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The Collegian - October 19, 2021

News

EXPLORING KEITH + KARI

10/11/2021



Artist Kari Marboe responds to artist William Keith; currently displayed at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

By Kamryn Sobel
News Reporter

As of September 15th, a new exhibit is on full display at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. This exhibit explores the artist Kari Marboe responding to the site-specific work of 20th century artist, William Keith.

The artwork presented at the museum explores questions of what has changed and what has stayed the same. Starting with the inspiration of Kari's work, William Keith is known for creating large, majestic paintings of the American west. With these paintings, he helped advocate for the conservation of the land, as many people in the surrounding cities didn't have access to these given landscapes. In an interview with the MOA manager, Britt Royer, she explains a particular painting of Mount Tamalpais that is currently on display: "Here, there is a very dramatic sky with the lighting and the mountains in the background. Approaching this painting once again gives us questions on what has changed and what has stayed the same." Looking more closely, the Mill Valley Air Force Station was built on one of the mountains shown in the art piece, which physically changed its structure. Next to this painting are ceramic forms of Kari's thought process on how to respond to what it would look like if the peak were to be restored.

In terms of Kari's ceramic forms, her style as an artist is minimalistic and very interested in simple shapes and forms. She explores materiality, such as the brightness of the soil. Kari takes soil dirt samples of the earth or the places she explores and incorporates the material into the clay sculptures.

Another area that is currently on display is Conversations with Strangers at Stinson Beach. In this part of the exhibit, Kari interviews strangers on how this particular beach has changed for them since before the pandemic and now. Within these stranger inquiries, it explores how one place can have multiple meanings to different people. Subsequently, Kari says, "I went over to interview strangers about their experience in what had changed and what had stayed the same since they first visited. I gave each person a ceramic ring in exchange for their stories." Below this text is a net of ceramic rings which describe the number of people and their experiences that they have had at Stinson Beach and how this landscape can bring a connection amongst its visitors. As for the ceramic ring art piece itself, the way in which it's displayed represents the coastline alongside each narrative.

Unfortunately due to COVID, Kari's original idea to explore Yosemite was no longer accessible. From this point, she restructured her narrative and began thinking about the aesthetic elements of the moon. In this section of the museum, another artist had sent Kari

bowls which inspired the interest in the moon due to the shimmer of the glaze and how they showed a dark mysteriousness. To connect to the work she was creating, Kari contacted a professor to start this process of creating soil that is on the moon. With the seven ingredients she already had in her studio, she was able to replicate the soil for her artwork.

Kari also “remaps the boundaries of shifting fence lines surrounding Lake Lagunitas.” Throughout this part of the exhibit, she shows her fascination in how the fences reframe Lake Lagunitas and what it would be like to navigate in that space with the fence lines. In response, Kari created fence sculptures, as it speaks to the notion of what it would look like if it were to be restored. This portion of the display features an email correspondence between Kari and a mountain biker sharing photos of Lake Lagunitas.

Connecting to the Saint Mary's community, towards the end of these displays is an area in which students can think about these larger questions and how it can be self-applied as students return to campus. With notecards and double-sided tape, students can draw a picture about how their relationship with the campus has changed or stayed the same.

To see more of the work on the Keith + Kari exhibit, head to the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. Available for viewing until December 12th.

Sources:

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art/fall-exhibitions-2021>

Images Courtesy of Britt Royer, MOA Manager

A FURRY FACE AROUND CAMPUS

10/11/2021

Local puppy Falkor is a popular face around the Saint Mary's campus.

David Garza
News Reporter

Although Falkor may appear cute and harmless on the outside, he has a distinct purpose: to provide physical and emotional support to former combat veterans. His owner, Stephen Eberly, wants everyone to know about the benefits of a service dog, how they support veterans, and Falkor's impact on the newly-opened Veterans Resource Center.

You've probably seen him around campus. He's friendly, and good-looking, not to mention an aspiring IG model. The only drawbacks are that he's a little short, very furry, and not terribly talkative. Meet Falkor, the service dog of SMC. Falkor belongs to Stephen Eberly, 43, a former Iraq War veteran and current SMC student.

Falkor's journey with Stephen began back in March 2019. Stephen met Falkor through the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) for Vets in Walnut Creek. But being paired together didn't mean that Stephen could take Falkor home right away.

"The way it works is that they have to test the dog to see if he has the aptitude to get trained" Stephen explains. "He has to go through tests to make sure that he's able to perform the tasks that are asked of him. He has to go through a public access test, where we take him out in public to make sure that he's well-behaved and doesn't act the way other dogs would in public. The entire process takes about a year."

Once the arduous process has been completed, Falkor is left with a wide array of skills. Falkor's main responsibilities are to identify, alert, and alleviate. Falkor helps to calm down Stephen when he's agitated, and reminds him when it's time to take his medications.

"The way it works is that Falkor pays attention to what I'm doing" Stephen says. "They key in on your pheromones and start to figure out what's going on. Service dogs chemically know when you're getting to the point that you need their help."

When Falkor performs a skill properly, Stephen captures it by rewarding him so that he can know to repeat it.

But Falkor's closest activity has quite the calming effect on his owner.

"This is a process known as deep pressure therapy, and basically, that's where Falkor lies down on top of me, and the pressure is meant to alleviate stress" Stephen says. "Where other dogs might run away, Falkor stays close by. Currently, I'm training him so that he can alert me when people are close by. But that one's a work in progress."

But Falkor's impact on Stephen's far surpasses practical needs. Falkor's biggest effect is emotional.

"I like when you're walking around campus with a dog, and it's like he has a softening effect on you. Suddenly, you're known as the guy with the dog" Stephen muses. "And it's a great sign for other veterans to see when they're on campus. Falkor tells them they can hang out, that they're welcome."

As Vice President of the Veterans and Military Affiliated Gaels (VMAG), Stephen works to make sure that student veterans feel supported after they return to the rigors of school and civilian life. Their designated hang-out spot is the Veteran Resource Center (VRC) in Filippi Academic Hall, which opened a mere two weeks ago.

"Veterans aren't usually the type to advocate for themselves" Stephen admits. "But it's good for them to be surrounded by other vets, who can relate a lot better to what they're going through than the typical college student."

Veterans at SMC often face unique challenges that can't always be answered by the school. "One of the guys who came in here, the admin told him he didn't have to take another Jan Term course because he was in his fifth year, but the other vets were like 'No, you have to take Jan Term to count as a full-time student and get your maximum benefits'."

Stephen appreciates the school's efforts to set up a space for veterans, but feels that the VRC is still in its infancy.

"Eventually, I want the VRC to be like the next IC [Intercultural Center]," Stephen says when pressed on what he wants the ultimate vision of the VRC to look like. "You know the IC started out as a club back in 2009. And eventually more people got involved and it became what it is today. I'd like to see the same thing happen to the VRC."

For now, Stephen's main objective is to spread awareness of the VRC and to bring in other students to help set up events.

"We're welcome to anyone who is good at events or wants to help out, or spread the word to other students" Stephen says. "I was talking to one of the younger vets who comes in, and he says that everyone's on Instagram now. Maybe we could make Falkor the face of the VRC Instagram" He adds with a laugh.

CUTTING COUNSELING

10/11/2021

Budget cuts cause a shift in the mental health services at SMC

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
News Reporter

After almost a year and a half of primarily online classes, September marked Saint Mary's return to in-person instruction. Despite being celebrated by some as a mark of "returning to normal," the return to campus has brought upon new mental health challenges for some SMC students. Students seeking mental health services on campus may find that their offerings have changed since last year. Due to budget cuts brought on by the pandemic, CAPS was forced to decrease the number of appointments offered to students. Founded this year, the Mental Health club aims to fill this void.

According to Cynthia Cutshall, the Associate Director of Clinical Services and Operations and Outreach Coordinator at SMC's Counseling and Psychological Services, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted students' mental health and caused some students to seek services who hadn't previously sought them.

"During the pandemic, students who were already struggling with mental health issues noticed an increase in their symptoms," Cutshall said. "The folks who had never, you know, struggled with mental health stuff before were noticing some symptoms. And that's just been the broader context in which we're operating."

This trend has been examined on a greater level, with many researchers interested in the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. A CDC study conducted in July 2020, found that 40.9% of the 5,470 respondents surveyed reported adverse behavioral or mental health as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 30.9% of respondents reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression. The prevalence of anxiety symptoms was three times higher than it was in a similar study conducted before the pandemic in 2019, and the prevalence of depression symptoms was four times higher.

Cutshall says that with the return to campus, many students have reported that although it feels good to be back in person, they are also feeling very overwhelmed.

Christina Giosso, the Public Relations Officer of Mental Health Club, believes that there is an increased need for mental health services on campus with the return of students to campus.

"The past two semesters everyone was online, either zooming from home or from their dorms, which was completely isolating," Giosso said. "I think there has been a large adjustment with the transition from online to in-person, not only academically, but socially as well."

Natalie Totah, the President of the Mental Health Club, agrees and cites the transition back into in-person learning, and the large adjustment first and second-year students may be facing being on campus for the first time this year, as reasons for an increase in the demand in mental health services.

Despite this perceived increase in demand, Cutshall says that the demand for services that CAPS is facing is quite average.

"I just ran the numbers last week, we're pretty comparable to what we were two years ago during the last sort of normal non-pandemic year. So we've seen a similar number of students compared to 2019," Cutshall said.

Cutshall says that budget issues caused by the pandemic led to college-wide staffing cuts. She says that these staffing cuts have caused CAPS to reduce their session limit from ten sessions a year, to eight sessions, in order to meet the needs of the student population.

"So last year we offered 10 sessions, and before the pandemic, it was 12. We had some significant staffing cuts," Cutshall said. "We've had to reduce our session limit in order to meet the needs of all the students who need these services."

The exact figures of these budget cuts are not publicly available information. When contacted to comment on the issue, Susan Collins, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, said that as a matter of policy, Saint Mary's does not provide information about specific departments' budgets.

Cutshall emphasizes the importance of supporting the mental health needs of students during what she describes as a particularly difficult time. She hopes that once the college finds itself on firmer financial footing, CAPS will be able to refill the vacant positions.

According to Totah, although the budget cuts faced by CAPS were unavoidable, they have a detrimental effect on the student body. "I have heard comments around campus before the pandemic surrounding the lack of supply with high demand at CAPS, so I cannot imagine her students might be struggling with this major change," Totah said.

Giosso echoed a similar point. "Already students have a hard time with scheduling appointments and it can take a lot of courage to do so," Giosso said. They should feel supported and know that these services are there for them." Giosso also notes that other mental health services are often expensive and can be inaccessible for many individuals. The reduction in sessions offered by CAPS has motivated Totah to promote the Mental Health Club's mission of supporting students. "This major change gives me more motivation and drives to expand our club on campus," Totah said. "To give students an alternative if they are not able to secure a regular appointment schedule or an appointment at all at CAPS."

ORINDA NAMES NEW POLICE CHIEF

10/11/2021

Ryan Sullivan has been hired as Orinda's new chief of police and is ready for the opportunity to serve Orinda and help make the community a safer place for all

By Ryan Ford
Contributing Sports Writer

After serving the community for almost two years, the Orinda City Council announced that David Cook was retiring from his position as the chief of police on August 18th, 2021. A month later, his replacement, Ryan Sullivan was sworn in as Orinda's Chief of Police. After a thorough review of qualified candidates, Sullivan stood out as being the best for the job and expressed his excitement, "I'm very excited to be here," he said.

The Orinda City Council claimed that they followed the normal protocols when searching for candidates to fill this important position. David Biggs, the City Manager of Orinda, described the hiring process as being routine. "Orinda has a contract with the county sheriff's department for policing services, who provided the city with three pre-qualified candidates for the position, all of whom had ranks of lieutenant or higher." Biggs then conducted a process to have those candidates interviewed by Orinda's executive management team and city council members to determine who would be the best fit from a community perspective. Out of that bin, Biggs extended the offer to Lieutenant Ryan Sullivan.

Before accepting this position, Sullivan had been working in Martinez at the Contra Costa County Emergency Operations Center as the Lieutenant responsible for internal affairs. When this opportunity arose, Sullivan was very excited, due in part to his family's deep-rooted ties to the Lamorinda area. His family came to Lafayette in 1847, and growing up there always made the possibility of working in the area attractive to Sullivan.

When asked about what made Sullivan stand out during the hiring process, Biggs cited he was lucky enough to have three great candidates to choose from. But Sullivan's experience with internal affairs in addition to his familiarity with the area made him the right choice for the job. "He brings the right tone to the job as far as being someone who would like to work with and engage in the community, which is very important here in Orinda."

Fire prevention and emergency preparedness are some of the first day-to-day operations that Police Chief Sullivan will be working with the city council on, since Orinda has many areas referred to as "very high fire severity zones." Continuing to reach out to the

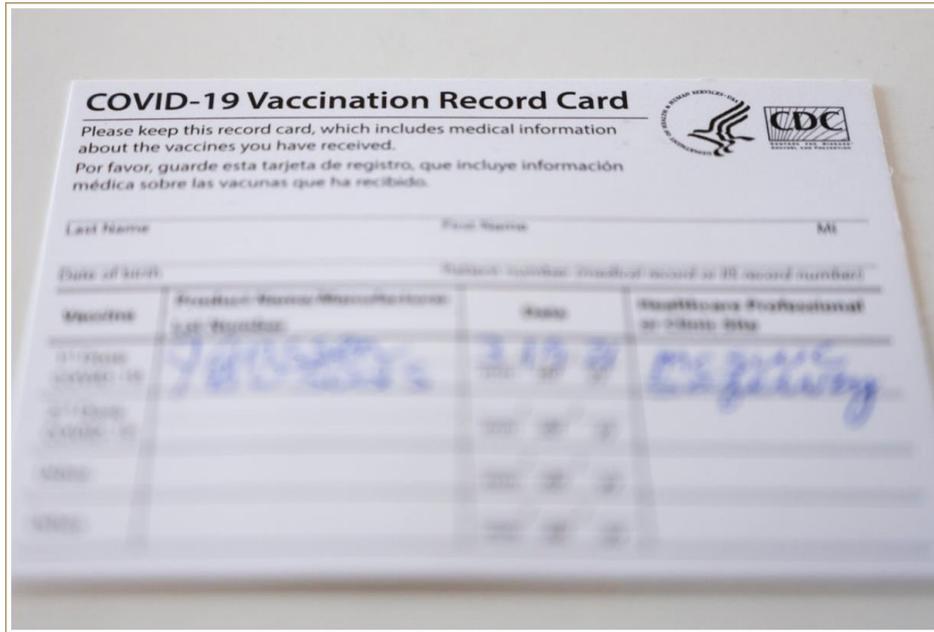
community will also be keyed on, as Orinda is working to bring back their neighborhood watch program. But, given the microscope that police departments throughout the country have been under ever since the murder of George Floyd, the chief of police may have more responsibilities than are listed in the job description.

Collin Fisher is a student at Saint Mary's, and is the student co-chair for the Black Lives Matter Subcommittee on campus. When asked what he would like to see from the new chief of police, Fisher said that he believes there is a lot that can still be done by the Lamorinda police departments to help with racial injustice. "I would want to see more work towards lessening implicit bias and discrimination towards BIPOC individuals that live in the Lamorinda area." Fisher added that having diversity training that educates on concepts like implicit bias and cultural norms is also important, because being able to understand these factors when dealing with people of different ethnic backgrounds will allow for better communication between the police and social justice groups.

Police Chief Sullivan understands the importance of policing given the political climate that this country is in. One of the responsibilities that Sullivan believes police chiefs owe to their communities is being compassionate and ethical. "Ethical policing is every chief's responsibility. Doing so at all times will provide the level of service that the community deserves. Everybody deserves this when dealing with the police." Sullivan went on to say that he has high expectations for himself and his police department, and wants to have a police force that is highly vested in the community. "Although they [Orinda Police] might not live in the Orinda, I want them to police as if their kids were walking to school, or their significant other was going to work in this community. I expect us all to be present, visible, proactive, compassionate, and ethical."

Ryan Sullivan's impressive resume and family ties show a strong commitment for this next stage in his career. Having the honor to work in Lamorinda, given his family's history in the area, made this opportunity a dream come true, "It's incredible. If my grandfather was alive he would be extremely excited. He had an attachment from growing up in Lafayette as a child, so being able to work in the Lamorinda area and hold the position of Chief of Police would've made him pretty proud."

THE PRICE OF PRIVACY



10/11/2021

HIPPA privacy laws complicate the implementation of COVID-19 prevention policy at Saint Mary's

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
News Reporter

With the return of students to campus, life may appear to be returning back to normal, but with three COVID-19 cases on campus within the last fourteen days and 25 cumulative cases this semester, the pandemic is not over yet. To protect students, Saint Mary's has instituted a number of policy measures and precautions. Yet, with two major measures—the vaccine mandate and contact tracing—enforcement is lax and the responsibility belongs to the students.

While scrolling through the COVID-19 News and Resources page on Saint Mary's website, students can find the form to self report a positive COVID-19 test result. This form asks students a range of questions, including a question asking them to list their recent contacts with whom they were within six feet of for fifteen minutes or more. Because of this current system, students are only notified that they have been exposed to COVID-19 if they have been listed.

According to Gina Zetts, the project manager for Saint Mary's COVID-19 coordination council, the issue of contact tracing can be further complicated in a classroom setting, where a lack of assigned seats can make exposure to coronavirus unclear. Nonetheless, a "shared classroom space won't necessarily mean a close contact"

Zetts says that the responsibility of notifying the contact tracing team of possible exposures belongs to the person who tested positive. If the student is unwilling or unable to give information to the contact tracing team, the team will then work with the faculty member in a class. Despite this, students could have a classmate test positive for COVID and not be notified. Zetts says that this is because of privacy laws that are meant to protect the identity of the person who tested positive.

HIPPA privacy laws have led to other complications in Coronavirus prevention policy. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, nearby schools like San Francisco State, Stanford, and UC Berkeley have had trouble verifying the authenticity of vaccination cards. Few local schools are matching the cards against the state of California's immunization records. The records are only available to health center employees due to HIPPA privacy laws, which minimizes the workforce for this task.

At Saint Mary's, the health center has been working in conjunction with Contra Costa County to verify the authenticity of vaccination cards. According to Zetts, vaccination cards from within Contra Costa County have been easy to verify, but cards from outside the county have been more difficult to check against immunization records.

Senior Liesl Pieters from Belgium was surprised by how basic the process for COVID-19 vaccination cards are in the United States, and thinks it is a bit too simple.

"A vaccination card is not seen as an official document in Belgium," Pieters said. "We all have to get a Covid-19 vaccination certificate from the European Union that is used for bars, restaurants, and travel. The document has a QR code that cannot be faked and must go through a whole verification process."

Despite the possibility for unvaccinated students and faculty to submit fake vaccination cards, Zetts does not believe that this is a serious issue on campus, and instead thinks that this all comes down to trusting one another.

“Although we're continuing to do our best as cards come in,” Zett said, “at some point, we need to trust our community, trust our students that they're being honest with us, and trust that they're holding themselves to as high standards as we are”.

SMC Junior Skyler Clouse disagrees, believing that Saint Mary's is putting too much trust into its students and should have more rules for who is allowed to come on campus while the pandemic is still going on.

“Although we should be able to trust our student body and faculty members when it comes to vaccination against Covid-19, there are always people who abuse our trust and can bring the virus onto campus,” Clouse said.

Pieters feels confused about the possible lack of verification of vaccine cards since she returned to campus with the assumption that everyone would be vaccinated.

“They were so strict about saying you cannot come on campus if you were not vaccinated, but in the end it does not seem like they are really verifying anything,” Pieters said.

Clouse's objections on the schools policy of “trusting students” extends to the exemptions students and faculty could file to avoid getting vaccinated. She believes that while religious liberties should be respected, they should not be held in a higher regard than peoples safety and health.

“If you're not getting vaccinated, respect the rest of your community and don't come to campus until the pandemic dies down,” Clouse said.

RUIN AT THE REDWOODS

10/11/2021

For a group of Saint Mary's students on October 6, 2021, the redwoods brought ruin as they returned back to Saint Marys issued Vans to find the windows smashed and personal belongings gone

By Anonymous Contributor

The Redwood Groves located at the base of the Oakland Hills, just past the exit from Moraga, bring hikers and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the tree's beauty and stature. However, what visitors don't expect is to return back to their cars to notice the windows smashed and all belongings of value missing.

In the afternoon on October 6th, a semi-large group of students ventured out for an activity in Saint Mary's issued vans, leaving them parked in an open lot, locked, and seemingly safe. In a matter of what was recorded to be an hour, unknown individuals managed to smash the windows and rifle through their belongings, stealing phones, laptops, wallets, keys, and even passports. During this ravaging, there was only one witness.

Alone in the van, a young Saint Mary's student recalled seeing the two individuals start in on the first van and then look up to notice her watching. Startled, she grabbed her phone and ran away, a necessary tactic to avoid a more dire situation. Upon return to the vans with the group, individuals reported confusion on what had happened, and what to do next. Maintaining composure, they made it to a nearby fire station, where they received help to clean the glass out and reach the police.

Upon communicating with the police, the resourceful group members began using saved phones to track the stolen ones to help with an eventual discovery of their belongings. Distraught, the students returned to campus hopeful that the police were doing all they could to find the missing stuff.

As of the morning of October 7th, the individual's belongings had been found in a dumpster in Oakland by an anonymous person. Electronics and other devices were still missing, but multiple IDs and keys were recovered with backpacks and other valuables. As of now, there is an active investigation and all those involved are alert and working.

Thank you to all who contributed to this article

JAN TERM STUDY ABROAD SUSPENDED FOR 2022

10/11/2021

By Brent Dondalski
Contributing News Reporter

January Term is a unique experience at Saint Mary's that many students really look forward to. Typically, students register for one class that meets 4 days a week for all of January. A main attraction for students is the Jan Term study abroad program, which gives students an opportunity to travel for one month and explore the world in places like South Korea, Bonaire, and Rome, to name a few.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused the suspension of Jan Term study abroad in 2021. However, students were flummoxed to discover that—after they paid for Jan Term—the cancelation of study abroad would continue into 2022.

At about 9PM on Sunday September 19th 2021, Saint Mary's students received an email from the school announcing the suspension of all non-local Jan Term travel courses for 2022 due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. Per the recommendation of the SMC Travel Risk Assessment Committee (TRAC) and the January Term Committee, the school decided that “forecasting the safety of each location in January would not be possible” and “committing the financial resources of our students to programs that have a likelihood of cancelation is not morally justified.”

Aaron Sachowitz, the director of the January Term program and chair of TRAC, spoke of the lack of reliability due to COVID-19 safety precautions when traveling to different countries. “I would hate to have an entire class to get quarantined trying to come back and then they're stuck for two weeks, then they miss the beginning of the spring semester,” he told me, elaborating that “if they were more consistent across countries, it would be much easier to plan.”

This announcement came as a shock to students across campus, many of whom were optimistic about study abroad in 2022. “My heart just fell” said Kyle Torneros '22 of receiving the email. Torneros, a data analytics major planning to travel to South Korea was not alone in his feelings of discontent.

Other students, such as business major Tyler Smith '22, emphasized how outright devastated they were. Seniors especially were heartbroken over seeing their last possibility for study abroad fade away, with Torneros explaining that “as first-years, you're not

allowed to travel. As sophomores you don't get priority registration. We didn't get to travel junior year. And then as seniors, it's taken away again. So that's where I feel like it's kind of unfair, especially for our class."

Not all students were upset. "For the last 18 months every time I'm excited for something new to change that it doesn't actually end up happening," explained sophomore biology major Keely Dumars '24. Though she is grateful she'll have the opportunity to study abroad in the future.

Despite some skepticism of travel possibilities due to the pandemic's persistence, many felt reassured by what they heard from professors, information sessions, and the Jan Term office prior to suspension. The announcement of Jan Term scholarship recipients as well as frequent info sessions on Jan Term served as a confirmation for some students. Hadley Peterson '22, an allied health sciences major, shared "the second I was awarded the scholarship is when I really was like 'this is happening,' I would be literally going to Greece." However, according to Sachowitz, suspension was always on the table, explaining that he "tried to communicate this with the faculty from as early as April, that it was really going to be dependent on ongoing review of the risks associated with travel." He discussed how the source of the school's early optimism was their expectations of vaccination rates to rise and transmission rates to fall, both of which ultimately fell short of what they wanted to see.

Moreover, health concerns were only one of the reasons Jan Term study abroad was suspended. Sachowitz did not want to risk canceling later, which could result in financial loss for students since non-refundable fees such as airline tickets or tour providers would have already been paid. To TRAC, this was a worse alternative than canceling in September. "I really wish that we weren't in a pandemic, and that was not the kind of choice we were having to make," Sachowitz explained. Though disappointed, some students generally understood that this decision was not easy. Psychology major Victoria Jacobo '22 as well as Torneros both expressed acceptance that the school had to "pull the plug" at a certain point before more financial or public health risks became imminent.

Still, the timing was less than ideal for students, with the announcement coming only 2 days after the \$2000 deposit (\$500 for those who got the scholarship) was due and with registration approaching in the next two days. Peterson detailed "I put down \$500 of my own money, and it took them a week to email us about the deposit being returned. From there, it's going to take two weeks for it to actually get back into my account, which, as a college student, is a lot of money." Additionally, students like Jacobo felt that the

announcement did not give students adequate time to research what on-campus courses were available. According to Sachowitz, the announcement came after the travel deposit had been due because they wanted to spend as much time as possible weighing whether or not travel was possible while also making this decision before registration.

Despite the suspension of Jan Term study abroad, 2022 Spring study abroad is still supposed to take place. Sachowitz explained how “a lot of the risks related to Jan Term travel are less of a risk in a study abroad program,” citing how the Spring programs are supported abroad by institutional partners rather than a one or two faculty members. He also detailed how potential quarantine periods and other COVID-19 related complications would be less of a burden in Spring because the timeframe isn’t nearly as condensed as Jan Term is. He mentioned that “the health piece stays somewhat the same” but that “some of those other risks of injury or loss from students, or the interruption of the travel or the program are much reduced in a semester abroad versus Jan Term.”

The cancelation of Jan Term 2022 study abroad comes as a disappointment in general to the Saint Mary’s community, with both faculty and students wishing that a different decision could have been made. The announcement coming after the deposit was due was the biggest contention students had with the decision, with the seniors being devastated that their last chance for Jan Term study abroad had disappeared. Though the optimism for this study abroad program was not realized, a study abroad program for those who missed this opportunity is in the works for after graduation. Sachowitz detailed his aspirations for this make-up program, saying “nothing has been approved yet...I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to, maybe in the beginning of spring, have something planned for summer and fall, that’ll be a little bit more resilient.

THE SODEXO MONOPOLY ON STUDENT'S HEALTH

10/11/2021

The Saint Mary's dining hall, the only source of food on campus, continues to have limited healthy options and has caused multiple food poisoning illnesses just this week

By: Eden Llodrá

Contributing from Sports

What is the meaning of food, if not to enhance our well-being, increase our energy and be enjoyed? For too long now, there have been health complaints among students regarding the food served at the Saint Mary's Dining Hall. Meeting with some students to talk about their experience gave perspective to the magnitude of effects that physical health can also have on one's mental health. A one on one interview with the Sodexo general manager, Lorne Ellison, also gave insight on the changes being made from the inside.

On Tuesday, September 28th, three students from Saint Mary's disclosed that they had gotten sick from eating an omelette at the dining hall. As rare as it may seem to get food poisoning, one of them added, "this was the second time we've gotten sick." A mishap illness once in a while is understandable, however, three people admitting it to be far from a new experience gives reason for concern.

In an interview with Dr. Rubin, a health professor at Saint Mary's College, provided the scientific explanation behind food borne illnesses and why the eggs might have caused the students to get sick. She said "Eggs can carry bacteria in a form known as E. coli, which can be found in most factory farms." This is due to the fact that animal waste can leak and contaminate the water used to irrigate the crops, which are then fed to the farm animals.

Even though most of the food is local from the Central Valley, Lorne Ellison said, "typical proteins and produce are sourced less than 500 miles from the location." It is the quality of the farm that determines the safety and grade of the food served. Local farms do not mean that the produce and meat is organic or free range.

Alongside the importance of sourcing organic produce and poultry, it is essential that the preparation of the food is done correctly. It seems to be a common pattern for students to steer towards food that is predictable and deemed "safe." For most, the salad bar and the

simple servings section has been a go to spot, yet many students are still left either unsatisfied or in discomfort.

A junior, Elizabeth Bermudez '23, said "the last time I got chicken from the dining hall in the simple servings section it was practically raw and pink inside." This reflects a fault in food safety guidelines and puts students at risk of getting sick from food borne illnesses. Raw meat should never be served, as it jeopardizes the health of the consumers and exposes them to illnesses such as E.coli and Salmonella.

In an interview with Ellison, on "a mission to understand the needs of the community and better the program," he intends on including more readily available food sources around campus. His idea of adding two cafes on campus called 'The Stomping Elephant' to provide more food options for students is just that, an idea. The school board has yet to approve any changes, insinuating that improvements are not in the dining hall's near future.

The plan of providing more 'readily available foods' raises apprehension, as food made quickly is not necessarily done with more care and correlates to fast food. In the dining hall, there is already easy access to a multitude of pizzas, burgers, fries, and ice cream. These foods are all highly processed and, as Dr. Rubin explained, "can cause students to experience mental fog and crashes in energy levels." She also said, "it can be hard for students to maintain concentration when so much is happening biochemically."

This level of connection between what people eat and the mind completely changes the way that the school should evaluate food. In order for students to perform at their best, it is vital for them to eat foods that are not just 'readily available' but, in fact, have all the micronutrients and vitamins that they need in order to maintain a balanced gut and healthy mind. Dr. Rubin pointed out that "90 percent of serotonin receptors are found in the gut."

This means that gut health is not only directly connected to people's neurotransmitters, but also shows that our mental health is a mirror of our diet. People's moods are directly correlated to what they eat and how it makes their body feel. The solution seems to be to have access to more whole foods and complex carbs, not just the common "salt, sugar, and fat," that Dr. Rubin says processed foods consist of. With more focus and value put on nutrition, there may be more positive outcomes in matters of the mental health of students on campus.

The health of students is vital, as it influences and has effects in every aspect of people's daily lives. Without change from the head of the dining hall, without a focused priority in quality over quantity, and without striving for a healthy, balanced diet for on campus residents, students will not know what it is like to feel and perform at their highest potential. And at the end of the day, what are humans without the proper fuel and energy that bodies require?

CAPS IN A PANDEMIC

10/19/2021

By Natalie Alden
Contributing Writer

The Counseling And Psychological Services (CAPS) at Saint Mary's help students deal with various different mental health issues such as eating disorders, trauma, homesickness, relationship issues, different aspects of identity, and most commonly anxiety and depression. Given that this is the first year students are back on campus after a year online, students may feel more anxious with the multitude of changes as a result of the pandemic. Cynthia Cutshall, the associate director of clinical services and operations/outreach coordinator of CAPS, has seen just that. The CAPS office has recorded double the number of students coming in for mental health issues so far this academic year than before Covid-19.

More students have reported to reach out to the CAPS office with issues of anxiety than any other year prior, according to Cutshall. She says that students are happy to be back on campus but the growing anxiety of students has been apparent from the start. Cutshall states, "We have had twice as many students come into our office these first few weeks of school than before the pandemic. It's exacerbated."

Cutshall explains that having an influx of students during the first few weeks of the school year can be typical, however, this has been unusually busy for counselors at CAPS with the large number of students seeking help for their mental health. This statistic does not surprise Makenzie O'Neil, a psychology professor at Saint Mary's. This growing number of students seeking mental health help could be due to a couple of different things. O'Neil states, "People are more likely to talk to and seek help. The pandemic has had a negative impact on people's mental health, however, it cannot boil down to one specific reason."

More students may be more willing in 2021 than years prior to seek help for their mental health because of the growing acceptance of therapy and mental health in the past year. Cutshall shares, "Students are more open to coming to our office to talk to us about their mental health because the stigma around therapy has gotten better." Cutshall also notes that although each year the number of students utilizing CAPS has increased, this year the number of students seeking help for their mental health has doubled from 2019. "People are afraid of their well-being especially at a time like this", O'Neil states.

The CAPS office has also noticed that most of the students they are seeing come in for anxiety and depression. "Definitely the most common mental health issue students have come in for so far this semester has been anxiety and depression," Cutshall shares. This spike in students seeking out CAPS could also be due to a year of attending classes remotely. O'Neil echoes that point by mentioning that the "Challenges of shifting to online learning can be isolating and cause stress."

Although the CAPS office reports that they have seen a major influx of students in comparison to previous years before Covid-19, Cutshall reinforces that students are more optimistic than pessimistic. Cutshall states, "Students report to be doing much better being back in person. Attendance at outreach events is much higher." According to Cutshall, the CAPS office is feeling good about students' outlook on the year ahead, now being back in person, but is encouraging students to pace themselves when integrating back to in-person learning to help students not feel overwhelmed. Professor O'Neil also states that "Humans are social species, removing that has had its impact."

In terms of looking ahead for the CAPS office, Cutshall is hoping for the best after Covid-19 layoffs in her department. "I would like to see CAPS fully staffed again, have a psychiatrist on staff to prescribe medication, and to have more outreach programs," shares Cutshall. Being fully staffed again seems to be necessary considering the much larger number of students are using CAPS in a post pandemic year than ever before.

SENIORS ARE UNCERTAIN AND CONFLICTED ABOUT ENTERING A REMOTE WORKFORCE

10/19/2021

By Jacqueline Mastrelli

The seniors of Saint Mary's believe that remote work is here to stay. Holly Nguyen, President of the Marketing Club said, "I definitely think it will become part of our culture." Data from management consulting firm, McKinsey & Company, backs her up. After performing a global analysis, they have concluded that "hybrid models of remote work are likely to persist in the wake of the pandemic."

Although many students embrace the freedom and efficiency of remote work, most have a sober understanding of the unique challenges that come with it. Daniela Catubig, President of the Gael Women in Business Club, is looking forward to a hybrid-remote model with Salesforce after graduation. But she admits that "[remote work] is hard because I get distracted when I'm at home. I'm alone with my phone without anyone to hold me accountable."

Daniela proves that there are solutions to everything; during her summer internship with Salesforce, she would create a Zoom room with friends where they would be able to get their work done and hold each other accountable. The MO was, "Don't talk, let's just work and stay focused." Despite this, she is ultimately pro remote work and looks forward to the way it will give her the opportunity to spend more time with her family in the future.

Holly Nguyen also worked a remote internship over the summer but found the negatives outweigh the positives. She found remote work unnecessarily difficult because "response times to my questions were slow and it was hard to be shown how to do something." Looking back at the internship, she concludes that her virtual training didn't properly prepare her for the position. "It was super quick. Then they were just like alright, now do what we just showed you." Moving forward, she is "98% sure" she is going to be working in-person post-graduation, something she is looking forward to.

CASE CLOSED?

10/19/2021

Independent investigators claim to have solved the Zodiac Killer Case

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
News Reporter

Throughout the late 1960s, a masked man terrorized parts of the Bay Area, sending coded notes, supposedly filled with clues about his identity, to major newspapers across the bay area and ultimately committing five known murders. Though his known crimes ended in 1969, they have never been solved, and the mystery of the Zodiac Killer remains one of the most famous unsolved crimes in American history. A group of Bay Area forensic investigators have named a new suspect, claiming to have solved this decades-long cold case.

The Case Breakers, the organization behind the new developments in this case, has named Gary Poste as a likely Zodiac Killer suspect. The group describes itself as a “small army of volunteers—with law and order and public safety in their DNA” and aims to solve neglected cases for overwhelmed agencies. The group was founded by Los Angeles-based documentarians Thomas J. and Dawna Colbert in 2011 and has since grown to be a 40 member task force led by retired FBI officers.

According to a former Army Counterintelligence officer and Case Breaker, Jen Bucholtz, Gary Poste was a member of the United States Air Force and was stationed in Vandenberg California. Once he left the military, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he started a house painting business. Bucholtz says that Poste can be placed in the right areas and places during the time the murders were committed, including the 1966 murder of Cheri Jo Bates in Riverside, California.

Bucholtz says that the Case Breakers decided to go to the media to get the FBI to confirm or deny the plausibility of Poste being a suspect using testing like DNA testing. Bucholtz claims there is DNA evidence from Cheri Jo Bates’s killer and that the Vallejo police department has DNA from Gary Poste. She says that the Case Breakers theory could be easily tested if the two departments exchange information.

A recent tongue-in-cheek article by KQED reports that “5 other times we learned the Zodiac killers ‘true’ identity” and notes that this is not the first time someone has come forward claiming to have solved the Zodiac Killer case. In fact, the Wikipedia page for the Zodiac Killer lists 21 different suspects. Rae Alexandra from KQED argues that out of these 21 suspects, five of them are much more convincing Zodiac killers than Poste, who died in 2018.

Authorities, however, have cast doubt on the claims made by the Case Breakers. In a statement, the San Francisco FBI office says its “investigation into the Zodiac Killer remains open and unsolved” and declines to release any information related to the independent group’s theory.

“Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, and out of respect for the victims and their families, we will not be providing further comment at this time,” the statement said. With Gary Poste dead, and authorities refusing to comment further, it is unclear what the future holds for this famous Bay Area case.

A NEW WEAPON AGAINST MALARIA

10/19/2021

In a time for groundbreaking vaccines, the WHO recommends the widespread use of the malaria vaccine for children who are at high risk

By Kamryn Sobel
News Reporter

On October 6th, the World Health Organization recommended a new defense against the deadly malaria disease. In regions with high transmission rates amongst children, the recommendation is set for the population. Specifically, this is based on a pilot program in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi, in which malaria has reached more than 800,000 innocent children since 2019. With a new tool to help combat this vicious disease, thousands of children will be kept from a lethal fate.

A background on malaria: malaria is caused by a parasite that infects Anopheles mosquitoes, which then feed on humans. Typically, these mosquitoes are females that are infected by a person with malaria parasites. When searching for its next meal, the parasites mix with the saliva of the mosquito and are transmitted to the next person. Although it cannot be spread like a cold or flu due to the parasites being found in human red blood cells, malaria can be transferred through organ transplant, blood transfusion, or objects contaminated with blood.

Unfortunately, with malaria being a leading cause of death amongst children in the sub-Saharan Africa area, at least 260,000 children 5 and under die annually. In the United States, to compare, around 2,000 cases per year are reported of the malaria disease, while internationally, 229 million cases were estimated in 2019 by the World Health Organization. Malaria is rare in warm climates, as many of these reported cases are from those traveling to and from countries where transmission rates are high.

Finding a way to create the malaria vaccine was a lengthy process. Due to this disease transmitting parasites, it becomes a much more complex task in the making of an effective vaccine. Parasites can change and adapt to their environment, for they are organisms. For

multiple decades, particularly since the successful human trial in 1996, there have been many trials starting from adults and making their way to younger children due to safety precautions. Now, many are rejoicing after the WHO came out with the endorsement after years of experiments and tragedy.

According to the immunization and malaria global advisory bodies from the WHO, it is recommended “that in the context of comprehensive malaria control, the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine be used for the prevention of *P. falciparum* malaria in children living in regions with moderate to high transmission as defined by WHO. RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine should be provided in a schedule of 4 doses in children from 5 months of age for the reduction of malaria disease and burden.”

Alongside the malaria vaccine, other tools such as the insecticide-treated nets have resulted in over 90% of children benefiting from at least one malaria intervention. Some of the other key findings of many from the vaccine pilots include more 2.3 million doses have been administered to 3 African countries, 30% reduction rates have been reported in severe malaria cases, and that the vaccine is cost-effective in regions with high transmission rates.

With the hunt for this vaccine being considered one of the most important research projects in public health, specifically in Africa, “this is a historic moment. The long-awaited malaria vaccine for children is a breakthrough for science, child health and malaria control,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

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LATINX CLUB HOPES TO SUMMONS SCHOOL SPIRIT WITH CULTURAL NIGHTS

10/19/2021

After a long eighteen months stuck at home, the student body of Saint Mary's is overjoyed to be back on campus, eager to make new memories and participate in old traditions. Perhaps no one is more excited than the Saint Mary's Latinx Club, which is in the early stages of planning its annual cultural night in the spring. Stephanie Ramirez '22, the co-chair of the Latin Cultural Night's executive team, wants to approach this year's event a little bit differently.

David Garza
News Reporter

"I definitely feel like I need to make up for lost time."

This is the sentiment shared by Stephanie Ramirez when asked about how she plans to approach this year's Latin Cultural Night. "There are lots of freshmen and sophomores who don't know anything about LCN because they felt disconnected from all the time we spent online. I want them to know what an in-person LCN feels like."

LCN is part of the annual Cultural Night Series, a 3-4 hour event meant as a showcase for the various cultures of minority communities. Other cultural nights include celebrations for Expressions of Blackness (EOB), BASH (LGBTQIA+), PICN (Pacific Islander), ACN (Asian), and MENA (Middle Eastern/North Africa). Planning kicks off in the fall with a weekend Diversity Retreat, followed by weekly meetings among executive teams who are in charge of planning and executing the event.

Students who participate in the Cultural Nights are allowed to demonstrate any kind of artistic expression unique to their culture, and each expression is referred to as a set, none of which run longer than ten minutes. After coming up with their ideas with the help of biweekly workshops, students are expected to rehearse their set leading up to the big night. Past sets have included dancing, singing, poetry reading, comedy shows, videos, and fashion shows. There was even one year where they had a guacamole competition.

"That was fun" Stephanie recalls with a laugh. "Everyone made guacamole and had to taste them, but each of the plates were different because every culture made guacamole a little bit differently."

In addition to being a fun way to display your culture, the sets often have a personal meaning to them as well.

“The sets are a way to communicate a part of yourself without having to have a conversation,” Stephanie says. “The audience knows another part of you just from watching your set.”

As the co-chair of the executive team, Stephanie’s responsibilities include working with the various departments at Saint Mary’s, including the department of College of Communications, to organize, finance, and promote the event.

“One of the other challenges that we have to deal with is the overall lack of awareness among the student body,” Stephanie details. “I want to take a different approach this year. Most of the organization’s executive teams were all seniors, so now that they’ve graduated, we have to bring in new people and pair them up with people who are more experienced. It’s kind of like we’re starting from scratch.”

Stephanie’s involvement with LCN started her freshman year, as she wanted to learn more about other Latin American cultures in addition to feeling closer to the school’s Latinx community.

“I’m Mexican, which I think is kind of the go-to culture that immediately comes to mind when people think of Latin America,” Stephanie says. “I even think that way sometimes. But Latin America is so much more than just Mexico. There are Salvadorans, and Hondurans, and Guatemalans—there’s a huge melting pot of cultures that people tend to overlook, and LCN helps draw attention to the very unique cultural traditions of every one of them.”

Latin Cultural Night, which this year is set for March 27th, is fast approaching its twentieth year of celebration, a landmark Stephanie hopes to celebrate by going out with a bang for her senior year.

“I think it’s important to get all of the classes involved, not just the underclassmen. For my senior Latinx friends who haven’t been as involved with the community, I want to reach out so that they can learn. This is a space to bring those Latinx students back home, so they can feel good because it’s part of their identity.”

Even so, Stephanie wants to combat the common perception that LCN is only intended for Latinx students. "We want non-Latinx students to attend! We don't have enough of them. We'd love it if the community could turn out to support the event. At the end of the day, we're all one community. This space is welcome to everybody."

OPINION

WE NEED MORE SPACE FOR CIS-MEN TO EXPLORE MASCULINITY AND GENDER

10/12/2021

I want to put this on the table. I believe that we are in a time where women and LGBTQIA+ people deserve to be heard and in power. However, I do not believe that cis-men should be discriminated against and not be allowed to sit at the table.

Brooke Haggarty
Opinion Columnist

An event that honestly piqued my interest as a Women's and Gender Studies major was the "Exploring Masculinity" event hosted by the Intercultural Center. I was shocked that there was such an opportunity for cis-men to join one another and talk about masculinity. Often times when masculinity is brought up in the classroom or even popular youth media, it is shot down and demonized. To provide sympathy or pity towards men is social suicide and seen as heterosexual feminists being brainwashed and subservient to their male partners. I can see why.

I was in a long-term relationship at one point where I had to compromise my feminist self and almost suppress it in order to be happy with a traditional lifestyle with a white-picketed fence, children, and the only spin was that I wanted to work. I guess that is what I get when I think I am invincible to toxic masculinity, as all I talk about is the social constructs of gender and its history. So why on God's green earth am I entertaining the thought of giving men space when for the majority of my life all interactions with men have been sexist and objectifying?

Well, it's because I feel like men do not have the chance to even reflect on their masculinity without either A) enjoying the privileges of it B) not getting the opportunity or C) getting shot down every time they try to bring up their experiences as a man. Don't get me wrong, I do think mansplaining is a problem, but I think what is even more of a problem in our modern times is not actively providing men the chance to redefine what masculinity is in a healthy way.

I think we have tried this by presentations and learning feminist theory. But, we really haven't sat down and actually asked them: "What do you think masculinity is? And what do you think it should be?" You can ask just about any man, and they will say some of these expectations that they have participated in were not their idea alone. Another is they feel robbed of the ability to make intimate connections with their peers out of the fear of being seen as less manly and even potentially gay. Now, despite the male privilege that most of us cite on a daily basis when referring to men and the power that they have over society, we cannot ignore how incredibly sick and inhumane it is that men, on a daily basis, cannot acknowledge the basic emotional and mental needs of a human without either A) being shamed for it B) being labeled as something they may not identify as or C) being told woe is me, cry me a river. Because of this, I feel that it is incredibly important that we make more space for cis-men to explore masculinity and gender.

This is entirely necessary so that men can have the opportunity to redefine what masculinity means to them and see that identifying as something other than a man is okay. In the end, we are not only helping men feel like people, but we are giving the people who are in power the tools that they need to dismantle the system that confines them the most and oppresses the rest of us. By actively providing cis-men the outlet to explore what their identity means to them, we can then invite them to the table where we can change the system and liberate us all. Even if the likelihood of this happening feels impossible by providing this opportunity at a small liberal arts school, I can say with certainty that this is the way that we need to go in order to enact change and create a society that we are equal and happy no matter our gender and sexual orientation.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS FOR VACCINES SHOULD NOT EXIST

10/12/2021

Public health is not a matter of personal choice.

By Roya Amirshyebani
Opinion Columnist

Since the announcement of the wider mandate of getting vaccinated against Covid-19, Covid-19 deniers and vaccine resisters have kept busy finding more and more loopholes to justify their lack of care for public health concerns. A popular highlight within the multitude of excuses given by anti-vaxxers includes religious exemption claims, which is a request made by a religious individual subject to a vaccine requirement to avoid such a requirement. As one might expect, this antagonism has led to significant clashes between employers and leaders that wish to protect the public and those that feel unfit to comply.

On Saint Mary's campus, the provided option of claiming exemption from the Covid-19 vaccine due to religious beliefs is a controversial subject. According to the college's website, 97% of students and faculty are vaccinated against Covid-19, meaning that a small percentage of those on campus have claimed an exemption, which begs the question "Is this justified?" From the perspective of a non-religious, pro-vaccine advocate for protecting the safety of others, using religion to justify not getting vaccinated against Covid-19 should not be an option in either setting.

A quick Google search reveals that no significant religion actively opposes being vaccinated against Covid-19. According to NPR journalist Laurel Wamsley, many religious groups, including Jehovah's Witnesses and the Catholic Church, have issued statements that contradict the very existence of the option of claiming religious exemption. Pope Francis, the pope of the Catholic church, has also voiced his opinion on the COVID-19 vaccine, referring to it as an "act of love." Seeing that Saint Mary's is a religious college affiliated with the Catholic Church, it should not be a question whether or not those living and learning on-campus may be exempt from the Covid-19 vaccine due to religious reasons. However, for some reason, the College (and a large percentage of universities in the United States) are accepting religious exemptions as a form of permission to let educators and students on campus. While it may seem like a minuscule detail, the availability of this as an option leads me to question how far institutions will go to garner as much tuition as possible.

These revelations lead me to question the honest truth behind this faith-backed excuse. In my opinion, it seems highly likely that many vaccine resisters that seek an exemption from the vaccine are making an excuse to justify their lack of concern for the general public and distrust of the American government. According to the Associated Press, Chief medical advisor Anthony Fauci has expressed concerns that people who resist vaccination against Covid-19 due to religious reasons are not making legitimate claims. I share this concern, and question why any employer or institution would ever consider approving a religious exemption. While the United States of America has been known as “the land of the free,” the quest for personal freedom should not apply in a health crisis as dire as the Covid-19 pandemic.

As all Gaels are (hopefully) aware, Saint Mary’s is guided by the five Lasallian Core Principles, which include: concern for the poor and social justice, faith in the presence of God, quality education, respect for all persons, and inclusive community. Let us all have respect for one another by getting vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to promote the safety and health of our fellow Gaels.

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SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY GRAPPLES WITH SEXUAL ASSAULTS

10/12/2021

Less than a month into the 2021-2022 school year, there have been 30 assaults reported

By Riley Mulcahy
Opinion Columnist

With the recent events of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, there must be a zero-tolerance policy against sexual assault and sexual harassment. Student safety is the number one priority of any university. However, Santa Clara University, whose school year started September 30th, reported numerous sexual assaults early on in the term. The situation begs the question, how did the University get here? According to KRON-4 News, most of the cases have occurred at off-campus parties and involved the use of date rape drugs. Although Santa Clara University argues that it does follow the correct procedures, it can be tricky to handle off-campus situations.

According to Santa Clara University, the school has received three reports of sexual assaults that occurred off-campus. Although, officially, there have only been three cases reported, it is not surprising that survivors do not come forward; at times, there can be shame and guilt associated with sexual assault and the idea of going to a school to report a sexual assault. A couple of years ago, a case at Stanford ended with convicted rapist Brock Turner getting three months in jail because the judge thought that he "came from a good family."

The Mercury News reports that according to "RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), which operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, said that 20% of female students ages 18 to 24 report sexual violence allegations to law enforcement compared to 32% of women in the same age group who aren't students, citing U.S. Department of Justice statistics." Furthermore, the data reveals that the main reasons why women did not report their assaults differed: "Twenty-six percent of female students said they didn't report because "it was a personal matter" and 20% said it was due to "fear of reprisal."

The data is startling. For years, college students have had to deal with the reality of going to a party and possibly being raped and then afraid to report to authorities or the college because of fear of retaliation. Colleges and universities have made an effort to have

resources available on campus, but there is still a reluctance from students to reach out and try to use the support that the campus provides for them. The cost of reporting sometimes means revealing the most traumatic incident of your life to a stranger who does with the information what they feel is right, and there is a loss of privacy.

Although colleges and universities must do their best to eliminate sexual assault, one must question their role in these situations. If a survivor wants to press charges, why does the university need to be involved, not just the authorities? This question does not mean that students should not go to universities to reach out for help if they feel comfortable confiding in someone. Counselors on campus will help the survivor process the assault and provide resources if they want to report. However, it is still important to question the effectiveness of the college processes in how to report a sexual assault. There are massive discrepancies between assaults and the amount that the university is aware of. Bureaucracy has no place on a college campus when someone is violated, and sadly there are often roadblocks to survivors reporting, which means situations such as Santa Clara University occur.

In order for students to succeed academically, the campus must support them emotionally, especially when trauma is involved. Students who survive sexual assaults should not have to go through barriers and roadblocks to reach out for help in one of their lowest moments. If colleges streamlined the process, established total confidentiality, and worked with law enforcement to create accountability, students would know that sexual assault will not be accepted. We must protect survivors and punish the criminals, not the other way around.

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If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual or domestic violence, SMC's CARE Center is here to support you

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/sexual-assault-and-violence-prevention>

THE PROBLEM WITH CANCELING DAVE CHAPPELLE

10/19/2021

Twitter has gone crazy after Chappelle made an insensitive trans joke, but does he deserve to be canceled?

By Riley Mulcahy
Opinion Columnist

Dave Chappelle released a new Netflix special called “The Closer” and Twitter has lost its mind. In it, Chappelle makes a joke about trans people, saying that he is “Team TERF,” which according to The New York Times stands for “trans-exclusionary radical feminist,” which the Times states is a term used for a group of people who argue that one’s gender identity is fixed at birth. In an internal document, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings argues that the debate is over “artistic expression,” however, only time will tell whether or not Netflix is on the right side of history.

The role of comedy in society is controversial. In many respects, comedians telling offensive jokes is what draws adoring fans to see Chris Rock or Amy Schumer or the late Robin Williams. Chappelle’s joke was in poor taste, and there should be a discussion on the language we use when we reference the LGBTQI+ community. Still, the fact that Chappelle could be canceled for one bad joke shows society’s hostile attitude. Where is the outrage when Kim Kardashian, who is not a comedian, hosts SNL and makes a joke about the first Black person she met, telling the audience to take a “stab in the dark” to who it is? For those unfamiliar with the context, Kardashian’s father, Robert Kardashian, was on the defense team and personal friend of OJ Simpson, who was accused of murdering his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman in 1995.

One of the most ardent Chappelle haters is Jaclyn Moore, who identifies as trans and is the showrunner of the Netflix show “Dear White People.” She has vowed never to work with Netflix again because of the special and the joke in particular. Moore’s boycott is peculiar not because she disagrees with the joke but because she herself has some explaining to do. How can a white showrunner of a show intended for Black people to have a platform to address white people tell a Black comic when a joke crosses the line? Chappelle’s career has been about pushing the envelope and creating a space where everyone is celebrated (and roasted).

The outrage against Chappelle's joke is understandable. What is not is the attempt to take Chappelle's career away. In defense of Chappelle, a family of a former trans friend and Comedian of Chappelle's Daphne Dorman came to his defense, arguing that Dorman understood that Chappelle was an LGBTQI+ ally and that she did not find Chappelle's comedy "offensive." What is so off-putting about this situation is that there is a duality to Chappelle's approach. Off-stage, he is known to be an ally of the trans community; however, on stage, he has made transphobic jokes. Hastings's statement is correct in the sense that Chappelle has the freedom to say anything within reason that will not offend the overwhelming majority of people. The overwhelming popularity of Chappelle's work, regardless of the joke, shows that his comedy is still being celebrated. It is up to the individual to decide what they will consume.

Chappelle is not afraid to step into controversy. He was one of the first comedians to call out R. Kelly's sexual tendencies and illegal behavior years before Kelly's conviction for sexual crimes against minors. Chappelle had a show named after him, where he performed skits and invited Neo-Soul artists such as Erykah Badu to perform. In 2006, Chappelle ended his show and went on a hiatus, announcing a deal with Netflix in 2016. Chappelle said this will be his last comedy special for Netflix "for a while," which might mean that we may not see him in the public eye any time soon, given this controversy.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOUR PASSWORDS?

10/19/2021

By Joseph Amir
Opinion Columnist

By now, some of you may have heard about the Twitch.tv hack that happened a week ago. The entire source code as well as salted passwords of the well-known streaming platform Twitch, owned by Amazon, were leaked online, totaling 125GB of data. And if you have an account on the platform, there is good reason to worry—your password may have been leaked. But don't worry too much, there are some very basic strategies to keep your account information safe from any would-be hackers purchasing your passwords and login information on the dark web that you should take, regardless of whether you had an account on Twitch or not.

Firstly (and this is important), never use the same password on different sites. If you use the same password everywhere, and just one of your accounts gets compromised, the first thing that a cybercriminal will do is to try that same password for your login on every other site that you are signed up on, including your bank. This means that they can access any site that you are signed up on, and potentially steal your information, your money, or even details about your life that you'd like to keep private.

If you are worried that your information has been compromised, you can check on the site haveibeenpwned.com, a site that will monitor whether your passwords have been leaked and send you an email if an account has been leaked that contains that email. This way, you can find out whether your account information needs to be changed, or worse, you need to freeze your credit—I have personally been exposed to 6 data breaches, one of which was the infamous University of California breach that exposed my social security number, and led to me needing to place a credit freeze. This is especially important to us college students if any of us applied for a spot at a UC in the last few years: this data breach was catastrophic and could very well result in long-lasting consequences for our financial future.

Secondly, make sure you are using a password manager to keep track of those different passwords. I personally use iCloud Keychain, Apple's built-in password manager in iOS and macOS, that uses biometric authentication and a master password to keep all your passwords safe in autofill. It even tells you when a password has been compromised so

that you can change it immediately. However, there are many reputable managers out there, such as LastPass and 1Password, that can keep your passwords safe and ensure that you are always able to log into your accounts.

Lastly, always make sure that you have 2-factor authentication set up on sites that allow it. This is a feature of some accounts wherein you are able to log in with a password, and then they send a notification to a trusted device or an authenticator app that you need in conjunction with that password in order to be able to log into your account. SMS 2-factor authentication is the least secure method because it is vulnerable to other attacks such as SIM-jacking, but is still better than no 2-factor authentication at all. The most secure method is using a secondary app such as Google Authenticator, and you should enable it for sites that support it.

If you take these steps, you will ensure that it is as hard as possible for someone to hack into your accounts and keep your personal information secure. It isn't necessarily the easiest task to go through all of your accounts and change the old passwords that you've used, but it is entirely worth it because it's an investment into your future security, and you don't want to be stuck doing it once you hear one of your accounts is breached. I personally found out that my social security number had been stolen mid-flight over the Atlantic Ocean, and had to spend half of my flight time freezing my credit on Experian in the middle of the night battling jet lag, which could have been easily avoided if I had just planned ahead and set better, different passwords. So take my advice, and invest in your future peace of mind by following these steps!

CULTURE

THE SHOW THAT HAS EVERYONE ASKING: “WHAT IS SQUID GAME AND WHY IS IT ALL OVER MY TIKTOK FEED?”

10/12/2021

*This series has everyone asking "what the actual f**k is a Dalgona cookie?"*

By Sarah Bagdon
Culture Columnist

The K-drama known as “Squid Game” has taken the world by storm. It has reached the No. 1 spot on Netflix in 90 different countries. It has completely dominated the Internet. We’ve all seen the TikToks: people attempting to make those traditional Dalgona cookies, people poking fun at Gen-Z if they participated in the games, cosplayers dressing up as the characters, even people who find player 067 very attractive.

Ahmed Twaij, a journalist, filmmaker, and doctor wrote an article for NBC, saying that on TikTok the hashtag “#SquidGame” has been used over 22.8 billion times. The real question is: is it over-hyped? The answer: Well, that depends on if you’ve seen the show or not. As someone who has recently finished the show, I can say that I’ve been left with many questions. Now don’t worry, there won’t be any spoilers, but I can say that this show is filled with drama, plot twists, plot holes, and will leave you with so many questions.

A show about people in severe debt, playing childish games, and getting killed if they lose—how on Earth did it become an overnight sensation that completely dominates the Internet? The main character, Seong Gi-Hun, is in severe debt and tries his hardest to find a way to make money to save his sick mother and support his young daughter. He is the cliché kind of person who drinks away his problems and spends the little money that he has. He goes against any advice that anyone gives him, until it starts to really affect him. In the show, we learn that his sickly mother does not have medical insurance and he can’t afford the bills because he gambled all their money away, so he gets desperate. He begins to do whatever it will take to earn the money.

He’s so desperate that he agrees to play a children’s game with some stranger in a suit at the subway station. Now, why would he agree to play some game with a random person?

The wager was 100,000 won (about \$84 USD). Granted, in the U.S., that's not much money, but it was almost enough for Gi-Hun to pay for his mother's medical bills. Of course, the show couldn't stop there, that was only the beginning. The strange man offers Gi-Hun that cursed card that we've all seen, the one with the circle, square, and triangle. A phone number is on the back, and as with all suspicious cards, it's a suspicious number. But of course there would be no show without Gi-Hun calling the number and realizing that if he played some childish games and won, he'd earn a substantial amount of money.

6 games, 456 players, only one winner. As viewers, you'd think "eliminated" would mean sent home, but oh boy is that wrong. The first game, 'Red Light, Green Light,' is your typical juvenile game where someone says "green light," and you move as far as you can, then they say "red light," and you stop. If you move, you're out. Little does the audience know that when someone's out, that's the end of the line... for good. You lose, you die. Each person that dies, means 100 million won (about \$84,000 USD) added to the total. 45.6 billion won (about \$38 million USD) is now at stake.

This show leaves viewers biting their nails and hanging on to the edge of their seats as 456 turns to 1. Unique main characters that each have a different story make for good television. Not only is each character special in their own way, but the writer, Hwang Dong-hyuk, created characters that are easy to get attached to and sympathize with. In this show's case, it stirs strong emotions in the viewers as they watch players get eliminated throughout the course of nine episodes.

This morbid, dark, mysterious thriller K-drama has shocked and enticed audiences in over 90 countries. It has dominated almost every social media algorithm. It has everyone asking, "How do I make these cookies properly?"

But one question still remains: Is it over-hyped? Quite frankly, yes, but it's making history before our very eyes as it inches closer to becoming the most streamed series on Netflix.

HARRY STYLES' LOVE ON TOUR

10/12/2021



Harry Styles' tour is a highly anticipated event that many fans have been looking forward to for over a year. (Image Courtesy of Writer)

By Remy Zerber
Culture Columnist

Harry Styles is one of the most successful English musicians of this generation. He was in one of the most successful boy bands ever, One Direction, which was formed on the X Factor in 2010. After they split, all the band members went on to pursue solo careers, with Harry Styles becoming one of the most successful former One Direction members. He has recently embarked on his Love On Tour to promote his second album, Fine Line. While on tour, Harry has already had some interesting things happen on his tour like a fan asking for dating advice, Harry doing a gender reveal for a couple, a sighting of former 1D member Louis Tomlinson by a fan, and much more.

Harry Styles played cupid for a fan at a show in Minnesota when he offered her some relationship advice. When he saw a fan holding a sign that said "Should I text him?" he responded by asking the fan if the guy was nice to her and the fan's friend replied "no." The crowd booed and Harry explained "in my opinion, if you should [text him], this isn't even a question," he said. When sharing what he would do in the situation, he said, "My personal opinion is that if there's any sort of games, trash! Trash! Trash! Not for you!" His response was something that sounded like it was from *The Notebook*, which gained a lot of attention on social media to the point where "TRASH, TRASH, TRASH!" was trending on Twitter.

At a show in Chicago, Harry gave out even more love advice when he saw a sign that said "Help me get my boyfriend to propose to me." After the sign caught his attention, Styles asked the couple how long they've been together and noted, "Seven years, oh, I can't help you. ... What's the hold up, Lucas? It's a thing, you know, you love each other and you're best friends." He added with a shrug, "Just do it. It's fine, you don't have to do it now, but she's your best friend, just do it, you know what I mean? Just give her what she wants!" After looking into Lucas' eyes, he concluded, "Yeah, he's going to do it."

In addition to love, Harry has been supporting the LGBTQ+ community at his concerts in multiple ways. He frequently waves around LGBTQ+ pride and bisexual flags at his concerts, and wears different colors for every show. For example, he wore an orange outfit with an orange boa for his show in Nashville, which could be another nod to the LGBTQ+ community. Harry also waved the bisexual flag during a show in September, which is Bisexual Visibility month, to show support for the Bi community.

Harry Styles always makes sure to include some funny and sweet moments on stage for his fans. During another show in Nashville, he did a gender reveal for a couple. As Harry opened the envelope decorated with blue and pink question marks, he said "don't worry there's another [blank piece of paper]. ... Woo-hoo, you know, I revel in these moments because I know everything and you don't." After a countdown from the crowd, Harry revealed the fan would be having "a little baby girl." As the audience started cheering, he began tearing up.

In addition to these more touching moments, Harry's tour has also seen some funny moments. For example, when Harry was singing "Sign Of The Times," he paused briefly to laugh at a joke a fan wrote on their sign. The fan recorded the moment and posted the video on Twitter, captioning it "HARRY LAUGHING AT MY JOKE OMG THIS IS THE BEST

THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME." Additionally, during Love On Tour, Harry started singing about a fan dressed as a banana. He first sang about this during his show in Detroit and has continued to sing about it during "Watermelon Sugar" ever since. Fans seem to love these new lyrics because they laugh every time he sings them. Harry is a great performer who knows how to get the crowd going and put on a show while leaving some easter eggs behind for fans to find.

Clearly, Harry's tour is going to be an interesting and successful one. He has proven himself to be a relationship guru because he has offered love advice to fans many times during his tour. He has also proven that he supports all kinds of love between all different people, making everyone feel included at his shows. Harry creating these fun and adorable moments on stage for his fans to enjoy during his shows proves his talent as a natural born performer. Undoubtedly, Harry is an incredible artist who many people enjoy watching and he uses his shows to make people feel less alone.

THE RETURN OF LIVE THEATER

10/12/2021

You can't miss the SMC Theatre's production of Jacobs-Jenkins' show Everybody.

By: Dylan Cazin
Contributing Writer

If you've been missing live theatre, you're in luck. *Everybody*, a play by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, marks the return of live performances for the Saint Mary's Theatre Program. A finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize, *Everybody* is a playful riff on the fifteenth-century morality play *Everyman*. The Saint Mary's production will be performed in the Redwood Grove, a magical natural setting and an iconic location for both students and alumni. Guest director Daniel Larlham explains, "Audiences who come to see *Everybody* should expect to be surprised; it is an unusual offering, a site-specific environmental show. As the action follows an ordinary person on the journey towards life's greatest mystery—mortality itself—our production will be timed to map onto the setting of the sun and the coming of darkness." This is something that has never been done before in Saint Mary's history!

In another twist on typical theatre, the lead character, "Everybody," is being played by three different actors: Aero England, Naomi Kalter, and Xavier Romero. Who will play "Everybody" on any given night will be determined by a lottery at the start of each performance.

For these Theatre majors, the production is especially meaningful. After the challenges posed to live theatre during the pandemic, all are eager to get back to what they love doing. Senior Naomi Kalter is enthusiastic about "rehearsing in the fresh air and being together as a cast." "The energy at rehearsals feels different," she says, "because everyone is so thankful to be on stage again and to have this opportunity to perform for a live audience." The company of student actors and crew members are adapting to a new way of theatre and performance during their time rehearsing outdoors.

Third-year student Xavier Romero has called this "an adjustment," but adds, "The actors have connected in a way that wasn't possible on Zoom or in our virtual classrooms." Senior Aero England notes that *Everybody* is different from any show they've previously been part of. "I've never done anything this existential before," England says. "I believe it's going to make audience members think a lot about their own lives, as well as about death

and its inevitability—themes extremely relevant given everything we've been through since 2020."

Director Daniel Larlham's recent productions (*Dance Nation*, *Lysistrata*, and *Twelfth Night*) were lively performances and expressive pieces of art. Larlham and his actors are finding humor and great wisdom in Jacobs-Jenkins' script. "Audiences should expect a very vital, boisterous, and funny play," says Larlham, "one that's full of life and ends with a sense of poignancy and gravity that will touch their hearts."

With in-person performances from Wednesday, Nov. 3rd through Sunday, Nov. 7th, and a pre-recorded video available on-demand on November 14th, there are six chances to see the show. "We felt that it was important to have a streaming option," explains Theatre Program Director Deanna Zibello, "because some people may not feel comfortable yet being in a crowd." With two ways to watch—as part of an adventurous (masked) live audience or from the comfort of your couch—you can't miss this performance!

In-person performance dates:

Wednesday, November 3 (5 pm)

Thursday, November 4 (5 pm)

Friday, November 5 (5 pm)

Saturday, November 6 (5 pm)

Sunday, November 7 (4 pm)

Pre-recorded streaming option:

Sunday, November 14 (12:15 am to 11:45 pm)

Tickets limited - reserve early.

For tickets or more info, please visit stmarys-ca.edu/everybody or call (925) 631-4670. \$8 Students; \$12 SMC Faculty/Staff/Non-SMC Students; \$15 General

Please dress warmly and bring blankets. Masks will be required for the audience, and Covid-19 regulations will be followed.

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

10/12/2021



**SURVEY
OPEN!
TAKE
TODAY!**

BE HEARD. Share your experience and help build a campus that is welcoming, transparent, inspiring, and transformational. The 20-minute survey is anonymous and open to all students, faculty, and staff from Sept. 27 to Oct. 29, 2021.

Submit the survey for a chance to win an iPad, gift cards, spring textbooks (up to \$300), a spring parking permit, fun swag, and more. Prizes awarded weekly.

Use this QR code to be taken directly to Saint Mary's Campus Climate Survey. The survey can be taken on your phone, laptop, or tablet, will take approximately 20-30 minutes and is anonymous.

**Campus
Climate
Survey**
Many Voices
One SMC

A week after its launch, the Campus Climate Survey is in full swing. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in a campus-wide survey in regards to Saint Mary's current climate. (Image Courtesy of Writer).

By Isabelle Delostrinos
Culture Writer

On September 27th, Saint Mary's launched the Campus Climate Survey, giving students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to use their voice and be part of future change on campus. With diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind, Saint Mary's is looking forward to creating a more welcoming and safe space for all members of the community. This open survey demonstrates Saint Mary's mission to support community members with mutual understanding and respect. By taking in honest feedback and concerns, the administration is willing to learn and improve the environment and attitudes on campus.

The Campus Climate Survey has been in development since March of 2021. Saint Mary's Climate Study Working Group has chosen to work in partnership with an external consultant, Rankin & Associates Consulting, to maximize the survey's most valuable information. From creating the survey, analyzing the data, and forming a plan of action, Rankin & Associates Consulting will be part of the process every step of the way to ensure all possible perspectives will be accounted for, as well as to eliminate any biases or conflicts of interest.

Another benefit of an external partner is the complete confidentiality of the survey. The twenty to thirty minute survey is taken off site from Saint Mary's associated databases and answers are sent directly to the third party partner. Because of this complete anonymity, participants are encouraged to be as honest as possible with their opinions and concerns of their place in the community. Your participation is essential to the future of life on campus. You can share feedback on things you have loved about Saint Mary's, like the measures they have taken after the past two transformative years the world went through. Or, take this time to address the not-so-great moments and experiences you have gone through on campus. Saint Mary's cannot improve the campus climate without your stories and experiences. This is your time to bring any issues you may have to the table. As the survey touches on sensitive and personal topics, resources are readily available for you throughout the process, such as the SMC 24/7 CARE Line.

By April of 2022, analysis of the results and data will be shared in a campus town hall meeting with Rankin & Associates. Implementation of action plans will begin the following May. All participation is valued, even from those who may no longer be on campus when plans are enforced. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the change Saint Mary's is seeking. Once you've completed the survey, you have the opportunity to be entered in a weekly raffle. A link will be provided at the end of the survey, which will take you back to the Saint Mary's website to input your email. Again, confidentiality is important and there will be no connection of your identity from the raffle entry back to the survey. Every Friday you'll be in the running for free SMC swag, an Amazon gift card, and even an iPad.

The survey is open to all students, faculty and staff until October 29th. You can access the survey at rankinsurveys3.com/stmarys-ca/, or by scanning the QR code at the bottom of any Campus Climate Survey flyer. It can be completed on a laptop, phone, or tablet. To learn more about the survey, head to www.stmarys-ca.edu/campus-climate-survey. The mini site includes frequently asked questions, a timeline of the survey, members of the Climate Study Working Group, resources, and more. To discuss any questions, comments

or concerns in person, Dr. Kathy Littles and students are available outside of Cafe Louis from 1 PM to 2:30 PM every Wednesday.

*The 24/7 CARE Line (925-878-9207) is available via phone call/text for support/resources related to sexual assault and violence during the academic year.

ARIANA GRANDER. SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND NOW, THE VOICE COACH

10/19/2021

With the premiere of their 21st season, The Voice introduces a new coach, Ariana Grande. Weekly episodes reveal a hidden side of the pop star as she coaches contestants to become their best selves in the hopes of taking home the grand prize.

By Isabelle Delostrinos
Culture Writer

The Voice is back on NBC and is welcoming back live audiences and new coach, Ariana Grande. The pop sensation is replacing Nick Jonas as she continues to build the momentum of her outstanding career. Grande joins R&B singer John Legend, multi-talented Kelly Clarkson, and country music veteran Blake Shelton on the panel of coaches. Shelton is the most experienced coach having been part of the show since the very first season in 2011. But the target is on Grande's back as the younger generation of singers have grown up with her and see her as an idol. With the high energy of the audience and the anticipation of seeing Ariana Grande as a mentor, this season brings something new to The Voice's collections.

Although Grande has been part of the entertainment industry since she was a teenager, her role on The Voice is nothing like she's ever done before. In 2003, Grande jump-started her career on Broadway in New York, starring in 13. She quickly then made the transition to television acting through Nickelodeon, cast as Cat, a red-haired performing arts student on Victorious. She brought quirkiness and comedy to the show as the ditzy, air-headed friend. Her airy voice and easily confused facial expressions convinced the public that Grande wasn't very capable of much. In 2013, she ended her red-haired career to establish her place in the music industry with her debut album, Yours Truly.

Following the release, Grande's career skyrocketed. She gave us hit singles such as The Way, One Last Time, Break Free, Love Me Harder, Side to Side, and many more. Her rapid success and catchy songs convinced the world that she was more than just a character on Nickelodeon. But with all the highs come the lows. After a series of traumatic events in the public eye, Grande took a break from the media and refrained from interviews and appearances. The constant manipulation of her words into clickbait was also a contribution to her withdrawal from public appearances.

She later returned to the scene with the release of her album *Sweetener*, where she appeared on James Corden's *Carpool Karaoke* and *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. Grande also became more active on social media, dedicating time in her day to engaging with fans on Twitter and Instagram. She revealed more of her personality and passion for her music, family, friends, and fans. Grande was finally ready to be back in the spotlight.

Grande's recruitment to *The Voice* is a special one as fans and the public get to see the pop star in a new light. She is no longer being asked about her music or what life is like with her husband. Now, she gets to show her expertise and the way she communicates as a mentor. As a longtime fan of Ariana Grande, I am incredibly happy and appreciative that she took on the show. We get to see a side of the pop star that we have never seen before. Her ability to articulate her critiques and feedback to contestants while also graciously dissing Blake Shelton is a side of Grande that made me fall in love with her more. She's more than just a pop star, or a girl who falls hopelessly in love, or an airhead character from Nickelodeon. Grande is passionate about music, uplifting her mentees, and celebrating everyone and everything she can. To see Grande in her element and gain insight into who she really is, *The Voice* airs on NBC every Monday and Tuesday night at 8 PM.

KIM KARDASHIAN WEST HOSTS SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

10/19/2021

The American socialite surpassed expectations live from New York last Saturday night

By Roya Amirshaybani

Visiting Opinion Writer

On September 22nd, 2021, the iconic NBC comedy Saturday Night Live revealed the first four guests that would kick off the show's forty-seventh season: Owen Wilson, Kim Kardashian West, Rami Malek, and Jason Sudeikis. Loyal fans of the show were quick to react to the lineup on social media, with many expressing skepticism about the choice to include Kim Kardashian West as a host.

"Ugh not Kim, will not be watching that ep," wrote one commenter. "All great but Kim K," wrote another. As the second Saturday of October quickly approached, skeptics did not hesitate to continue to express their concern for the episode's impending reputation, blasting the network and emphasizing plans to boycott the show on the upcoming Saturday. Despite significant disapproval on social media, Kim Kardashian West's hosting debut surpassed all expectations.

Dressed in hot pink from head to toe, the reality television star kicked off the night with a ruthlessly self-deprecating monologue that took many by surprise, addressing her and her family's past controversies and rumors. "I'm excited to be here tonight to show you guys that I am so much more than just a pretty face... and good hair, and great makeup, and amazing boobs, and a perfect butt. Basically, I'm just so much more than that reference photo my sisters show their plastic surgeon," said the star, poking fun at her family's history of copious amounts of plastic surgery.

But the outrageous jabs at Kardashian West's family and fame did not stop there. Almost every other sketch she was featured in centered around a dig directed toward the host somehow, with many satirized around her various claims to fame. One skit, titled The People's Court, pokes fun at every Keeping up with the Kardashians cast member as Kourtney Kardashian (played by Kim Kardashian West) attempts to settle family and relationship disputes as a daytime TV court show judge. While Kourtney herself was not present, the skit featured Khloe Kardashian and Kris Jenner as themselves. SNL repertory players Mikey Day, Chloe Fineman, Chris Redd, Pete Davidson, and Heidi Gardner

parodied the likes of Travis Barker, Megan Fox, Kanye West, Machine Gun Kelly, and “Kim Kardashian.” The success of this skit can be attributed to the Kardashian family’s good sportsmanship and self-awareness.

“I’m suing Kylie because she hasn’t had her baby yet. We have a whole marketing PR plan, and she’s costing us money,” Kris Jenner jokes, addressing social media commenters that connect every event in the Kardashian and Jenner daughters’ lives with Kris Jenner’s “momager” desire to promote her family.

According to a recent BuzzFeed article, despite fans of Saturday Night Live threatening to boycott this episode, Kim Kardashian West’s hosting debut boosted ratings after the previous week’s lackluster season opener. Skeptics of the episode’s success took to social media that night and expressed their surprise. “Gotta say, not a Kim fan, but the jokes were good and she was confident. She pulled it off better than some I’ve seen over the years,” a Twitter user wrote.

Considering the socialite’s past reservations of putting herself out there in fear of embarrassing herself, Kim Kardashian West’s SNL hosting debut was awe-inspiring. If there is one thing viewers have learned this past weekend, it’s that the talents of those who are “famous for being famous” (and all women for that matter) should not be underestimated. The next time Kardashian West is presented with an opportunity like this one, perhaps social media commenters will give her a chance before automatically assuming her failure.

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JOJO SIWA MAKES HISTORY ON DANCING WITH THE STARS WITH A FEMALE PARTNER

10/19/2021

By Remy Zerber
Culture Columnist

JoJo Siwa is an American singer, actress, and YouTube star. She has been famous ever since she was on Dance Moms as a child. She has an older brother named Jayden Siwa who is also a vlogger. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska but lives in Los Angeles, California. JoJo Siwa is making history by competing on Dancing With The Stars with a same-sex partner, breaking stereotypes and gender barriers.

Siwa is the first woman to partner up with another woman to compete on Dancing With The Stars. DWTS has never had a same-sex couple compete together before. Siwa is openly queer in real life, so it only made sense for her to choose to have a female partner for DWTS. Siwa is competing on the show with Jenna Johnson, a professional dancer. It is 2021, so it is about time society started showing same-sex couples on TV shows so we can normalize queer relationships.

Siwa has done some incredible dances on the show with her partner. She did the Quickstep with Jenna Johnson and everyone loved it. Their costumes were extremely colorful, glittery, and eye-catching. This earned them the highest score of the night. Their dance made history because they got the highest score of the night as a queer couple. They also danced the Cha-Cha to "Rain On Me" by Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga. They wore blue sparkly two-piece outfits for their performance.

JoJo is a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Earlier this year in January, she came out in a TikTok video. She said she has known her whole life that she is part of the LGBTQ+ community, but she finally decided to come out because she got a girlfriend. Her girlfriend is named Kylie Prewitt. JoJo says she thinks she is pansexual but she does not really know yet. She thinks she is pansexual because she has always said that whatever human she falls in love with is her human, no matter their gender.

There have been many hints that she was part of the LGBTQ+ community even before she came out. JoJo Siwa has been dressing in rainbow colors ever since she was little. The pride flag has rainbow colors on it. This is the flag that represents the LGBTQ+ community. In one of the interviews she did where she was asked about boys and dating, she said it wasn't for

her right now and seemed like she was overexplaining herself. Overexplaining is a sign of nerves, which means the question made her uncomfortable. Another time, she was sitting at the counter with one of her friends with her knee up. According to the internet and TV, queer people have a hard time sitting properly like Jojo.

Jojo Siwa has broken many stereotypes and gender barriers on DWTS. She was the first person to compete with a same-sex partner on the show. She and her partner, Jenna Johnson, earned the highest score of the night one night. Jojo came out as queer earlier this year. She said she has known she is part of the LGBTQ+ community her whole life. Everyone's a little bit queer.

SPORTS

NCAA TITLE IX LOOPHOLE - FEMALE ATHLETES TAKE ON SAINT MARY'S SPORTS

10/11/2021

An insight into the deep-seated misogyny of collegiate sports, and its correlation to Saint Mary's.

By Annika Henthorn

News Reporter visiting the Sports Section

In March 2018, Sedona Prince, a women's basketball player for Oregon University, posted a tik tok that went viral. It highlighted the disturbing difference between the men's and women's weight rooms during the notorious March Madness. One was adorned with a variety of weights and equipment, while the other had a small rack of hand weights and dumbbells. Can you guess which room was for the men's team? If you could not tell, the men's room was the one stacked with equipment, while the women's room lacked all but a couple of dumbbells. This explicit act of misogyny by the NCAA has attracted more attention to the issues of sexism, specifically within collegiate sports.

Many questioned whether the obvious difference in quality between men's and women's tournaments was legal under Title IX, preventing discrimination on the basis of sex. However, according to NBC, in the NCAA v. Smith case, the NCAA is no longer required to abide by the regulations of Title IX. This is due to the fact that NCAA is not federally funded, unlike the colleges and universities that comprise them. Despite this, they have claimed to voluntarily adhere to Title IX, but their actions say otherwise.

Although this might seem like a larger issue at play, women's athletes at Saint Mary's have also revealed their similar experiences. "Coaches would tell us to eat better and lose weight, it's a big mental strain on women," says a player who would like to remain anonymous. With already impossible body standards, women, even more so, women athletes, feel immense pressure from outsiders as well as coaches to lose weight and look a certain way.

"There is a strong correlation between women's collegiate sports and struggles with mental health and eating disorders," says our source. According to The Sport Journal, 84% of

college athletes have suffered from dysfunctional eating habits like excessive eating, bingeing, fasting, etc. With the copious amounts of training and exercise required of athletes, the dire need to refuel is disregarded to satisfy or exceed the goals of their coaching staff. Oftentimes, there seems to be this misconception that performance is linked to an athlete's body type or build. This destructive mindset has deep and lasting effects on athletes, reinforcing unhealthy eating habits that encourage women to loathe their natural selves.

Not only do body standards plague women's sports, but also the lack of representation. "Men's sports are more advertised and tend to have a lot more funding," our source shared. Reiterated by Prince's experience at the NCAA tournament, women's sports are typically shoved in the shadow of men's, constantly undervalued and under-promoted. Many tend to argue that women's sports receive less viewership than men's; however, it's difficult to compete when women's sports are seldom announced or advertised.

The devastating reality behind female athletes perpetuates itself through outdated and inexcusable methods of training. Women are perceived as moldable clay that can be stretched and adjusted to their coach's liking. However, as female athletes have begun to speak out, change is gradually being made.

SMC SPORTS HISTORY

10/11/2021

By Kulia Osborne
Sports Reporter

It's 1971 and tensions are high. The seventies was a revolutionary decade in Saint Mary's history: Women were being admitted to campus for the first time and the racial climate in America was undergoing a massive shift. However, reality became incredibly clear at the sudden firing of Odell Johnson. Johnson was a critical part of Saint Mary's culture and the decision left people reeling, with the Black community being most impacted.

Odell Previously played on the basketball team of the 1950s, being one of two black members. Because of his history on campus, the firing of Odell Johnson shocked many and outraged Black students all over SMC. Many of the students then saw Johnson as a support system in a community that already alienated them. A local newspaper reported that "The firing outraged many minority students who regarded Johnson as one of them. [He was] their friend and protector in an isolated setting."

The resounding effects of this decision led to months of Black student pushback, protests, and demands for a more supported community. The tension on campus took precedence when, suddenly, the starting five members of the basketball team walked off the court in protest of the decision. The students were all Black men and the repercussions robbed them of their scholarship, community standing, and position.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the walkouts, which makes me wonder what we have learned. The current population of Black students exists at 5.6%. This looks even smaller in the current Black athlete population. To break it down, there is one Black woman on the Women's Basketball team, three Black men on the men's Basketball team, one Black woman on the Tennis team, four on the Women's Soccer team, and one black women on the beach volleyball.

I spoke to a former SMC student, Hind, who left the college to pursue a professional career in tennis. She was drawn to the small campus and the coaching staff. When I asked her about her experience at SMC, she admitted that she hadn't faced too much of a culture shock, but acknowledged that there are other Black students who have; she has witnessed friends being ostracized because of their race . Hind continued to talk about her

experience, "Personally, there have been moments of microaggressions against me as a student." For instance, she discussed a moment of isolation when a professor used the N-word, when there were only two black students in the class. She discussed emailing the professor alongside the other student and the professor had apologized.

While the population of Black Saint Mary's students has shifted significantly (it was reported as 18% of the population in 1970), there is a lot to say about the number of Black students in critical positions around campus such as those in academics, sports, and leadership. There's a conversation to be had about the fact that more can be done. Hind's experience is not a singular experience. Most occasions go under-reported because of the lack of knowledge of BIRT, committees, or people to speak to. In the last decade, Black students have been demanding better support through End the Silence, the Twenty demands, Black student leadership, and the BLM subcommittee. There are spaces, yes, but they are being created by the students themselves.

PREVIEWING THE UPCOMING NBA SEASON

10/19/2021



Tonight marks the start of the NBA's regular season, the first meaningful basketball since the playoffs ended in July.

By Ryan Ford
Sports Reporter

Three months ago, the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Phoenix Suns to win their first NBA Championship since 1971. Tonight, those Bucks will host the Brooklyn Nets in a rematch of the Eastern Conference Semifinals, which will tip-off the NBA's 2021-22 regular season.

After an eventful offseason that included the NBA draft, free agency, and an open dialogue between players and the media about the NBA's vaccination policy, there are already plenty of storylines that deserve monitoring. Here are some of the more noteworthy stories that NBA fans should keep an eye on as the regular season starts.

Unvaccinated Stars

It was reported to the Associated Press by an anonymous source in the league office that "around 95%" of NBA players were vaccinated or in the vaccination process, as of September 30th, 2021. The NBA also made it clear that if a player is unvaccinated, they will

go through testing far more frequently than those who have received the vaccine, in addition to other restrictions, per NBA.com.

With that being said, there are many players who have remained dug into their stances of remaining unvaccinated. Among those players are the Washington Wizards' all-star Bradley Beal, the Orlando Magic's forward Jonathan Isaac, and the Brooklyn Nets' point guard Kyrie Irving. All three have been consistent in saying that they will not get the vaccine.

Unfortunately for Irving, he plays in New York, and local laws will prevent the superstar guard from playing in any home games as long as he's unvaccinated. As a result, the Nets' General Manager Sean Marks released this statement on October 12th: "Kyrie Irving will not play or practice with the team until he is eligible to be a full participant."

The Golden State Warriors' forward Andrew Wiggins was also facing similar repercussions as an unvaccinated player who plays his home games in San Francisco, but has since gotten the vaccine. Whether they like it or not, a player's vaccination status plays a major role in how they are able to help their respective teams this season.

Lakers' Chemistry and Age Experiment

A little over a year ago, the Los Angeles Lakers won the 2020 NBA Finals, which was played in Orlando due to the pandemic. The season that followed saw a Lakers team, who entered the year as favorites to come out of the West, lose in the first round of the playoffs to the Phoenix Suns. Superstar Anthony Davis was banged up for most of the season, and all-time great LeBron James seemed to be finally showing his age with lackluster performances in crucial games of the series.

In an attempt to reload for another championship run, the Lakers made a blockbuster trade to acquire former MVP Russell Westbrook this offseason and signed a long list of veterans including Dwight Howard, Carmelo Anthony, and Rajon Rondo. This team is undoubtedly talented, but two questions prevail: How will LeBron and Westbrook coexist, considering how similar their play styles are? And, how will a team that was already injury-prone handle the rigors of an 82 game regular season given that the average age of their roster is 31.6 years old?

Despite these questions, the Los Angeles Lakers are currently the favorites to make it out of the West this season, and, at +375, are behind only the Brooklyn Nets (+250) as betting favorites to win the NBA Championship, per Odds Shark.

When and How will the Ben Simmons Circus End?

Once the Philadelphia 76ers were eliminated from the playoffs by the Atlanta Hawks, All-Star Ben Simmons became the scapegoat for yet another disappointing playoff exit. Shortly after, the former no. 1 overall pick requested a trade.

In the months that followed, the leaks coming from Simmons' camp said that he would sit out the whole season if need be. His relationship with All-NBA center Joel Embiid is strained, and Simmons' behavior has certainly rubbed his organization and their notoriously harsh fans the wrong way. Another star player demanding out from their team (look no further than James Harden last year) won't make the relationship between the league and the players' association any better.

Recent reports are that Simmons will report to the team, per NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski, but in what capacity still remains unclear. There's no doubt that Ben Simmons is a talented player. Any team would be vastly improved if they acquired the star point guard, but trade talks to this point have gone nowhere.

The Sixers went 49-23 last season, which earned them the best record in the Eastern conference. Will Ben Simmons change his tune and help them get back to the playoffs, or have those bridges been burned? However this saga winds up playing out will likely have a huge impact on the league.

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NWSL SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS - COMMISSIONER AND CEO RESIGN SHORTLY AFTER

10/19/2021

By Annika Henthorn
News Reporter

Paul Riley, former head coach for NWSL, has been accused of sexual misconduct by former player Mana Shim. Shim has deemed him a “predator” who continued to “sexually harass” her, according to CNN. Shortly after these claims surfaced, Riley was fired from the North Carolina Courage following an additional investigation. It was also discovered that similar allegations have been brought to their attention prior to those made by Shim. According to their reports, Riley sexually harassed, and in one instance, had sex with a player. As a coach for three different franchises of NWSL for a total of eight seasons, news of this disgusting behavior has been alarming to the entire community. Riley has refuted these claims.

After such shocking news was announced, Lisa Baird, commissioner for NWSL, resigned. However, before doing so, she canceled all league matches the following week. Not long after, Steve Baldwin, managing partner and CEO of NWSL, resigned as well saying that “I have no doubt made some mistakes, but my effort and focus were always on building a professional experience for our players,” according to The Charlotte Observer.

Another former player, Sinead Farrelly, has exposed her chilling experience with Riley. During her time in NWSL, she was coerced into going back to Riley’s hotel room to have sex. Following this incident, Riley pressured Shim and Farrelly to kiss after manipulating them into coming back to his apartment.

These wildly inappropriate acts imposed on his victims have major impacts that do not just affect them as players but as people. Farrelly spoke to NBC and said that “the damage to my self-confidence and how I saw myself and how I approach life seeps into every part of [my] livelihood.” Alex Morgan, a close friend of Shim, has revealed the difficulty that went into filing a simple complaint against the coach. Although her allegations were made years after playing, during the time it was happening there “was no anti-harassment policy in place, there was no league HR, there was no anonymous hotline, there was no way to report,” according to CNN. This fatal flaw within NWSL has perpetuated the abuse that happens behind closed doors, leaving players vulnerable to the power and authority that coaches and staff have.

Allegations of this magnitude have urged NWSL to take a closer look at its system and its shortcomings. NWSL released a statement that it was “immediately launching several critical investigative and reform initiatives to protect players and staff, and the environments in which athletes live, train, and compete to give athletes the agency and ability to safely report misconduct of any form.”

Prior to Shim and Farrelly's brave stand against the abuse, multiple allegations were reported regarding Riley's sexual misconduct. The lack of action and urgency from these startling claims reveals the true nature of the system behind NWSL. Such disgusting misconduct should be dealt with properly without needing media attention to move the process forward. In cases with USA Gymnastics and now NWSL, systems seem to only change when media pressures require them to. Shim has called out the league “to start being proactive, not reactive.” This powerful statement should resonate with all leagues, and even beyond sports.

"I want more. I want more justice, I want better policies, I want players to be protected," Shim told NBC. Crisis shouldn't be the catalyst for change. Through their stories and experiences, Shim and Farrelly hope that sports leagues reevaluate their policies and prioritize the well-being of their players.

KOZYREVA BEATS 75TH RANKED PLAYER IN THE WORLD

10/19/2021

The 2021-22 tennis season starts out strong with Mariia Kozyreva beating the 75th ranked player in the world, Saisai Zheng, two sets to one at the annual Berkeley Challenger.

By Eden Llodrá
Sports Reporter

Mariia Kozyreva, originally from Saint Petersburg, Russia, came to the United States at the age of thirteen to play in a tennis academy just outside Sacramento. Her love for the sport has always reflected in her commitment to move wherever there is competition and good coaches. Kozyreva was recruited by many large schools, but found a strong connection to the coach at Saint Mary's. Since being at Saint Mary's she's noticed herself mature, "I came to Saint Mary's when I had just turned 18, a crazy young teenager, and I really grew up here and turned into an adult," she said.

Besides her incredible natural talent, her growth and love for tennis has only ripened and matured at Saint Mary's. When COVID-19 hit, her senior year was cut short and all competitions were cancelled. She said, "it was the best year until it was cut short and I didn't get to participate in the NCAA's." Now, playing her fifth year of tennis at Saint Mary's, she is given another chance to show all that she's got.

On September 29th, Kozyreva beat the 27 year old Saisai Zheng, who had been ranked 75th in the world. In the first set Zheng won 6-4 and after that Kozyreva completely overpowered, winning two sets back to back, 7-5 and 6-1. The victory was an exciting shock to the start of the Saint Mary's women's tennis season, which Kozyreva defined as nothing short of "a really special moment."

With a huge win like this, Kozyreva attributes her successes to the coaches at Saint Mary's, "the coaches have been amazing and I feel lucky to have been part of this program." She is humble in her victories and eager for more matches. This year is her final year and she hopes "it is better than the rest." With this powerful start, there is no doubt that Kozyreva will make her coaches and teammates proud with her numerous accolades yet to come.