enough!



By Fiona Killeen Contributing Writer

Every year, the Super Bowl amasses millions of viewers and is notoriously one of the topwatched programs of the year. While most people watch for the much-anticipated game, others may tune in for the creative and memorable commercials.

Even though most ads are only 30-60 seconds in length, according to Forbes, the average cost is around \$7 million. Just like any type of media, some ads gain more recognition and appreciation compared to others that may fall short. Here are some of my favorite and least favorite ads of Super Bowl LVII.

Favorite Commercials: He Gets Us - "Love Your En-

The organization He Gets Us is a non-denominational and politically independent and unaligned group that works to promote unity and increase relevance surrounding the teachings of Je-

During the Super Bowl, they spent a substantial amount of funding on running two messagedriven commercials. While of course, the central theme of these advertisements is related to Jesus, the content can be applied to different areas of life.

My favorite commercial produced by He Gets Us was entitled "Love Your Enemies". The commercial consists of various black-and-white still images of neighbors and protesters who are clashing. The background music that accompanies the emotive images is "Human" by Rag'n'Bone Man. The combination of the lyrics and poignant visuals creates an advertisement that addresses the current societal issue of the widespread political divide while providing an ideal solution and message of unity.

Netflix and General Motors -"Why not an EV?"

The next commercial that I enjoyed is not as touching as a piece but is very inventive. The advertisement is actually a partnership between Netflix and Gen-

The star of the production is Will Ferrell, and the commercial depicts him as he transitions between different worlds of Netflix. As he narrates and discusses how Netflix will be including more electrical vehicles in their future series, viewers watch him enter different shows such as "Squid Games," "Bridgerton" and "Stranger Things". The commercial was very engaging since it included so many well-loved shows which is why I thought

"100 Disney -Special Look"

it was effective.

Over the last 100 years, Disney has been a renowned powerhouse, contributing dozens of celebrated films attractions. Their Super Bowl commercial

memorates this legacy of storytelling through the inclusion of clips from films such as "Mary Poppins," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Avatar".

The commercial also includes endearing clips of present-day children dressing up as their favorite characters. One aspect of the tribute that I loved was how it blended older Disney films such as "Mary Poppins" with newer ones such as the upcoming "Little Mermaid" movie.

The Farmers Dog - "Forever"

This charming and heartwarming advertisement for the dog food company detailed the life and connection between a chocolate lab and its owner.

The piece opens with the main character as a young girl and follows her all the way until she has her own family and children. Lively shots are shown of the pair playing at the beach, with the dog running in the sand. The commercial is a beautiful reminder of the strong bond between a dog and its person.

Least Favorite Commercials: Hellmann's US - "Who's in the Fridge"

This commercial stars Jon Hamm and Brie Larson and opens with the two placed in a refrigerator since their namesakes are foodrelated (Ham and Brie). I didn't love this commercial because of how predictable and corny it was.

While the association between the stars' names and culinary items was original, I thought the rest of the ad was pretty cliche. Pete Davidson even made a cameo, but his performance was pretty lackluster considering he made some trite comment about how he was going to "eat them".

Doritos - "Jacks New Angle"

While I am a Jack Harlow fan, I found the Doritos commercial he starred in to be mediocre. It was no fault of his that the storyline didn't astound me.

I did appreciate the starstudded cast composed of Harlow, Missy Elliot and Elton John. The premise of the story is that Harlow abandons rapping in exchange for becoming a triangle player.

His stardom allowed him to popularize triangle playing

mately ends up losing at an award show to Elton John for triangle player of the year. The ad did not actually include much promotion or talk about Doritos, besides intentional product placement. It could be said that there is symbolism (loose) between the shape of Doritos and the triangle instrument. Compared to some of the other advertisements, I thought this one was lacking in substance and distinctiveness.

Avocados from Mexico -"Make It Better"

Another one of my least favorite commercials was the Avocados from Mexico one. This company is one that regularly runs programming during the Super Bowl. So it was no surprise to see them included. The commercial stars Anna Faris as Eve and includes a reconceptualized story of Adam and Eve.

Eve admits to eating a forbidden fruit, and then receives an avocado as an antidote to the mistake. The commercial then moves to show present-day Manhattan and inserts avocado-themed branding all across the city.

I found the ad to be somewhat gimmicky, and not very humor-

Regardless of whether or not I enjoyed every commercial shown, there is no denying the incredible amount of effort that is poured into conceiving, producing and editing each advertisement.

I greatly admire the originality, cinematography and stardom that each piece brings forth.



Cook With Brooke By Brooke Lathe

Executive Editor

If you know me, you know that I have the biggest sweet tooth. It's a deep-rooted daily craving that I inherited from my grandmotherwhich can at times prove to be as much of a con as it is a pro. With my love for sugar, however, comes an increased knowledge of baking. More specifically ... chocolate chip

Over the 2020 quarantine, I tested out approximately 20 different recipes and have deemed the tasty chewy desserts my go-to mix. I have made countless batches for my friends, coworkers, roommates and family members throughout

the years and they all immediately ask what I put into my delectable creations.

And, I am no "gatekeeper," so here is my secret to instant smiles and full

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and place parchment paper on a baking sheet. I like the Reynolds Kitchen Cookie Baking Sheets because they're pre-cut to the perfect size.

Whisk together both sugars, salt and melted butter until a paste forms

Add in the egg and vanilla. Whisk until the mixture is smooth.

In a separate bowl, mix together flour and baking soda. Pour in the dry ingredients with the wet, and fold them

Pour in the chocolate chips and mix them in the dough. Then, store the mix in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Gather a large ball of dough and place them onto a parchment paperlined baking sheet. I like cookies that take at least six large bites to finish, so my balls of dough are usually two inches wide.

Insider tip: top the balls with extra chocolate chips on top so that when it melts, they are shown too. I put around five per

Give them space to breathe so that when they form, they do not bake onto each other.

Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until the dough starts to crack and turn golden.

The downside of this recipe is that its shelf life is two days maximum before it starts tasting stale.

For best results, I would suggest eating them within the first 24 hours of baking.

So, either plan to bring these to a potluck or prepare to eat seven cookies by yourself. Either way, it's usually a win-win

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter,
 - melted
- 1egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 11/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 oz Ghirardelli dark choc.

chips



By Abigail White Head Vine Editor

Though we have seen some beautiful weather these past few weeks, the promise of Spring is still a month away. Fortunately, winter's cold and dreary weather provides the perfect excuse to cozy up with a good book. Here are just a few book recommendations to help pass the winter days.

"Daisy Jones" and the "Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

This is a book that I have not yet read myself, but one that is at the top of my reading list. As many may be aware, Amazon Prime Video is set to release an adaptation of this book in the form of a mini-series on March 3. Though I have not read "Daisy Jones and the Six," I have read "Malibu Rising" and "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo," both written by Taylor Jenkins Reid. I fell in love with Reid's style of writing after reading these two books and can only expect "Daisy Jones and the Six" to meet the same outstanding quality.

Set in the 1970s, the story follows Daisy Jones, a beautiful and talented up-and-coming musician as she joins a rock band that rises quickly to fame. After loving so much of Reid's other work and after watching the trailer for the mini-series, I have decided that this book is a must-read.

"THE TEMPLE HOUSE VANISHING" By Rachel Donohue

This is a book that I read last winter, and I can confidently say that it was the perfect season to read it. With a bit of mystery thrown in and a dark academia setting, this book pairs perfectly with the gloomy weather. Set in an elite all-girls Catholic boarding school in Ireland, the story follows the disappearance of a 16-year-old schoolgirl, Louisa, and her charismatic teacher which happened over 20 years ago. With two different timelines, one past and one present, we follow a journalist as she aims to unveil the events and reasoning leading up to the pair's disappearance. Themes of jealousy, popularity, friendship and more are present in this mysterious novel.

Donohue's writing is beautifully poetic and thought-provoking and will more than likely send chills down your spine as the mystery of Louisa's disappearance unfolds. This is a book that I would highly recommend to anyone looking for a good mystery/thriller to get into before the end of the winter season.

"LITTLE WOMEN" BY LOUIS& MAY _ALCOTT

I could not give a list of book recommendations without including at least one classic. "Little Women" is a story that I am sure almost everyone is familiar with from the popularity of the 2020 film adap-

tation. However, for anyone who is familiar with the story but has not read the book, I would argue that it is a must-read. We follow the March sisters–Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy–as they transition from childhood to adulthood in a world that is not always easy for women

in the 1860s. As you read, you become attached to the characters. You find yourself rooting for their successes. Alcott writes of the everyday events of these little women in a way that is so captivating and heartwrenching. This is a book that I would recommend making some hot chocolate for, grabbing a blanket and cozying up to read this winter.

"THE NIGHT CIRCUS" BY ERIN MORGENSTERN

This is a book that has received a lot of hype on social media the past few years, and after having read it, I can confirm that it is worth the attention it has received. If you are looking for something with a bit more of a fantasy aspect, this is the perfect book for you. When Le Cirque des Reves shows up in town, there is no warning. It is simply there and then it is not. Set over the span of multiple years and told from multiple perspectives, "The Night Circus" follows two dueling magicians, Celia and Marco,

happening behind the scenes of the circus. Unbeknownst to the two competitors, only one magician can be left standing at the end of this duel. Morgenstern's language and storytelling are both extremely captivating and I can guarantee that if you pick this

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book up, you will not be able to put it down until you finish reading.

If you are looking for a good book to cozy up with before the end of this winter season, I would highly recommend you give one of the books listed above a try. Though they are just a few options, I believe they are the perfect options for the winter weather and overall great reads.

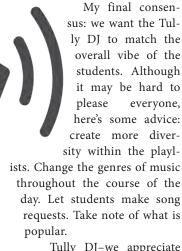
TUNES IN THE TULLY!

By Paige Mennan Contributing Writer

The burning question remains unanswered ... Who is the notorious Tully DJ? Whether it's party music on a dreary Monday or breakup ballads on Valentine's Day, the selections are nothing short of memorable. An anonymous junior says, "Only juniors will understand the joy of Tully music coming back after it was broken for a year."

Another adds, "Music in the Tully makes me feel like a main character." It is safe to say that Fairfield students applaud the reinstatement of "Tully Tunes".

Tully DJ, despite your great work, the student body has a few suggestions. Upon speaking with different groups of students, a few common questions emerge: "Where's the Spanish music on the Tully playlist? Why is the Tully music either breakup songs or party songs? Are we expected to dance at 9 a.m. to the Tully trap music?"



Tully DJ-we appreciate your ability to liven up our dining experience. Keep up the good work! The student body is rooting for you.





COFFEE BREAK

SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

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



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	How many Harry Potter movies are there?
•	• What is Voldemort's real name?
•	What is the Dursley's address?
•	Name all four Hogwarts Houses
•	How many Weasley children are there?
•	• What model broomstick does Harry receive in his third year at Hogwarts?
•	Who put Harry's name into the Goblet of Fire?
•	When is Harry's birthday?
•	• Who are the creators of the Marauders map?
	• What position does Harry play in Quidditch?

Happy President's (me) Day, Stags!

Nick Silvia, Contributing Writer

The Most Important Day of the Year

Valentine's Day just passed, and I spent it how I always do (roasting people online who are much happier than me in every capacity because I'm definitely not jealous), but now it's time for everyone's true favorite holiday: Presidents' Day. I'm sure many of you don't know the true meaning of the holiday, so allow me to fill you in on this great day's illustrious history.

Way back in the 1700s, the British colonies were heavily taxed. There was extreme dissent within the colonies, with a forerunner among the insurgents being George Washington. Soon after, conditions began to worsen, and George Washington set out to accomplish the most noble goal in American history: becoming so important to our country that college students get the day off right around the time of his birthday each year.

Though Presidents' Day is the third Monday of each February, it is actually meant to celebrate the birthday of George Washington (Feb. 22). Therefore, we all know that there is only one Feb. 22 birthday that matters above all: mine. And since people who brag about their birthdays to get attention from other people are the worst, I'm not going to do that. But Feb. 22 IS my twin brother's birthday, who has the same birthday as me, which, for clarity reasons, again is Feb 22. So you see him (me) on the day this paper comes out, make sure to wish him (me), the most important February birthday, a happy birthday.

And what does he (me) want for this noble Presidents' Day? Let's party like it's 1776, Stags. That's right, we're going to dump 120 metric tons of tea into the Long Island Sound. Happy Presidents' (me) day, Stags!

SPORTS

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

Assistant Sports Editor: Billy McGuire >>william.mcguire@student.fairfield.edu



Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 23
Women's Lacrosse at University of Albany Albany, N.Y. 3 p.m. Men's Lacrosse vs Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. 7 p.m.	Women's Basket- ball vs Marist College Fairfield, Conn. 7 p.m.	Men's Tennis at Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, Ga. TBA Baseball at George Washington University Washington, D.C 2:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at Niagara University Niagara, N.Y. 7 p.m.	Men's Tennis at Mercer University Macon, Ga. TBA Baseball at George Washington University Washington, D.C. 1 p.m. Woman's Lacrosse vs Hofstra University Fairfield, Conn. 1 p.m.	Baseball at George Washington University Washington, D.C. 12 p.m. Men's Basketball at Canisius College Buffalo, N.Y. 1 p.m. Men's Lacrosse at Richmond University Richmond, Va. 1 p.m.	No games scheduled. Photo Contributed by the Men's tennis has two mode of the Georgia this week and	No games scheduled. Sports Information Desk natches in
Women's lacrosse has two games this week including one at home on Feb. 25.					ing to bounce back afte Brown University 4-3 or	

Women's Basketball Extends Losing Streak To Four



Guard Janelle Brown '24 is second on the team in both points per game with 11.4 and assists with 67.

By Ryan Marquardt Head Sports Editor

The Fairfield University women's basketball team extended their losing streak to three with a loss at Canisius College on Friday, Feb. 17. The Stags went into halftime down a whopping 20 points and roared back scoring 41 in the second half, but it was not enough to close the gap losing 73-60.

The Stags had the lead closed down to seven points when Kate Peek '26 hit two straight threes within 20 seconds of each other. Peek put up a career-high 15 points going four-for-five from downtown in the fourth quarter to help the Stags push for a comeback.

Graduate student Andrea Henangomez fell just one rebound short of a double-double after returning from injury for the first time in a month and also put up 12 points.

The Stags aggressive defensive style led to 22 Canisius turnovers, which was the 11th time Fairfield forced 20 or more turnovers in a game this season. According to the game's official recap, Fairfield is 47th in the nation and second in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in turnover, forcing 18.9 turnovers per game this season.

The Stags then went on to drop their fourth

straight with an overtime loss to Niagara. Guard Janelle Brown '24 made a three-pointer with just 18 seconds remaining in the game which gave her the team-high 15 points and tied it up, forcing overtime.

The Stags were down nine with four minutes remaining in the game, followed by a strong finish to tie it up and force the extra period. However, Fairfield would be outscored 12-3 in overtime leading to a 65-56 loss. Fairfield was down just two at half, but a poor third quarter and overtime led to them dropping yet another game.

Fairfield led in almost every major statistical category including field goal percentage, for which they led 35.6% to Niagara's 34.3% and three-point percentage which was 29.4% for the Stags and 11.8% for Niagara. Furthermore, rebounds, which the Stags outrebounded Niagara by four and forced 12 more turnovers. Niagara had a 73.9% free-throw percentage, however, while the Stags only had a 50%.

The women's basketball team will come home to honor their seniors on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. versus Marist. Mackenzie Martin '23 and Jocelyn Polansky '23 along with graduate students Callie Cavanaugh and Hernangomez will all be honored at the Leo D. Mahoney Arena.

In this week's issue...

- Student-Athletes Connect With Fans Through YOKE (Page 14)
- Stags Battle In "Baseball At The Beach" (Page 15)
- Club Spotlight: Club Hockey Begins Playoff Push (Page 15)
- Men's Basketball Moves Past Marist, Meets Match vs Manhattan (Page 16)

Student-Athletes Connect With Fans Through YOKE

By Brooke Lathe Executive Editor

By Bridget Keohane Contributing Writer

In hopes of enhancing the opportunity for student-athletes to self-promote and connect with their fans, the Fairfield University athletics department recently partnered with YOKE. This modernized platform specifically engages sporting fans and allows collegiate athletes to upload digital content for subscribed members to view.

The decision for the University to work with YOKE was finalized on Jan. 19 as both the Fairfield athletics department made it publicly official by publishing a press release on FairfieldStags.com while YOKE shared on their Twitter account: "We're excited to announce our first official Division 1 department-wide partnership with Fairfield University."

The athletics department at Fairfield found that YOKE "provide[s] a platform for all of our student-athletes to benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness (NIL)," shared Zach Dayton, Deputy Athletics Director. He continued, "College athletics departments across the country are investing in platforms similar to YOKE based on their state and institutional NIL guidelines in support of their student-athletes."

Prior to the National Collegiate Athletics Association Interim NIL Policy, student-athletes were restricted from participating in any deals that promoted their likeness while they were on scholarship. Once the policy was passed in July of 2021, however, student-athletes began partnering with businesses for profits-YOKE being one of them.

Through the Fairfield NIL club, athletes offer fans access to online chat rooms, digital events and other exclusive athlete content to members who pay a minimum commitment fee of \$5 per month. There is no maximum amount for donation.

These monthly payments will generate revenue for the Fairfield NIL Club, which will then be equally distributed through a shared process amongst the participating student-athletes. At the end of every month, each player will receive a split check.

"Content is created directly by the student-athletes [and] fans can request more content from student-athletes once they become subscribers," Dayton said. He also advised that while the Fairfield NIL social platforms post some videos, more content can be found by using the app.

Currently, only Fairfield's Men's and Women's Basketball teams are active on the platform, as they are the only sports in season. In the past few weeks, they have published interviews and other exclusive content for Stag fans to view.

Men's Basketball player Supreme Cook '24 is one of the many players producing content for the site. "I think it's a great platform for athletes to connect with fans and other people who enjoy coming to the games," he shared.

"We usually don't get to talk to [our fans] after the game, so this is a great way for us to just speak with them and connect with them."

Other athletes, such as Women's Golf team member, Lucy Fowler '25, have heard about the platform as well. Up to this point, she hasn't received too many details about it.

"Our coach hasn't said much, it's more of what I've seen or heard from other athletes at Fairfield," Fowler stated. Nevertheless, she remains excited about the start of the golf season and collaboration with YOKE where she would "get to endorse [herself] and show people [her] journey in athletics."

Athletes on the platform are not constricted to follow a schedule in terms of posting. In fact, there was no contract involved when they entered the partnership with YOKE. While his team met with the creators of YOKE, Cook explains that athletes were given the flexibility of posting of their own free will.

"We don't have to follow a schedule or have to post [...] but if you want to bring in more viewers or people to the app, promoting it yourself or having other people promote it—such as the players—is a really helpful way to do that," Cook shared.

Since the teams are actively collecting membership fees from fans subscribed to the platform,

Cook expresses that there is an incentive for his team to post: "The more we put in, the more we get out."

As for Stag fans, the partnership is still slowly gaining buzz. Jackie Campbell, a junior basketball-season ticket holder, explained how she hadn't heard of the platform before. Nevertheless, she believed "that it's exciting that fans might have more ways to get involved" and it could be "really interesting for those in Sports Marketing or Management."

Junior Emma Falkowski also shared that she was unfamiliar with YOKE, but is something that she would consider subscribing to. "I feel like that is an amazing tool and would be really beneficial to staying up to date with athletics on campus," Falkowski stated.

So far, the partnership has been advertised at men's and women's basketball games and will continue to advertise at a variety of athletic events throughout the spring when more sports begin their respective seasons.

"Fairfield Athletics is just beginning NIL initiatives like our partnership with YOKE," Dayton said. "We plan to train all of our student-athletes on the use of the platform very soon, [and] we will continue to advertise the opportunity to be a subscriber to our fan base."



Pictured above are the membership benefits for those who join ${\sf YOKE}.$

Weekly 5x4

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

Because we have witty things to say ...

What is your stance on Dasani water?

What is your go-to self care activity?

What was the last thing you read?

What was your favorite video game growing up?



Tommy Coppola Editor-in-Chief

Not the worst, but I'll just use the water bottle filler.

A good power nap never hurts.

"El Lazarillo" de Tormes, which was a really fascinating book.

I take my Mario Kart very seriously.



Brooke Lathe Executive Editor

Salty. Headache-inducing. Trash.

Baking a huge batch of cookies and eating every single one of them.

"The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life" by Twyla Tharp.

Grand Theft Auto. Shout out to my brother who would spawn cool motorcycles for me.



Max Limric Managing Editor

I'll slurp it down if I have to, but it doesn't taste right.

I like settling down with a movie.

"Halsey Street" by Naimi Coster for Latinx Literature class.

My family would rock out to Just Dance.



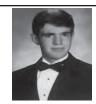
Julian Nazario Copy Editor, Head News Editor

It's not great water, but I don't care about it.

Watch a good rom-com on Netflix and eat ice cream.

The YOU review article from Vine ... and I'm still in season 3.

Lego City on my cousin's Nintendo DS ... I could still play that.



Billy McGuire Assistant Sports Editor

The epitome of mediocre water, for some reason I feel like trash everytime I drink it.

Grabbing the Xbox controller and dropping 100 points on the Cowboys in Madden.

My Accounting Textbook. Because why not.

Wii Sports. I probably have the most perfect bowling games in the game's history.

Stags Battle In "Baseball At The Beach"

By Billy McGuire Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University baseball team commenced their season this past weekend by participating in the "Baseball at the Beach" bash in Conway, S.C., on the campus of Coastal Carolina University by participating in a three-game set against the likes of Coastal Carolina, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Middle Tennessee State University.

The Stags, coming off of their best offensive season in program history in which they set program records in runs scored (390), slugging percentage (.483) and home runs (75), came out hungry in their first game of the three-game set on Friday, Feb. 17 against Coastal Carolina. They smashed four long balls, two of which came from graduate infielder Griffin Watson, with infielder Mike Becchetti '23 and catcher Matt Venuto '23 each belting one of their own. Facing a superior program in the Chanticleers, the Stags raced out to a 2-0 lead at the top of the first inning off of the Becchetti homer before falling behind by six. Watson blasted his first of two long balls on the day by cutting the lead in half at the top of the fifth to make

The home-run frenzy would not end there, as Watson and Venuto would hit back-to-back jacks at the top of the seventh to keep the Stags within reach, 13-7. The Stags' only runs in this contest were scored off of the long balls, but nearly everyone in the starting lineup contributed somewhat offensively. Seven of the nine starters managed to obtain at least one hit, with the

unit getting

10 hits as a

whole in the

contest. Despite

the solid offensive

paralleling the fall semester, running from Sep. 23 with a matchup against the University of Delaware, to Dec. 4, in which they faced off against the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The Stags took the loss to kick off the season, 4-3 in Newark, Del. They proceeded to go into their winter break on a positive note, defeating

> The second half coincides with the spring semester, with the second half of the regular season beginning on Jan. 28 in a tilt against Fordham University in New York, N.Y., before concluding with a battle against Fordham at The Rinks at Shelton. The Stags took the win in the Big Apple, 6-2, before a rematch awaited them approximately three weeks later at their home rink in Shelton. The rematch went strongly in Fairfield's favor, as they obliterated the Rams, 12-3 in their final on-ice regular

> > The Stags now will play host this

weekend to the Empire Playoffs, with two scheduled games this upcoming weekend against unknown opponents. The Stags have had success in this tournament in the past, with the program taking home an Empire Cup in 2020, according to the club's official Instagram page. The Stags also have a strong

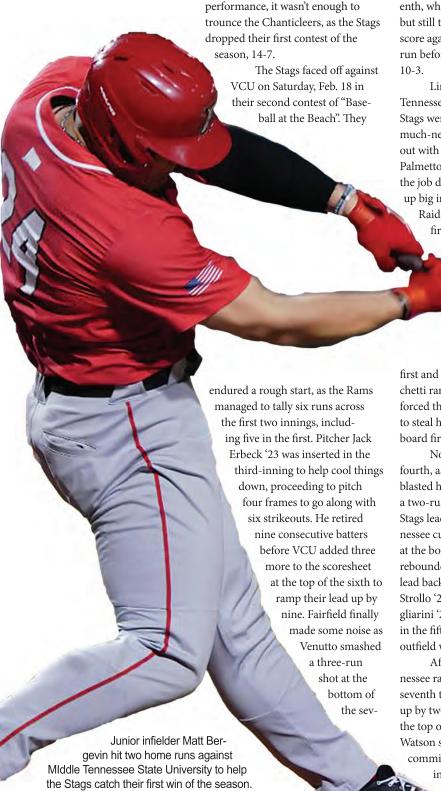
chance of making the Collegiate Hockey Association (CHA) tournament, which will begin next month. The tournament championships will be held this season at the Ice Line Quad Rinks in Westchester, Pa., beginning on March 10 with the championship game on March 15.

According to the CHA's official

rankings, the Stags rank sixth in the 2022-23 National Division rankings to go along with a 97.17 overall

For more information on the Fairfield club hockey program and club sports as a whole, please visit www.clubsports.fairfieldstags.com for more information.

Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldhockey Instagram



enth, which put them on the board but still trailed by six. They failed to score again, as VCU added one more run before the Rams secured the win,

Lining up against Middle Tennessee on Sunday, Feb. 19, the Stags were hoping to bolster some much-needed confidence by coming out with a win before departing the Palmetto state. They managed to get the job done, with the offense coming up big in a 14-9 victory over the Blue Raiders. The Stags scored their first run of the game at the top

of the first by thinking outside-the-box. With runners at

Filodo Contitute di Sy dio Storio interiori de cità first and third, Becchetti ran towards second and forced the throw, allowing Watson to steal home to put the Stags on the

No team scored again until the fourth, as infielder Matt Bergevin '24 blasted his first homer of the season, a two-run bomb that increased the Stags lead to three. After Middle Tennessee cut the lead to one scoring two at the bottom of the fourth, the Stags rebounded by gaining their three-run lead back, in which outfielder Ryan Strollo '23 and infielder Charlie Pagliarini '23 each belted the first pitch in the fifth and sixth innings over the outfield wall, respectively.

After a five-run Middle Tennessee rally at the bottom of the seventh that put the Blue Raiders up by two, Fairfield tied the game at the top of the eighth after a two-run Watson single in which an error was committed by Middle Tennessee

in the process. They then put up seven at the top of the ninth, destroying any remaining momentum Middle

Tennessee had left as they went up a

touchdown, 14-7. The rally started when graduate infielder Noah Lucier hit a leadoff double that proceeded to send him home off of a Watson single. Venuto brought home Lucier off a bunt single, reaching base safely in the process. Pagliarini later hit a two-run double down the right-field line to increase the lead by four. Bergevin proceeded to obliterate any remaining confidence the Blue Raiders had by demolishing his second long ball of the day to put the Stags ahead by seven.

Middle Tennessee added two more at the bottom of the ninth, but it was not enough, as the Stags achieved their first win of the season on the heels of an outstanding show put on by the offensive unit. Every starter picked up at least one hit, with Watson and Pagliarni leading the squad with three apiece.

Watson also led the team with a superb batting average of .467

along with seven hits. On the mound, Colin McVeigh '24 got the nod and pitched three scoreless innings to start the ballgame before surrendering two runs in the fourth. Jake Memoli '26 made his collegiate debut in the fourth, relieving McVeigh, as the Green Brook, N.J. native pitched 1.2 scoreless innings to go along with just one walk to bring the game to the sixth. Graduate student Luke Marshall picked up the win, entering the game in the eighth inning with two runners in scoring position but would get out of the jam with a groundout to end the

The Stags will travel to Washington, D.C. this Friday to take on George Washington University in a three-game set this weekend. For more information on the Fairfield University baseball team and athletics as a whole, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com.

inning.

Club Spotlight: Club Hockey Begins Playoff Push

By Billy McGuire Assistant Sports Editor

Despite not having an official division one hockey team to call their own, Fairfield University does have a club hockey team. The program has built a winning culture and is consistently one of the top club hockey teams in the nation, thanks in part to a large contingent of players from the Northeast, a hockey-crazed

Heading into the Empire Playoffs, the squad has compiled a 14-6-1 record, to go along with a 9-2-1 conference record, defeating the likes of Sacred Heart University, Fordham University, Cornell University, and Ramapo College of New Jersey along the way, all of whom are also held in high regard in the club hockey world. They have scored 111 goals, while giving up 75 to obtain a respectable +36 goal differential.

The club season is divided into two halves, with the first half Massachusetts Maritime Academy, 8-5 at The Rinks at Shelton in Shelton,

season battle of the season.



The Club Hockey team is preparing for their playoffs which begin on March 10 after a successful season so far.

Week of February 22, 2023

Men's Basketball Moves Past Marist, Meets Match vs. Manhattan

By Tommy Coppola Editor-In-Chief

Setting the Stage

With the excitement of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) basketball playoffs brewing, teams in the middle of the playoff seeding such as Fairfield are hunting for their first-round bye. With 11 members, the bottom six teams will enter a play-in round to claim a spot in the main bracket, whereas the top five teams in the standings will punch their ticket to Atlantic City, N.J. for the tournament's festivities.

Going into this past weekend, Fairfield was in a crucial position to either continue to climb or fall short of the first-round bye with two in-conference matchups against Marist College and Manhattan College.

The Comeback Kids

To start the weekend, on Friday, Feb. 17, the men's basketball team took to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to take on the Marist College Red Foxes, who currently sit in the penultimate slot of the MAAC standings. Their in-conference record is just 5-12, with one of those 12 losses coming at the hands of the Stags themselves on Dec. 30, 2022

Fairfield's high-powered offense sent the Red Foxes retreating in December, with guard TJ Long '25 claiming multiple individual highs. According to the official game notes, Long's Dec. 30 game had the highest scoring performance of any Stag this season (25 points), the most amount of field goals made by an individual player this season (10), the highest number of field goal attempts (18) and finally the highest amount of three-point field goals (five) and three-point attempts (11).

This past Friday night, however, Long and his teammate, graduate student Caleb Fields, were able to replicate the commanding success of their first meeting with Marist, both slotting in 21 points of their own.

The pair's efforts to secure the win did not come easy, however, as Marist came out of the gate with a fiery 23-8 lead, according to the game's official recap. The Stags were able to lock down their defense and close out the first half down just one point, with a score of 32-21 going into the second frame.

According to the game's official box score, the Stags were able to convert on exactly half of every field goal attempt they made inside the paint. From the three-point line, however, they converted on just over half, with a 53.8% three-point field goal percentage.

With a much stronger 39-point performance in the second half, the Stags decisively moved past the Marist Red Foxes, who ultimately could not catch up with Long, Fields and the powerful defense the team brought to the court.

A Chance at Revenge

Fans, families and Fairfield fanatics poured into Leo D. Mahoney Arena on the overcast afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, as the men's basketball team opened up their second-to-last home game of the season versus Manhattan College, where they fell in a final-second heartbreak by a final score of 73-72.

Although the weekend started strong for the Stags, the same could not be said for the visiting Jaspers. According to the official Manhattan men's basketball schedule, they entered Mahoney Arena riding



Left to right: Senior forward Allan Jeanne-Rose, gradauate guard Caleb Fields and guard James Johns Jr. '26 celebrate on the bench.

the coattails of a 71-60 loss against Iona University on Friday, Feb. 17. On the other end of the court, Fairfield's head coach Jay Young and his squad picked up their commanding 70-61 victory over Marist College on the same night.

The two MAAC competitors have faced off against each other many times throughout their respective histories. According to the official Fairfield University athletics website, the Stags and Jaspers split the difference in their two contests last season, whereas the current season has seen the Jaspers take both games to their win column.

Although their matchup on Dec. 1 saw the Jaspers slightly getting the edge over the Stags, the game was played on their home court in front of just under 600 spectators. Now, with the Red Sea in numbers just below 3,000, the atmosphere was very different, offering Fairfield a home-court advantage to exact revenge.

According to the game notes versus Manhattan, Fairfield's scoring statistics ranked relatively low amongst their MAAC competitors. The game notes clarify that Fairfield's field goal percentage ranks ninth out of 11 MAAC teams and tenth out of 11 in three-point field goal percentage.

However, the other side of the ball has seen production throughout the 2022-23 season. The Stags reign the best in the MAAC across multiple different metrics: scoring defense, three-point field goal defense and fewest fouls per game are their strong suits.

The Stags' tough defense would have their second chance to square up against Manhattan's strong offense, who has been able to convert on 43.5% of their field goals and 35% of their three-point attempts.

Young and his coaching staff employed their eighth unique starting lineup of the season, according to the game notes, which sees Fields, Jalen Leach '24, Allan Jeane-Rose '23, Makai Willis '25 and Supreme Cook '24 as the squad to take the tipoff. According to the game notes, this is the fourth time in a row that Young has sent out this specific group at the beginning of the game.

Fairfield's starting five accounts for a significant portion of their point production. Before the game against Manhattan, starters accounted for 70.6% of their points and 71.3% of their rebounds.

A Slower Start

The game tipped off with a 7-1 start by Fairfield, who locked in on defense to create a couple of crucial stops. With Ant Nelson running the point for Manhattan, he was able to lead a six-point charge to tie the

The first half got off to a very slow start, with the Stags and Jaspers deadlocked at seven with just 11:32 left in the first half. Although the scoring was slow to start, the fouls were not, as both Fairfield and Manhattan had ample opportunities to nail their free throws. Through just 15 minutes of the game, Fairfield was able to capitalize on all but one of their seven free throws.

At halftime, the Manhattan squad took the lead 35-27, with Cook leading the scoring effort for the Stags with eight points. He additionally tallied eight rebounds, which helped his team out-rebound the Jaspers in the first half.

The Fairfield University women's swim and dive team shuffled out of the Red Sea and onto the court to present their MAAC championship trophy to fans in attendance. As they were honored, they posed for pictures.

Going into the second half, Fairfield continued to fight back as Cook and Long lit up the court with high-energy layups and three-point shots. Long's multiple three-point swishes led to the Mahoney Arena crowd erupting with excitement.

With Long commanding the court and a still-impressive team-wide 87.5% free throw percentage, the game's momentum looked to be tipping toward Fairfield's favor

The Final Countdown

As the score became just a threepoint difference in Manhattan's favor with 30 seconds left in the game, Fairfield was in a position to use their timeouts in order to draw up a plan to tie the game. Manhattan's persistence looked to seal the deal, nailing a free throw to make their lead four

To respond, Jeane-Rose rebounded and took a three-point attempt, and Leach attempted to finish the missed shot but got fouled.

His three foul shot attempts would put him in the perfect—yet high-pressure situation to tie the game. He nailed the first two shots and purposefully tossed his third off the glass for a hopeful catch-and-shoot by a rebounder to create two points.

This rebounder was Cook, who also got fouled in the process; he was granted two shots and needed to make both in order to tie the game at 73. He completed the first to make the score 73-72, but ultimately missed the final shot, which sealed the game as a Jaspers win.

"Our defense was just kind of out of sorts today," Young stated in a postgame

Young also spoke his mind about the free throw that Cook missed at the end of the game. He shared that he wasn't worried about the missed free throw, but more concerned with a missed steal that Cook attempted earlier in the game which earned Manhattan two points.

Overall, Young thought that his team did not bring their best offense to their game. "Our offense was fine tonight. It was not good. In the first half, it was poor," he stated.

He also thought that the team could not get comfortable with one specific type of defense. Although he claims that this is likely the most he has switched defensive formations in a single game, there is "not a ton we're changing right now" ahead of their upcoming opponents.

In short, he is not looking to reinvent the team, but simply to clean up the small and controllable mistakes.

The Fairfield University men's basketball team will travel to upstate New York this upcoming weekend to round out their final two road matchups versus Niagara University and Canisius College.

They will close out their season with a home game at Leo D. Mahoney Arena against Quinnipiac University on March