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SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

The Collegian

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From Lattes to Lip Balm: The Pumpkin Spice Craze

By Olivia Burke
Visiting Entertainment Columnist

The holiday season holds many different traditions. A large part of many peoples' traditions is food, and as businesses start to roll out holiday merchandise, seasonal flavors come back into the spotlight. With Thanksgiving having come and gone, we've passed the height of what many people call "pumpkin spice season". For many, the pumpkin spice craze begins on September 1st, regardless of the fact that the official autumnal equinox is September 22. Many companies take advantage of the excitement over this seasonal flavor, and thus the scope of pumpkin spice-flavored products has grown exponentially. With the addition of stranger and stranger products each year.

Why is it that pumpkin spice is so beloved? In a Today interview with Martha Stewart, published on November 10, Stewart gave her opinion on the pumpkin spice craze. When asked how she felt about pumpkin spice she replied, "In a pie, I love it. In anything else, I do not love it". This is certainly an unpopular opinion, as most people seem to love pumpkin in any form they can get their hands on. A pivotal moment in pumpkin spice history occurred in 2003 when Starbucks released their now famous pumpkin spice latte, commonly known by its nickname PSL. As many of us know, this launch was an incredible success, and it was merely the beginning of the craze. The pumpkin spices lovers of the world have fueled what is essentially a new industry of pumpkin flavored and scented products, and it is making millions. An article from NBC New York states that, "A new study timed to National Pumpkin Spice Day found sales are on the rise. Last year, in 2022, sales of [pumpkin spice] products reached more than \$800 million, up 42% compared to 2019." Nearly every company that markets food products has made an attempt to



(Image Courtesy of author)

participate in the pumpkin spice trend, and understandably so knowing just how much money they have the potential to make if folks continue to gravitate towards this fall flavor.

Some very unusual pumpkin-flavored products have hit the market in the past several years. A few of the strangest being Pumpkin spice Goldfish crackers, hummus, protein powder, soda, Cup Noodles, and SPAM. A company called Chosen Foods released a limited edition pumpkin spice caviar this year, and despite the fact that it is made with avocado oil in place of fish eggs, it doesn't sound very appetizing. Although pumpkin spice is primarily a flavor, the trend extends far beyond food, and now includes practically any product that has a scent. Pumpkin spice lip balm, candles, toiletries, air fresh-

ener, and pumpkin spice scented trash bags, have all been on the market, allowing consumers to take their love for pumpkin to new heights.

What is it that makes pumpkin spice a fan-favorite? The love for pumpkin spice really relies on the spice aspect, since pumpkin has a very subtle flavor on its own. Most "pumpkin flavored" products truly just contain the flavors of various autumn spices. As for the reason we love the flavor, some say it is loved for the seasonal novelty, while others say it retains its popularity as a result of the fond memories of holidays and family that are commonly associated with the flavor (Reilly, Deirdre). Regardless of the reason, pumpkin spice remains a cozy classic that is savored year after year.

INSIDETHISWEEK'S EDITION

News

Pandas are leaving US zoos, but why?



East Bay Pilot Charged with 83 Counts of Attempted Murder

Iceland and their Impending Eruption

The USS Hornet Museum

On Campus

A Night to Remember: BFG's Dia De Los Muertos Dance Concert

Entertainment

The Return of the Hunger Games

Can You Survive the Five Nights?

Loosing a Friend: The Passing of Matthew Perry

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: A film that should be a holiday classic

From Lattes to Lip Balm: The Pumpkin Spice Craze

Opinion

Fall 2023 Fashion Trends: Favorite or Flop?

That is Definitely NOT What She Said

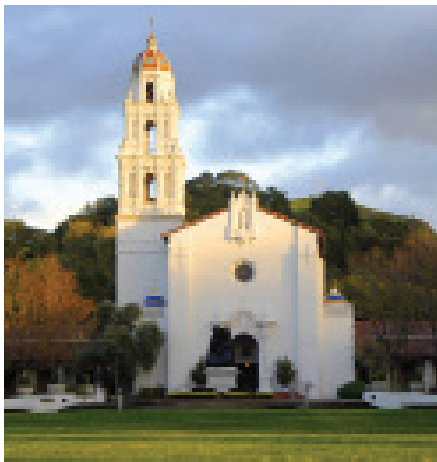
Sports

Beat Them in the Warm Up



Mahaney, Wessels have Career Days as Gaels Rout Lobos

NEWS



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“To act upon one’s conviction while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn’t available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice-”
-Ted Turner

Pandas Are Leaving US Zoos, but why?

By Anthony Romero
News Reporter

On Wednesday, November 8, the National Zoo bid farewell to their giant pandas Mei Xiang, Tian Tian, and their 3-year-old cub Xiao Qi Ji. As the zoo held a nine-day “panda-palooza” to commemorate its decades-long panda conservation program, hundreds of fans came to say goodbye to Washington, D.C.’s panda family. “It felt amazing,” exclaimed 10-year-old Kelsey Lambert, who traveled from San Antonio with her mother to catch a final glimpse of the bears, “My mom always promised she would take me one day. So we had to do it now that they’re going away.” The National Zoo’s pandas are just the latest departures from American zoos, following the Memphis Zoo and San Diego Zoo’s return of their pandas to China in recent years. After the three pandas arrived in Chengdu, only four pandas now remain in the U.S., at the Atlanta Zoo. But why? How come U.S. zoos are suddenly losing their pandas?

The answer lies in the tricky relationship between the United States and China, with rising tensions causing speculation that this gradual pullback of pandas is a sort of diplomatic “deep freeze” from the Chinese government. Dennis Wilder, a senior fellow at Georgetown University’s Initiative for US-China Dialogue on Global Issues, suggests this response is a possible punitive measure for a variety of recent developments, ranging from U.S. sanctions on China’s officials to American restrictions on the import of Chinese semiconductors. In an interview with the Associated Press, Wilder claims that Chinese officials suspect a growing animosity between themselves and NATO-affiliated countries and allies, hence the ongoing rollbacks on panda loan contracts in not only the U.S. but in Scotland and Australia as well. Things came to a head with the death of Le Le, a panda on loan at the Memphis Zoo, at the age of 25. Due to the average panda’s lifespan reaching up to 30 years old

in captivity, the unexpected death incited an explosion of allegations on Chinese social media platforms that claimed the Memphis Zoo mistreated Le Le and his female partner Ya Ya. This controversy ensued even after an inspection by a Chinese medical team confirmed Le Le’s natural death due to a heart condition and was only quelled after Ya Ya’s return to China after her loan contract expired in April of this year.

The practice of China loaning giant pandas to the U.S. began in 1972 during President Richard Nixon’s historic visit to China. First Lady Patricia Nixon recalled growing quite fond of the bears during a dinner exchange with Chinese Premier Zhou En-lai, who would agree to lend the National Zoo two pandas as a form of goodwill. Two months after the visit, pandas Ling Ling and Hsing-Hsing arrived in Washington, D.C., and the diplomatic tradition has continued ever since. In the meantime, the National Zoo remains hopeful that future pandas will one day return to their care, even sending an application that is currently being reviewed. As for Mei Xiang, Tian Tian, and Xiao Qi Ji, many view this as inevitable and simply their time to go as the two adult bears reach old age. “They are at the age when they should be in China,” said conservation biologist Melissa Songer, “I don’t want to have a panda pass away outside of China.” While the future of American zoos hosting giant pandas remains unclear, the National Zoo’s panda family has settled into their new home at the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve.



(Image Courtesy of New Ideal)

East Bay Pilot Charged with 83 Counts of Attempted Murder

By Edith Cuevas
News Reporter

Pleasant Hill pilot Joseph Emerson has been charged with 83 counts of attempted murder after attempting to shut-off a plane’s engines mid-flight. As an off-duty pilot, Emmerson was able to fly with the pilots in the cockpit jump seat. Takeoff was smooth, according to the New York Times. It was when cruising altitudes were reached that Emmerson began to show signs of agitation.

“I’m not ok,” he told the pilots. This is when Emerson reached over and attempted to pull the fire-suppression handles, which were designed to cut the fuel supply and shut down both engines. “I thought it would stop both engines, the plane would start to head towards a crash, and I would wake up.” Emerson continued to tell the New York Times.

In the weeks leading up to the incident, Emerson had ingested psychedelic mushrooms. According to ABC 7, the ingestion of psychedelics can have a lasting effect on a person but can also trigger an underlying mental health illness.

According to Emerson’s wife, Sarah Stretch, he had become depressed in 2018 following the sudden death of his best man, Scott Pinney. “The loss of Scott was devastating to us, and for Joe especially. I feel like he has never come to terms with his death.” This weekend getaway was meant to commemorate the death of Pinney. This is what plunged him into the hallucinogenic state that Emerson was in such desperation to wake up from.

There are restrictions imposed by the FAA that prevent pilots with depression from flying, and it also prevents the use of prescriptions for any mental health treatment. According to the FAA, this is to

prevent any potential issues in the cockpit including mental break downs or suicide attempts. Pilots had to undergo routine medical assessments, disclosing various medical diagnoses, such as depression or anxiety, along with details of consultations with health professionals.

Many pilots avoid seeking medical treatment fearing permanent grounding. In a significant shift in 2010, the FAA approved specific antidepressants for pilots dealing with mild or moderate depression. However, the pilots that opted to take the medications were still grounded for a month for a monitoring period. The entire process of gaining approval to resume active flying could extend even longer, with no guarantee of ultimate approval. The potential impact on careers, as noted by aviation doctors, industry lawyers, and pilots, prompted many aviators to either falsify information about their treatment or altogether sidestep seeking help. Instead opting for the risk of a \$250,000 fine and five years in prison.

Emerson told The New York Times, “I started to have this feeling that this wasn’t real. I thought of a lot of traumatic things that in that time where I was like, ‘Am I dead? Is this hell?’ I am reliving that trauma.”

According to Emerson, he was briefly brought back to reality, he then left the cockpit on his own and immediately asked one of the flight attendants for help. As he walked down the aisle, he looked at the passengers, all seemingly unaware of what had just happened. That is when Emerson began questioning the reality of what was going on. “You need to handcuff me right now, or it’s going to be bad,” is what Emerson told the flight attendant according to the police officer who interviewed the flight crew.

“I am horrified that those actions put myself and others at risk,” Emerson said. “That crew got dealt with a situation there’s no manual, checklist or procedure that’s been written for. And they did an exemplary job keeping me and the rest of the people on that plane safe.”

The FAA announced that they will be creating a committee to provide recommendations on breaking down barriers that prevent pilots from reporting mental health issues. “A mental health diagnosis is not a career ender. We have completed clinical research and amended policy to make it much easier for pilots on a widening number of antidepressants to continue with their careers,” said the FAA’s Federal Air Surgeon Dr. Susan Northrop.

NEWS

Iceland and their Impending Eruption

By Lillian La Salle
Associate Editor

As cracks widen into chasms destroying Icelandic infrastructure and sinkholes swallow up property in the small town of Grindavik, some scientists remain hopeful that the community will be spared from the impending volcanic eruption.

Iceland, a country of less than 400,000 people has been at the mercy of volcanic activity for years and even stands between two tectonic plates with a considerable amount of seismic activity. According to the Complete Guide to Iceland, the country has seen an uptick in volcanic activity, with the Fagradalsfjall volcano erupting in 2021 and 2022 after not erupting for 6,000 years. According to The New York Times, the new volcanic activity is 40 miles away from the small town of Grindavik, home to a little over 3,000 Icelandic citizens. PBS said City officials ordered the evacuation of citizens on November 14th and a week later citizens were allowed to return to secure their key possessions. Icelandic resident Ingibjorn Gretarsdottir says in an interview while waiting to reenter the town, “The earth has collapsed about one meter or something, so the lava is under our house. We don’t know if we’re going to have a home or what.” Meanwhile, other residents are quickly packing as much of their lives into their cars to escape to safety, with some residents packing their business supplies in with their familial belongings to make sure they still have a livelihood.

It is unknown the exact effects the eruption will have on the town of Grindavik, but scientists explain to PBS that the eruption of magma may come from the fissures that have been evolving and expanding in the ground throughout the town, spreading the volcanic effects across a wider range. Already Jon Thor Viglundsson, a spokesman for Iceland’s Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, explained to the New York Times that the sewage systems are under great stress with the magma causing the lines to rupture. Mr. Viglundsson adds that the eruption also poses a large threat to the infrastructure of the town, putting thousands at risk.

On the more hopeful side, The Times and PBS have secured information that



(Image Courtesy of Kjartan Torbjornsson / AFP - Getty Images)

the seismic activity causing earthquakes has been steadily declining. The Times includes the previous amount of seismic activity, which reached over 1,000 earthquakes all across the Reykjanes Peninsula in the southwestern part of Iceland in only a 24 hour period. Since last month when the earthquakes reached their peak, Iceland has seen over 10,000 earthquakes all across the peninsula. In the past week seismic activity is less frequent and has a lower magnitude than before, giving hope to Iceland that their towns will be safe. Kristin Jonsdottir, head of Iceland’s volcanoes department, explained to PBS that, “Every day, what we’re seeing is a decline in the rate of earthquakes and also in the rate of energy release from the earthquakes.” However, she explains this decline in seismic activity does not mean that an eruption will not occur.

Iceland Meteorology Officer Benedikt Ofeigsson says that, “If an eruption will occur, it’s probably within days, rather than weeks.” Citizens question whether they will be able to return to their homes in Grindavik at all, and Icelandic Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir is working to ensure housing and salaries for the citizens who are displaced by the danger of eruption. The town is also working tirelessly to protect their powerplant from the scorching magma that could melt it down to nothing. The Times explains this power plant provides energy and hot water for over 30,000 people and was expected to take 30 days to complete. However, a PBS interview with Vidir Reynisson, Director General of Icelandic Civil Defense found that, “We are a little bit ahead of schedule...even if we would have an eruption in the dike at this moment... we would at least to delay the lava flow to the power plant.”

Although the displacement of thousands is causing great distress among Iceland and numerous other countries throughout the world, Forbes explains the global effects of this eruption will not be as widespread as the Eyjafjallajökull eruption of 2010 which delayed 100,000 transatlantic flights due to the substantial amount of volcanic ash in air circulation. The impending eruption will have lasting effects on the people Grandavik, and all of Iceland will suffer the impacts of earthquakes that will ensue with this volcanic activity. Thankfully Icelandic Officials are acting quickly and efficiently to protect their citizens and their livelihoods from the volcanic activity that threatens their communities.

The USS Hornet Museum

A historic space to honor veterans of past and present.

By Lillian La Salle
Associate Editor

On Veterans Day, the Bay Area’s own Alameda County celebrated its veterans at the USS Hornet Museum, which celebrated its 80th year of being commissioned by the United States Navy as an Essex-class aircraft carrier, as well as its 25th year of being made a museum. The ceremony honored veterans and all those who worked to maintain the Hornet and consisted of a wreath laying, a flyover, and a number of different speakers. An NBC Bay Area news report stated that speakers included East Bay Congresswoman Barbara Lee as well as Retired Rear Admiral Jonathan Yuen, who spoke about the accomplished veterans and the great milestones the USS Hornet represented for the United States. According to the Air Museum Guide, the USS Hornet (CV-12) has lots of history, including helping with WWII, the moon landing, holding historic aircrafts and helicopters, and honoring the prior USS Hornet (CV-8) which sank during the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands in 1942. The rich history of past engineering masterpieces are housed in this massive ship, and the public is strongly encouraged to tour and learn more about the American Navy, and others who worked to maintain the ship. Other exhibits include daily logs and photos of pilots who used to fly from the Hornet during WWII between 1944 to 1945. This ship acts as a time capsule honoring all those who made sacrifices during their service to America. With this upcoming holiday season let us keep these veterans in our thoughts, and if you are in the Bay area be sure to stop by the new Hornet Museum to witness the amazing exhibits it has to offer.

ON CAMPUS

A Night to Remember: BFG’s Día De Los Muertos Dance Concert

By Andrew Martinez Cabrera

Entertainment Editor

On the night of October 27, a bustling scene unfolded in the Soda Center. The strumming of guitars and the occasional horn rung throughout the crowded room via large speakers. The only sounds louder than the music were voices, laughter, and the scurrying of feet as they tried to reach their seats. Spanish and English filled the air and mixed into a song of warmth as the audience enjoyed one another’s company.



(Image Courtesy Baile Folklórico Guadalupano)

At the front of the stage was a multi-stepped altar, representing heaven, earth, and the underworld – with many ofrendas (offerings) to remember those who have passed, such as cempasúchil (flowers of the dead), photographs, colorful serape blankets, food and drinks, and many other trinkets.

This was the prelude to the special annual event presented by Saint Mary’s very own Baile Folklórico Guadalupano (BFG) in conjunction with SMC Dance Company: 2023’s Día De Los Muertos Dance Concert. Accompanying BFG this year were two other dance groups: Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro from San Leandro & Grupo Folklórico Sueño Mío from Hayward.

Before the dancing began, Brother Michael S. Avila, F.S.C, introduced the event, reading a written speech in Spanish and then in English. Baile Folklórico Guadalupano was started by then-second-year SMC student Yadira Guerrero in 2012, in which Br. Avila served as the first advisor. He reminisced that he was touched by the fact that, “she was not only promoting the Latino culture [at Saint Mary’s but was also] recruiting dancers from all traditions,” something which still runs true in its current rendition.

As a Latino, I found not only myself immersed in my culture being celebrated and displayed by people who look and spoke

like me, but also by those who come from different backgrounds – either the dancers who were a part of BFG or the students who came to watch and cheer on their friends. If the night was to be encapsulated by one word, it would be “celebration.” Throughout the course of the show, many people would shout – gritos – like mariachis would do, a familial sound that warmed my heart.

The concert was composed of different sections of dances, titled after different states from Mexico, presumably composed of different types of baile folklórico. It is hard to accurately describe the sights I saw because I would fail to do justice to the spectacle of it all – the marching of women carrying prop rifles, men brandishing machetes and incorporating into their dance, dancers demonstrating such fluidity with their movements, their faces glowing; enjoying the scenery, the company, the spirit. It was a non-judgemental, transcending sight. Everyone was there to have fun.

Having something like this at Saint Mary’s and having it be organized by students nonetheless is something that should be seen by all. It was a reminder of how much I love my identity. If you have not had the opportunity to witness any BFG events, do yourself the favor and check out any of their upcoming events, such as Feel Good Friday on Dec. 1 and BFG Night on Dec. 4. A recording of the event can be found on SMC Performing Arts’ Vimeo page.

NEWS Cont. FTC Goes After Amazon in Antitrust Lawsuit

By Tucker Long
News Reporter

On September 26, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed a lawsuit against online shopping giant Amazon for illegal conduct that allows the website to wield monopoly power. The FTC lodged this complaint along with seventeen state attorney generals, alleging that Amazon unfairly uses its power as a digital marketplace to “inflate prices, degrade quality, and stifle innovation for consumers and businesses.”

Amazon is not being sued for its size or market share, rather the tactics the company uses to push out smaller sellers and promote its own merchandise, degrading the experience for not only the sellers but the customer as well. Amazon not only provides web-space for online retail, but they also sell their own merchandise, in direct competition with third-party sellers. According to a source on NPR, around 60% of products sold on the website come from sellers other than Amazon. Because Amazon is the largest online retailer, its actions can have strong effects throughout different online retail spaces. The FTC is alleging that if a third-party seller’s merchandise is selling at too low of a price point somewhere else on the internet, Amazon can bury that seller’s products on Ama-

zon so far down in the search results that they lose significant traffic and relevancy. Sellers are not able to just up and leave Amazon because it is still the best way to sell products online, and because of this Amazon is keeping prices high across the internet. Furthermore, Amazon is able to add conditions to their “Prime” service for sellers that make it more difficult to sell elsewhere online. Services like Prime and their advertising service are costly and technically optional, though it is said that they are “virtually necessary for sellers to do business.” Because Amazon is so fundamental when it comes to the online retail industry, third-party sellers cannot just pivot and take their business elsewhere, rather it is still more lucrative to play by Amazon’s rules. The company is able to decrease revenue for their own sellers and make it so other online retailers cannot prosper, this is seen by the FTC as abuse of monopoly power.

On top of this, the FTC is claiming that Amazon promotes paid advertisements and Amazon’s own products above more relevant or better-reviewed ones, making the customers’ experience worse. In a report released on November 2, The Washington Post writes that according to newly released details from the lawsuit, Amazon executives, including founder Jeff Bezos, are instructing this kind of

behavior. The suit is quoted as saying that “Amazon executives internally acknowledge this creates ‘harm to consumers’ by making it ‘almost impossible for high quality, helpful organic content to win over barely relevant sponsored content.’”

Amazon denies the allegations put forth by the FTC. In a statement put out on their website, the company says that while they “respect the role the FTC has historically played in protecting consumers and promoting competition.” They believe that their current iteration is “misguided”. If successful in their lawsuit, Amazon claims that the FTC will be forcing them “to engage in practices that actually harm consumers and the many businesses that sell

in our store—such as having to feature higher prices, offer slower or less reliable Prime shipping, and make Prime more expensive and less convenient.” Amazon aims to bring low prices to customers and to help independent sellers be successful on their website, according to David Zapolsky, Amazon’s general counsel.

Currently, the FTC is trying to prove that Amazon broke the law, and if so, to put a stop to it. The outcome is still far from being determined, with FTC chair Lina Khan saying, “At this stage, the focus is really on liability.”



(Image Courtesy AboutAmazon)

ENTERTAINMENT

The Return of the Hunger Games

SPOILER WARNING for The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

By Madison Sciba
Editor-in-Chief

Eleven years after the first movie in the Hunger Games franchise was released, a prequel hit theaters. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes takes place 64 years before Katniss volunteers for her sister in the reaping. The film centers around Lucy Gray Baird, a singer from the poor District 12 and her romance with capital student, Coriolanus Snow. The film is essentially the villain origin story of the evil President Snow that we see in the original Hunger Games trilogy.

Normally a prequel or spinoff of a popular franchise can be a severe disappointment to fans. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, however, held up to the standard set by The Hunger Games

over ten years ago. The movie not only filled a void that was left after Mockingjay Part 2 was released but can have some fans leaving the theater with a moral conundrum.

The central character, Coriolanus Snow, spends the entire film in constant conflict with his morals. Those with knowledge of the original trilogy know that Snow eventually becomes the ruthless dictator who causes so much death and violence. In the film, however, the audience even starts to pity him: the poor pretty boy down on his luck doing what he thinks is best for his family and country. It did not hurt, of course, that the actor chosen to play the young Coriolanus Snow was extremely attractive.

Overall the film was impressive and fit extremely well into the Hunger Games universe. It

may surprise some people, but the focus of the film is not on the Games but rather Snow's life and internal conflicts. While it is a serious film with a lot of death, there is a surprising amount of humor. Lucky Flickerman steals the show with his witty and snarky commentary. "Ill Dill, tuberculosis on legs," said about one of the characters, was out of pocket but made the entire theater chuckle.

If you enjoyed the previous movies or just want a deeper understanding of the trilogy, I highly recommend reading the novel of the same name. It goes in such depth and is told through Snow's point of view, giving a much deeper angle to the character's intentions and thoughts.



(Image Courtesy Lionsgate)

Can You Survive the Five Nights?

A review of the new Blumhouse production Five Nights at Freddy's

By Val Hill
Visiting Entertainment Columnist

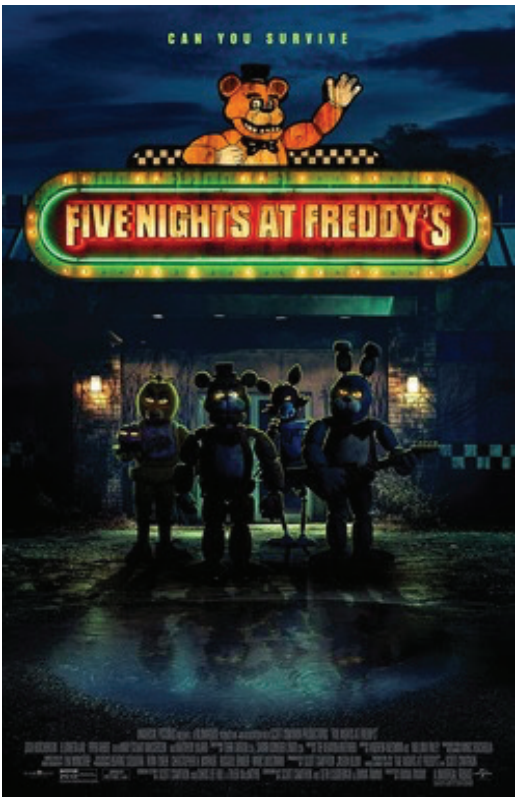
In August of 2014, a man by the name of Scott Cawthon released a game called Five Nights at Freddy's. This game was produced by ScottGames Clickteam Illumix, and was quickly picked up by YouTubers like Markiplier and MatPat. These YouTubers were a key aspect of most of the success of the franchise, and there was talk of a movie since around April 2015 with the release of Five Nights at Freddy's 4. But it was taking too long for most fans, so some took matters into their own hands to make their own fan movies. So when horror production company Blumhouse announced that they would be producing the movie, fans had high expectations. Blumhouse is responsible for producing other films like Split and The First Purge, so fans were ready for a blood and gore-worthy movie. A film that was worthy of a rated R, and definitely not kid-friendly. However, the movie was going to be released as a PG-13 and this is what started the downfall of the movie.

The movie was marketed as a horror movie, but it was anything but horror. The movie took more of its inspiration from the book "The Silver Eyes" rather than the video games. This confused fans for a majority of the movie, since it seemed to be marketed as if it was based on the first game. Since this franchise is heavily lore-based, it was assumed that the lore would be pulling from the established canon and would fit within the game's established timeline. But once again this was not the case, but nonetheless, a Five Nights At Freddy's movie is better than none at all.

The movie follows a guy named Mike (Josh Hutcherson) who is having a difficult time trying to keep a stable job in order to take care of his younger sister Abby (Piper Rubio). She is very distant and almost cruel to her brother, even after all the sacrifices he made to try and keep her aunt from taking her away. Meanwhile, Mike finds it difficult to keep a job following the kidnapping of his younger brother Garrett. So after being fired from another job, Mike finds his way as a night-time

security guard for a place called "Freddy Fazbear's Pizza", a family-friendly arcade game pizzeria. Mike is offered this job by an all-too-eager guidance counselor played by Matthew Lillard. There are four remaining animatronics left in the place: Freddy, Bonnie, Foxy and Chica along with her Cupcake. But unknown to Mike, these animatronics are possessed by the spirits of four children who disappeared in the '80s.

Over the course of the movie, Mike tries to figure out what the spirits want along with a female police officer named Vanessa (Elizabeth Lail). Who gives off the aura that she knows more than she is letting on, and over the movie you wonder if Abby somehow fits into the plans of the animatronics.



(Image Courtesy Universal Pictures)

ENTERTAINMENT

Losing a Friend: The Passing of Matthew Perry

By Matthew Colvin
Entertainment Columnist

On October 28, 2023, renowned actor Matthew Perry passed away from an apparent drowning in his Pacific Palisades home. The “Friends” star was found unresponsive in his hot tub after a 911 call that afternoon and was pronounced dead at 4:17 PM that day. Perry was an incredibly successful comedic actor, most well known for portraying Chandler Bing in NBC’s long-running hit sitcom “Friends.” His comedic ability and timing were such that he earned an Emmy nomination in 2002 for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series. He performed in numerous other comedic and dramatic roles as well, including “The West Wing” and “Scrubs.”

Perry was notably outspoken about his lifelong struggle with drugs and alcohol, publishing a chronicle of it in his 2022 memoir “Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing.” In it he openly detailed everything from opioid-induced near-death experiences to how he had spent as much as \$7 million on rehabilitation efforts over the course of his life, only to relapse several times. Perry’s exact cause of death is still “deferred,” as his autopsy results are yet to be released until a toxicology report is fully completed. Seeing that such reports can take weeks to run, it may still be some time until



(Image Courtesy Getty Images)

his cause of death is known for certain. Since Perry’s death, a massive outpouring of love and support has occurred, with dozens of celebrities paying tribute. Perhaps chief among them were his former Friends costars, who issued a statement saying, “We are all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew. We were more than just cast mates. We were family.” In honor of Perry’s

battle with addiction, the Matthew Perry Foundation has been established in the wake of his passing by the National Philanthropic Trust in order to help those similarly affected by alcoholism and drug addiction. Perry is survived by his divorced parents, Suzanne Morrison and John Perry, and five half-siblings.

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: A film that should be a holiday classic

A suggestion of an underrated Thanksgiving movie

By Madison Sciba
Editor-in-Chief

In 1987 a film was released about a man struggling to get home to spend Thanksgiving with his family. Planes, Trains, and Automobiles features two comedy legends: Steve Martin and John Candy and was directed by the iconic 1980s director John Hughes.

Of all the holiday films, very few center around Thanksgiving. Most “I have to get home” films are about people struggling to get home for Christmas. Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, however, is about a man trying to get home to Chicago for Thanksgiv-

ing. Like the title suggests, Steve Martin’s character Neal takes a series of planes, trains, and various automobiles on his quest to return home. On this quest he gets stuck traveling with Del (John Candy), and the two suffer a series of accidents and delays, preventing their journey.

The holiday season has been increasingly overwhelmed with films about Christmas, so here is the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving without angering the “it’s not Christmas yet” relatives. After the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Westminster Dog Show, and whatever football game is on, consider Planes, Trains, and Automobiles. The heart warming story is nothing compared to the great comedy duo that was Steve Martin and John Candy.



(Image Courtesy Paramount)

OPINION

Fall 2023 Fashion Trends: Favorite or Flop?

By Isabella Wynn
Visiting Opinion Columnist

Humans are running out of original, creative ideas. We see this in creative fields such as fashion, makeup, or movies. There have been a multitude of remakes or live actions rather than fresh film ideas. A third Willy Wonka movie is to be released soon following the Little Mermaid live action. Makeup was bold, sharp, and dark in the late 2010s and nowadays subtle pops of color and a clean, glossy look is in, reflecting trends from the 80s and iconic Marilyn Monroe looks.

Fashion trends have been consistently making comebacks. From the return of 80s fashion to Y2K red carpet looks, we appear to be running low on new, decent trends. In taking a look at this Fall's fashion trends, I came across the return of some old trends as well as some potentially new trends that I believe should not be trending in the first place.

- Olive Green Bomber Jacket: Flop
- Gold Tube Hoop Earrings: Favorite



(Image Courtesy Mango, Zara, Everlane; Eloquil; Macy's; Olga; Sidelinkova; Getty Images)

- Denim maxi skirts: Favorite
- The denim blazer: Favorite
- Metallic: Flop
- Leather: Flop
- Mary Janes: Favorite
- Red: Favorite
- Slingback, kickstand, and kitten heels: Favorite
- Lace: Favorite
- Fancy flats: Flop

Denim on denim: Favorite

This fall, fashion trends seem to be all over the place. A lot of these trends, and more that I came across, do not make me think of fall. I never really know what is actually “trending” and it was fun to see what trends are resurfacing. Fashion is unique to everyone; it is fun to play with different styles and pieces. Wear what makes you happy and have a fun, fashionable fall St. Mary’s.

That is Definitely NOT What She Said

A personal take on the fate of The Office spinoff.

By Lillian La Salle
Associate Editor

For the whole month of October, fans of The Office were left in limbo as creator Greg Daniels and other cast members hinted at a possible reboot of the beloved show. Luckily, these speculations were cleared up at the beginning of November by multiple sources such as USA Today, ScreenRant, and The Wrap which jumped at the chance to clear up any confusion amongst the die-hard fan base. Personally, I am so thankful these speculations were not true. At least not in the way I was thinking. Greg Daniels is apparently seeking to spin off the show instead of rebooting it with the original cast, “I can’t imagine wanting to make it with any other cast. I’ve said before that if there was to be anything, it would probably be more like what “The Mandalorian” is to “Star Wars,” rather than trying to get Princess Leia with a new actor” (USA Today). And thank god he couldn’t imagine this new version because The Office had a good run.

Even his consideration of a spinoff is giving this sitcom a little too much importance in the grand scheme of new TV, with new concepts still on the back burner while other mediocre shows have been given the spotlight for far too long. Don’t get me wrong, I loved The Office, but to give background, I would choose Parks and Recreation and Leslie Knope’s shenanigans over a show that made me physically cringe from discomfort any day. Greg Daniels explained to ScreenRant the methodology of creating the new show, having it “exist in the same overall universe

[allowing] for potential guest appearances from original characters” once the new cast members have gotten their foot in the door of the TV Show universe. This sounds like they are trying to live in the Marvel Meta-verse with all these new characters and trying to figure out how to make the same kind of show, without having it fall prey to the failure that is most reboots. It’s just The Office, it’s not that deep, and it’s had its time in the spotlight.

Maybe another office sitcom could be funny, but with constant comparison to what once was, it will be a challenge to make it as successful as its many 2000s counterparts.

While I have your attention, I am going to be controversial and say The Office was great, not fantastic, but great. It had good references that audiences could repeat to each other to form a commu-

nity, but ultimately it is very overhyped, and I blame Jim and Pam. Jim and Pam are idolized for the best love story, but Jim routinely makes decisions without Pam, they lack proper communication skills, and it is evident towards the end when the other cameraman and Holly, Dwight and Angela energy. They would go to bat for each other no matter the situation, be it a that’s what she said joke or a new lease for a beet farm, these two couples are the standouts of the show. I now realize that was my biggest beef with The Office spinoff, seeing the audience get entranced by a vanilla, non-communicative couple who seem like they’ve settled in all areas of their life. Anyway, I will get off my soapbox, but a spinoff of a great show is not the way to go, especially for one as monumental as The Office.

(Image Courtesy Rotten Tomatoes)



SPORTS

Beat Them in The Warm Up

Gaels beat Stanislaus State 107 to 28

By Val Hill
Sports Editor



(Image Courtesy Saint Mary's Athletics)

The Gaels came out strong right out of the gate against Stanislaus State, practically beating the Warriors in the warmup. The energy of the crowd fueling into the Gaels, giving off a dominating presence. Even though the Gaels were predicted to win, they didn't let that get to the players' heads.

Warriors gave the Gaels most of their free points through fouls and an overly confident defense. The Warriors tried to force the Gaels to speed up and to try and get the upper hand. And they did for a few baskets, but the Gaels quickly locked in and took control of the game. One player that truly stood out among the rest for the Gaels was Mason Forbes. Forbes is a grad student who

was a redshirt last season and did not play. Forbes has made such an impact on the court that I could see him being an all season starter.

Another outstanding player in that game was the hometown hero, Aiden Mahaney, a returning all star who set a new personal record for most points in a game. During that game Mahaney proved that he wasn't just a second half player, but an all in player. From making almost all of his three point shots, to being an all around defensive and offensive player, Aiden was setting the tone for the rest of the season.

Since the Gaels were doing so well that game, head coach Randy Bennett decided to let everyone have some game minutes. Players such as

Rory Hawke, Kevin Gad, and Cade Bennett finally made their debuts, all of which did not play last season due to redshirting. Freshman Jordan Ross got on the court and was starting to make himself known that game as well.

All eyes were on the Gaels to have a total shutout and they provided. The Gaels only lost their momentum for a brief moment, letting the Warriors get 9 turnovers. But that made the Gaels not only fight back, but completely dominate the game.

And with this game the Gaels set a new school record for most points in a game since 2010. Thus the end game score was 107 Gaels and 28 for the Warriors.

Mahaney, Wessels have Career Days as Gaels Rout Lobos

Saint Mary's successfully sought revenge Nov. 9 when New Mexico came to Moraga

By Drew Paxman
Sports Reporter

Under the bright Thursday night lights in a packed University Credit Union Pavilion, the Gaels warmed up with only one thing on their mind: revenge against the team that broke their home winning streak a season ago, the New Mexico Lobos. The result was a 72-58 dominant victory for Saint Mary's.

"I was ready to go from the jump," said sophomore guard Aidan Mahaney, who scored a career high-tying 25 points in the game.

The game was a blowout from the get-go, in large part due to Mahaney's phenomenal 21-point first half performance.

"Whatever my team needs I'm here for it," remarked Mahaney. "[Mickey] McConnell and the offensive coaches do a really good job at getting us some great sets. From there we just follow his execution and try to do it to the best of our ability."

Sophomore center Harry

Wessels dominated in the paint, scoring a career high-tying 12 points and career high four offensive rebounds. Wessels believes the key to the team's success is maintaining the team's "gritty not pretty" motto.

"We're gonna be overlooked sometimes...and it's not always gonna be easy but we're just gonna go out there and try hard every time," Wessels said. "We have guys that are extremely tough, and toughness is something we preach and pride ourselves on everyday."

Wessels not only displayed physical toughness throughout his 14 minutes of action, but mental toughness as well. With 8:46 left to play, Wessels picked up his fourth foul. Despite having a career-day up to that point, the sophomore center knew he had to make a change.

"It's just the focus on details as far as...showing the refs you're playing clean," he said. "You

think about it a little bit—cleaning up. But you still got to go out there and play hard."

Since their 72-58 win over the Lobos, the Gaels have fumbled into a three game losing streak on the road, losing their Top 25 AP Poll ranking. The season is still young, though, and the Gaels look to make improvements at home against Davidson on Friday, Nov. 24.



(Image Courtesy Jed Jacobsohn/Associated Press)

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