

THE MIRROR

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Black Lives Matter Flag Removed by Administration



Photo Contributed by Susan Birge



Kyler Erezuma/The Mirror

Counseling & Psychological Services displayed a Black Lives Matter flag in the front window of their office (Left). However, administration instructed C&PS to take down the flag just days later (Right).

By Madison Gallo
Head News Editor

By Madeline West
Assistant News Editor

On Feb. 17, Counseling & Psychological Services reached out to The Mirror after the administration ordered the removal of the Black Lives Matter flag in their front window.

Mark Celano, Ph.D., assistant director and director of training at C&PS, stated that they were “directed to remove the flag by the school administration out of concern that it may make some people uncomfortable.” As of Feb. 16, the flag is no longer hung in the front of the C&PS office. This came after C&PS reached out to the Mirror on Feb. 15, to bring awareness to the flag hung and to suggest “providing coverage in The Mirror to further celebrate Black History Month and raise awareness about diversity and inclusion.”

Celano ended his Feb. 17 message to The Mirror by stating, “We at C&PS remain deeply committed to supporting our BIPOC students despite this change.”

The original message sent to The Mirror requesting for coverage of the BLM flag hanging in the window of C&PS was sent by Susan Birge, Ph.D., associate vice president for health and wellness and director of C&PS.

Her email stated: “Counseling & Psychological Services is committed to supporting and sustaining an educational community that is inclusive, diverse and equitable. [C&PS] policies, procedures, activities, relationships and interactions with each other and

individuals and groups in the campus community are consistent with these values. We are committed to celebrating the diversity that gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, age, religious orientation, social class, appearance, abilities and other differences bring. Furthermore, we are committed to confronting prejudice, discrimination and oppression. Please consider providing coverage in the Mirror to further celebrate Black History Month and raise awareness about diversity and inclusion.”

After reaching out to Celano for further information regarding why C&PS was directed to remove the flag, and what, if anything, the message hanging and then quickly removing the flag sends to students, he said he was “unable to comment.”

Further, The Mirror then received an unprompted email from Vice President for Student Life Karen Donoghue regarding the potential coverage by The Mirror and stated she was forwarded the email initially sent by The Mirror from Assistant Director Celano and Dr. Birge. Donoghue stated that, “Fairfield University encourages intellectual debate and discourse, and expression of free speech among faculty and students.”

Donoghue explained that “as standard practice, any signage in a public area (inside or outside a building) must be approved by a division Vice President, the department of facilities management and the department of marketing and communications to ensure compliance with zoning regulations, maintain brand consistency and minimize facility wear and tear. Any sign approved will be hung by

facilities management or employees who have the appropriate tools.”

According to Donoghue, a “concern came forward within 24-hours of the flag being hung asking if standard practices were followed.”

Due to the absence of the necessary approval process, the sign was removed, Donoghue stated.

“I am working with the Wellness Center to follow necessary approvals to hang appropriate signage to create a welcoming environment for all students,” Donoghue said.

The University’s Student Handbook for the year 2021-22 academic year outlines the guidelines Donoghue referenced.

With regards to practices of freedom of assembly Fairfield University handbook states that the University “generally supports the free expression of views or ideas and allows for peaceful assembly by members of our community (i.e Fairfield University students, faculty and staff).”

The policy on expression and assembly is subject to the following conditions relayed in the handbook:

Expression and assembly “Cannot impede or block the ingress or egress to any University building room, faculty or space, deny or deprive others the opportunity to speak or be heard, interfere with or disrupt the University’s normal operation, pose any threat to campus safety, interfere with a legitimate educational or institutional process.”

Additionally, on Oct. 11, 2020 the Office of Residence Life sent out an email to students

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FUSA Election Commissioner Resigns Days Before Presidential Election

By Molly Lamendola
Editor-in-Chief

Just days before the Fairfield University Student Association is set to hold elections for the 75th President and Vice President positions, the Election Commissioner and Chief Justice of the FUSA Court Matthew Little ‘22 resigned on Friday, Feb. 18.

“I voluntarily resigned from my position as Chief Justice,” Little said in a statement to the Mirror, adding, “It was an honor to serve as a justice for three years.”

Little’s resignation leaves a gap in the Election Commissioner position forcing FUSA to assign a new Commissioner and Chief Justice.

Little stated that he did not know which of the remaining justices was named the Interim Election Commissioner, but “Regardless, given the strength and talent of the four associate justices, I am confident that the election will run well.”

FUSA President Tyler Heffern ‘22 stated to The Mirror that Little has, “...chosen to recuse himself from the presidential election so that he could devote more time to other opportunities.”

He added that Associate Justice Kasey Santos ‘24 was chosen to serve as the interim Election Commissioner for the duration of the presidential election.

“There will be no impacts to this election and we are confident that the remaining justices will facilitate the election smoothly” Heffern added, continuing, “We are thankful for Matt’s long service as he is a valued member of our organization. We are excited for his future endeavors.”

Little’s resignation leaves yet another position open on the

FUSA Court as the court expanded last year after the FUSA constitution was amended and failed to attract enough applicants to fill the seven seats. Heffern was asked and did not respond to the question regarding if there are any plans to attempt to fill the, now,

“There will be no impacts to this election and we are confident that the remaining justices will facilitate the election smoothly”

- FUSA President Tyler Heffern ‘22

empty three seats on the court.

As of Feb. 22, the FUSA Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates that have declared candidacy is as followed: Will Bradshaw ‘23 and Angeline Dortenzio ‘23, Jordan Gale ‘23 and Aliyah Seenauth ‘24, Nick Duran ‘24 and Liana Giacobbe ‘24, Cormac Brown ‘23 and Eric Hawkinson ‘23 and lastly, John Malolepszy ‘23 and Edward Malolepszy ‘24.

They have until midnight tonight, Feb. 22, to collect 200 signatures on their petition to participate in the debate on Thursday, Feb. 24 and be listed on the ballot.

Ballots will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1. The results will then be announced at the Post-Election Party at 7:00 p.m. that Tuesday, March 1 in the Lower Level of the Barone Campus Center.

FUSA'S 75th ELECTION- What to Know!

TUNE INTO THE DEBATE!
Hear candidates on Feb. 24 answer questions concerning various issues, express their platform, and their plans if they are elected.

SHOW UP AND VOTE!
Ballot opens on Feb 26th!

WHEN DO POLLS CLOSE?
Ballot closes on March 1st and winners will be announced!

Illustrated by Madeline West

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Increasing Student Population Leaves Stags Scrambling for Off-Campus Housing Senior Year

By Tommy Coppola
Sports Editor

Fairfield University guarantees and requires four years of on-campus housing; Fairfield University's 2021-2022 student handbook states that "Fairfield University is a residential campus with housing guaranteed to full-time matriculated undergraduates for four years." Occasionally, however, students will be given the option to give up their fourth year of housing to go live off campus somewhere else, most commonly the area of Fairfield Beach. Recently, students

have been putting themselves under an immense amount of pressure to sign leases for beach houses, according to Speaker of the Fairfield University Student Association Senate John Stalzer. According to Stalzer, students are signing leases as soon as they possibly can in their first or second years of college. This can create a less-than-desirable living situation for students who grow apart from the group they signed a lease with. "I think a lot of people sign [leases] in their sophomore year, but that's totally

"If you're a sophomore or if you're in the spring semester of your freshman year, students are already starting to think about the beach because, in all honesty, that's a large reason why some people might choose to come to Fairfield, because of the beach,"

- Speaker of the FUSA Senate John Stalzer '22

unnecessary and creates a bad situation," Stalzer stated. An additional problem that is caused by signing a contract for a house too early could be that Fairfield University does not release a student from campus just because they may have already committed to a lease. This not only causes problems for the landlord but also the group of

students who have committed to a housing contract off-campus.

If a group of students would like to live down by the beach (or anywhere off campus for that matter), they first need to get released from the University. This happens at the end of the fall semester of junior year. Stalzer stated that he thinks "around 600 [students]" are allowed to live off campus.

Fairfield University takes into consideration a few factors when determining how many students to release. First, they consider how many legal beds they can fill down at the beach area, which technically starts past the sign indicating you are in the Fairfield Beach area. They also take into consideration how many beds they can fill on campus. These numbers will help determine the number of how many people will be able to move off campus.

There is no underlying reason as to why more students are looking to sign leases early.

"If you're a sophomore or if you're in the spring semester of your freshman year, students are already starting to think about the beach because, in all honesty, that's a large reason why some people might choose to come to Fairfield, because



Many of the houses available for senior living have a beach front view. However, because of rising acceptances, trying to acquire a house is becoming harder.

of the beach," Stalzer said. Students have begun thinking about the beach much earlier, and this is likely just due to the hysteria caused by landlords to put money down as quickly as possible.

"The supply is going to go down," Stalzer acknowledges, "and even you might not get, you know, a huge range of houses to choose from, but there's always going to be houses." For students who either do not want to live off campus to begin with or who do not get released from campus, there still exists a wide variety of options for senior year housing. The newly-completed

Barnyard Manor south townhouses on campus are a great option, offering single rooms to all students who live in the unit. Another perk to these townhouses are laundry options inside each unit instead of a communal area.

Another senior-housing option is 47 Mahan Road, which offers apartments with four single rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a common living space.

Students interested in learning more about housing options, on campus or off can find more information on the Office of Residence Life website.



Students gather at The Point on Fairfield Beach Road. Many students live on this road or on nearby streets if they live off-campus for their senior year.



**We're here to listen.
Whatever way works best for you.**

In person or over Zoom - Counseling & Psychological Services is here for you. Appointments are free and confidential. Make self-care a priority this semester and schedule an appointment today - call us, e-mail us, or schedule online. We look forward to hearing from you.

PHONE: 203-254-4000 x2146
EMAIL: counseling@fairfield.edu
ONLINE: fairfield.edu/cpsschedule



Fairfield University



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

2/15
11:04 a.m.
There was a call for a mask compliance issue in the Rec Plex in which DPS assisted and mediated.

2/15
10:43 p.m.
There was a harassment case reported between roommates. Students involved were referred to student conduct.

2/18
2:09 pm.
A person fell down the stairs in McAuliffe Hall. DPS was notified, and the person who fell was not sent to the hospital.

2/19
3:00 p.m.
An argument between employees was reported and was responded to by DPS.

2/21
1:09 a.m.
A fight took place and was reported in the townhouses. Students involved were reported to student conduct.

2/21
9:32 a.m.
There was theft reported in a women's shower in 70 McCormick Road. There are no current suspects.



THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

Molly Lamendola, *Editor-in-Chief*
Julia Lanzillotta, *Executive Editor*
Sheila McCombs, *Managing Editor*
Tobenna Ugwu, *Managing Editor*

Editors

Madison Gallo, *Head News*
Madeline West, *Assistant News*
Peyton Perry, *Opinion*
Brooke Lathe, *Vine*
Thomas Coppola, *Sports*
Tristan Cruz, *Coffee Break*

Staff Photographer

Kyler Erezuma

Business Department

Email: info@fairfieldmirror.com
Tristan Cruz, *Chief Financial Officer*

Advisor
Tommy Xie

Contact Information

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

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All Full-Time Faculty Required to Serve as Academic Advisors

By Peyton Perry
Opinion Editor

Fairfield University provides academic advising to all students, as stated in the "Resources and Services" section found within the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Under this section it states that students are paired with a faculty advisor within the academic discipline of their major. Undeclared majors are also paired with a faculty advisor, which will change once a major has been declared.

Fairfield further states that "advisors are available to meet regularly with students, monitor progress, advise students at registration time and discuss programs and courses of study, co-curricular involvement, and high-impact learning opportunities such as study abroad, capstones, and internships."

Questions have been raised among students, however, about the process of choosing academic advisors and training.

Andrea Martinez, M.A., NCC, senior assistant dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, provides answers to some of these students' questions, as well as her take on the role of an academic advisor.

Speaking solely on behalf of CAS, and not for the Dolan School of Business, Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies or School of Engineering where protocols may differ, Martinez shares that all full-time faculty must serve as academic advisors.

CAS is one of the largest schools with roughly 1,500 undergraduate students, according to Martinez.

Each of these students is assigned an academic advisor for the four years spent as undergraduates.

"It's built into our expectations that every full time faculty member is assigned to students [as an academic advisor]," she says. There are a few different ways that CAS pairs a student with an advisor.

According to Martinez, students who have both declared a major and have filled out their academic questionnaire are divided

up equally and distributed to faculty within the given department.

In other words, the department chairs look at advising loads for current faculty and then divide the students out equally amongst them.

How many students a faculty member is assigned to advise, therefore, depends upon how many students are enrolled in the department.

She goes on to provide an example – since the communications department is very large, advisors within that department have greater caseloads of students, whereas faculty within a smaller department often do not.

In regards to students who are undeclared, CAS tries to ensure that each student's personal interests are accounted for and read each student's academic questionnaire.

Then, in alignment with a student's interest, a faculty member is chosen.

"If we have a student who says, math is really not my strong point, or I don't like it, or it's not a subject matter I'm interested in," says Martinez, "I don't assign them to Dr. Irene Mulvey in the math department because that's not really going to work."

Similarly, if a student who has a declared major switches to undeclared, as part of the student's paperwork CAS requires the student to answer open-ended questions pertaining to their interests, according to Martinez.

Overall when asked how students are assigned to a particular academic advisor, Martinez says, "Sometimes it has to do with loads and how many students are assigned to that faculty member and can they take on more?"

"Sometimes it's based on interests, and sometimes it's based on declared majors," she added.

Every student is entitled to ask to switch their advisor as well, shares Martinez, however this is very rare within CAS.

In the case of a student wanting to switch, a meeting is often set up with a department chair to hear the student's concerns and figure out how to best accommodate the student.

When asked what the role of an academic advisor is, Martinez says that the role is more than just granting a student a pin for course registration, "It's mentorship" she says.

According to Martinez, helping a student choose their classes is the easy part.

The harder but equally important part is building a strong mentoring relationship with the student, and guiding them out-

the undergraduate curriculum committee at Fairfield, where he periodically hears of faculty concerns pertaining to a lack of proper training in the academic advisor position.

He notes that as a student, he is unfamiliar with the process of hiring academic advisors, as well as any potential training or lack thereof. Rotundo has, however, witnessed professors at undergraduate curriculum com-

"If we do it, right the students have a co-pilot, but they themselves are the drivers."

- Andrea Martinez, M.A., NCC, senior assistant dean for the College of Arts and Sciences

side of the classroom as well.

"If we do it, right," she says, "the students have a co-pilot, but they themselves are the drivers."

As reported by The Mirror, student experiences often differ when it comes to their academic advising and many want to know why?

Catherine Zarrella, a sophomore student pursuing a psychology major, shows gratitude for faculty advisors within the psychology department.

"The faculty makes it clear to students how important meeting with your advisor is and they host two group advising sessions in tandem with personal advising," Zarrella says.

Carina Kortick, an undeclared sophomore student in the DSB, also shares her experience.

"I understand the idea behind advising," Kortick says, "but I personally have found it of little help, and without the pin incentive I'm not sure if I would go."

Looking beyond the process of pairing students with an advisor, Vincent Rotundo '23, Fairfield University Student Association senator and director of academics, shares another possibility of lack of proper training for faculty advisors.

Rotundo sits on

committee meetings complain about not feeling prepared enough for their role as an advisor.

"In terms of advising, I don't know exactly how the process works," says Rotundo, "But I do know that there are advisors who have come forth and they've said we don't know what we're doing, so how do you expect us to advise kids?"

"They physically have admitted that they don't know how to advise because some of them themselves do not understand the core [curriculum], which I personally believe is a problem," he says.

Rotundo takes a step back, however, to recognize Fairfield University on their overall hiring process of professors at large.

"The system in terms of how they get professors in the first place is strong," he says, "Fairfield does their best and this [is something] I will commend the University for."

Reasons behind Rotundo's high regards for Fairfield in this aspect consist of students being offered the opportunity to get dinner with prospective professors, as well as requiring them to teach a mock class at the University.

Overall, Rotundo agrees with Martinez that the role of an academic advisor is to help the student gauge course selection and interests, serving as an overall mentor.

He mentions that there is a current divide between professors who are on top of their role as advisors, and those who are not.

"They're [the faculty] not provided with the proper resources they need in order to advise so therefore, they can't advise us properly," Rotundo says. "Which is sad because we're paying for the services that we're not getting."

Martinez reinforced the idea that advisors are more than just the way to get your course registration pin number.

Martinez says, "advisors are guides, mentors, trusted people on our campus, and we hope that they help shepherd the student along in their academic journey and provide them with opportunities."

The question still remains as to whether or not faculty are trained for their role as academic advisors and what the root of this current divide experienced by students is.



Kyler Erezuma/TheMirror

Pictured above is an academic classroom. Some students have raised questions regarding how academic advisors are selected for advising.

Stags Speak Out Against University's "Back Seat" Role in BLM Movement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

regarding room inspections during this time.

Relayed in the email was additional window coverings, "which includes the use of non-university curtains, flags, tapestries and signs hung on the glass."

They emphasized in the email that "Use of these items can obstruct the egress in the event of the emergency. Thus, res life stated "students are able to hang posts in windows as long as it is at a reasonable level, which would be less than 20% of the window covered."

The removal of the flag comes just days before the University is set to present their work on diversity in the university, "A Community in Action: Sharing Our Work In and Commitment To Diversity and Inclusive Excellence" on Monday, Feb. 28.

"I understand that to some that may not be the case, but this is where Fairfield U comes into play. The ability to foster that sense of belonging while meeting the needs of the entire demographic is the role of the University and its surrounding members to define."

- Luckario Alcide '21

Many students see the removal of the flag as just an additional move in the university's passive stance on diversity and inclusion. University alumnus Luckario Alcide '21 shared his opinion on the situation with The Mirror. He was outspoken during the 2020 University handlings of the Black Lives Matter protests. His involvement, he said, during 2020 regarding the "University's dealings with BLM came at a time of confusion and frustration."

"Confusion and frustration because a university tied to Jesuit values took the back seat in a time when the call to action was universal," Alcide said. "The actions taken have demonstrated that the University has surrendered its intentions of solidarity."

After his frustration of the University handlings in 2020, Alcide said "hearing about these [recent] actions bummed me out."

"Flags can serve to unite us under a common theme and in my opinion, the theme of BLM flag represents solidarity and understanding for a historically marginalized group," Alcide added.

He acknowledged that some people may disagree

with his stance saying, "I understand that to some that may not be the case, but this is where Fairfield U comes into play. The ability to foster that sense of belonging while meeting the needs of the entire demographic is the role of the University and its surrounding members to define."

"These actions have failed its students on both sides of the spectrum," Alcide said.

Junior Eden Marchese, the director of Diversity & Inclusion for the Fairfield University Student Association, shared their outlook.

"My initial thoughts on the University forcing removal of the BLM flag were that the University is being blatant with their disrespect for Black students as well as other POC on campus," Marchese said.

They added, "This continues to show the University only cares about minority student groups inasmuch as those groups can give them money and the administration can abuse these students for ridiculous marketing campaigns aimed at manipulating students to believe Fairfield University is something it is not."

Regarding the removal of the flag specifically, Marchese said, "Nemec clearly has no care for anyone but himself and the racist, white students at the University, it is why the University did not blanketly enforce the removal of the Trump 2020 Flags or the Confederate Flags during the 2020 election and, instead, put all of the pressure of removing these flags onto the RAs so that the University did not need to face any true repercussions."

Fairfield is a historically predominantly white institution. A PWI attribute is typically given when a university has more than 50% of a white student demographic. Fairfield University is comprised of roughly 75% white students.

This is not the first time Fairfield has dealt with issues regarding race on campus.

In late February of 2016, Fairfield University students hosted an off-campus "ghetto party" in which students dressed up in brown makeup and wore outfits that perpetuated stereotypes against Black Americans.

In a New York Times article written on the issue, Vice President of Marketing and Communication Jenn Anderson commented, "The University is dedicated to continuing cultural diversity on campus" and "We will learn from this."

The Times also quoted a Fairfield student "who insisted that her name not be used and who commutes to classes from her home in Bridgeport." She said, "I think there are more people adding to the diversity of the campus, but it's definitely not a diverse campus."

Other students quoted at the time of the incident expressed similar feelings. In an article published by the Connecticut News Junkie in

Fairfield University Must Say Black Lives Matter



Following the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests across the country, the Fairfield Alumni Response Team created a change.org petition calling for University officials to say "Black Lives Matter." There are currently over 8,000 signatures on the petition.

February 2016, University student Juanita Rainey, who at the time, was a 20-year-old junior from Bridgeport, shared her thoughts on the situation.

"This continues to show the University only cares about minority student groups inasmuch as those groups can give them money and the administration can abuse these students for ridiculous marketing campaigns aimed at manipulating students to believe Fairfield University is something it is not."

- FUSA Director of Diversity & Inclusion Eden Marchese '23

"Even though the school is becoming more diverse, the students aren't being integrated well," Rainey said. "So it's disappointing because I've had all these friends, who I thought were okay with me, happily attend this party to make fun of black people."

This article also quoted Anderson saying, "We also demand that our students, faculty and staff maintain the highest level of cultural sensitivity. We will be investigating this matter immediately, and will take the appropriate action as soon as the facts have been determined."

However, after those facts were determined, it was found that the Division I Men's

Lacrosse Team was found guilty of at least hosting the party, as reported by The Mirror.

The Mirror then reported on a sit-in that occurred at a lacrosse game after news of the team being guilty for hosting the party spread.

"The reason why we chose specifically to sit at a lacrosse game," commented Jasmine Raghunandan '17 who participated in the sit-in, "is because the lacrosse team has been found responsible for at least hosting the party, and the fact that the institution has decided to allow this game to continue and not suspend the entire game is, to everyone who has been affected, or at least to everyone who is sitting here in protest, we find that to be disrespectful to how we have been offended."

Another student, Sean Tomlinson '19, stated, "I'm here to stand up for what I know is right. You can't let things that are so inherently wrong just go... not untalked about, because it's been talked about... but you can't just let it go until someone changes it."

Four years after the infamous ghetto party, Black Lives Matter protests happened nationally after a series of instances of police brutality gained viral attention.

Marchese noted that when this all was happening, Fairfield University President, Mark R. Nemec, Ph. D. did not say "Black Lives Matter."

"Black Lives Matter" is something that Mark Nemec should've said years ago, but his refusal to is only reinforced in trying to silence [anyone] on campus that isn't a coward like himself," Marchese said.

This same summer,

"There are plenty of underrepresented groups on this campus who have felt uncomfortable because we are told to cater to those 'certain people.' The University continues to cater to them and does not acknowledge that impact that has on other demographics."

- Black Student Union President Chelsey Gabriel '22

8,830 have signed. Let's get to 10,000!

At 10,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to get a reaction from the decision maker!

Ge'e Browne signed this petition

Julianna Crisanti signed this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Opinion

Editor Peyton Perry » peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu

Is the University Moving Too Fast by Lifting its Mask Mandate?

Yes or No

By Christian Mannino
Contributing Writer



On Monday Feb. 14, an email was sent out from Fairfield University's Office of the President whose contents have prompted widespread discourse amongst Fairfield's student body. The email, striking some as controversial, outlined some major modifications to the University's COVID-19 mitigation strategies. There are five main modifications, though one in particular stands out—see if you can guess which one. Let's quickly break the email down:

One: The University will be shifting from an indoor mask mandate to an indoor mask recommendation. This may be subject to change depending on specific classroom settings or events. Two: The University will continue its recommendation of vaccines and booster shots. Three: The University will continue regular testing for unvaccinated students as well as keeping rooms prepared for those who need to be isolated. Four: The University will be reopening its gates to the public, including no restrictions for public or campus gatherings. Five: COVID-19 updates will be sent out to faculty, staff and students when relevant information arises.

Could you guess which one got people talking? If you said the first one, you'd be absolutely correct. For anybody familiar with Fairfield University's COVID-19 protocol up to this point, this would be an easy guess. A whole two years after the Covid-era started, indoor mask mandates are being greatly loosened.

To some, this new rule stating that masks are only recommended comes as a breath of fresh air, literally and metaphorically. To others, this modification is seen as a completely unnecessary risk.

In my view, it may very well be too early for the University to be taking such a major step, as it now lands the student body and faculty in territory that is still shrouded in mystery. As demonstrated by the recent highly contagious Omicron variant, COVID-19 can change nearly overnight. Especially now, it's hard to understand the sudden rush to move

away from indoor mask mandates.

I understand just as much as my next peer how completely restrictive masks have been for the past couple of years. At times they're hot, itchy and can make waving to the wrong person a bit awkward. It'd be wonderful to rid ourselves of this light blue face clinger for good, but I'm concerned the University made this call a bit preemptively.

One concern of mine is if another variant comes out that would, most likely, require masks again. Not only would there be another surge of COVID-19 cases among the student body, but getting students to wear masks again may in itself be a difficult task.

Another concern of mine is for the University faculty and staff. Plenty of these individuals are at-risk, whether that is due to matters of personal health or because they are of older age. Though wearing a mask may not be as necessary for a student that is young and healthy, transmitting the virus to somebody at risk could make a world of difference to them. Fairfield University should be treated as the community it is, and considering the needs of everyone is a component of that. Comfort for some should not come as a potential health risk for others.

To quote the email that was sent out, "Over the last two years the University has made extraordinary efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19..." Though wearing a piece of cloth over your face indoors does not take an "extraordinary effort", it could very well make an extraordinary difference to some of the University's students, faculty, and staff.

Having to collectively deal with COVID-19 for the past two years has been an incredibly tiring task. This said, drawing a finish line and stepping over it does not excuse ourselves—it does not mean we are done yet. The potential risks that could come about from these Covid protocol modifications do not outweigh the benefits, at least not at this moment in time.



I wholeheartedly believe that, together, we can get "back to normal"—but getting there just might require taking precautions for just a bit longer.

By Peyton Perry
Opinion Editor

Fairfield University has followed COVID-19 protocols fairly successfully over the past two years and has yet to let our community down.

When positive cases increased in the heart of the pandemic, the University initiated lockdowns, when large groups of first years tried to mingle in the quad, the University employed G Force to mitigate the crowds and when vaccines and boosters became available, clinics were set up right on campus and highly encouraged for students and faculty.

As reported COVID-19 positive cases have remained low on campus, signified by the University remaining in the green campus COVID-19 alert level, it seems acceptable that the University has decided to no longer mandate masks, effective Feb. 28. An email was sent out by the Office of the President on Feb. 14 to all students and faculty, stating that following Governor Lamont's "rescinding of mask mandates," the University will soon be dropping its mandate.

President Mark R. Nemeck, Ph. D. ends the email by saying, "I ask you all to join me in the hope that we have been through the worst of it, and in the recognition that we have come through stronger than ever."

He goes on to extend his confidence in the University to "respond and adapt with clarity and as needed," recognizing that the University is open to making any necessary changes in the future, as it has done all along. As a University who has diligently followed COVID-19 safety protocols for the overall health of its community, I trust this is the right decision.

As with most any decision in life, however, there will always be people who disagree. Especially with a pandemic of this stature that we have all had to face, no matter when restrictions begin to lift there will be people afraid and uncomfortable.

We have had these restrictions in place for nearly two years and masks especially have become the new normal. Many of us can't remember attending class without one and just as we were forced into what was uncomfortable back then (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.), we are now emerging into another uncomfortable transition of dropping such restrictions that we have grown so accustomed to.

One of the reasons that this is very difficult is that a new level of understanding and adapting for individuals, which did not previously exist before COVID-19, has been established over the past two years. What makes this challenging is that this cannot last forever and as we begin to now gradually transition out of restrictions, many individuals want to hold on to accommodations that may no longer be

practical.

As a young and overall healthy student, I am in a much different position than other members of our community. I am not ignorant of the fact that other students and faculty may have good reason to remain uncomfortable and resistant to the University's measures in dropping its mask mandate.

It's all a complex array of conflicts and I imagine it's up to the University to distinguish between whether a high level of understanding should remain and when risks are low enough that this level begins to diminish.

I know nobody wants to hear this but as the severity of COVID-19 continues to decline in the face of new technologies, and accessibility rises for vaccine and booster shots, an understanding for those who remain afraid will also begin to lessen.

Not to tie this to the University at all. It is stated in the same email as mentioned prior that the Provost's Office "will have discussions with faculty and staff regarding masking as warranted in certain classroom settings or at certain events." But as a general and broad notion, understanding is not going to last as long as some may hope. There will be many forced into the uncomfortable transition of dropping COVID-19 restrictions, and this is merely life.

Everything comes with certain risks and we as humans mitigate and weigh those risks constantly. As loved ones have been lost, vulnerable newborns are at home and immunocompromise puts others at higher risk, we are now at a very uncomfortable time of figuring out what risks have lowered enough that they are now worth taking, and which ones are not. Again, this is not my place to know or figure out. I believe every individual should do what is best for them and their well-being.

The University (just as any other institution or business), however, has the right to make decisions and take risks that it deems reasonable and beneficial to the community at large.

The University's near switch to a mask recommendation over that of a mandate is reasonable given the low incidence of COVID-19 on campus and overall decrease in severity for those who are vaccinated and boosted.

Fairfield should not be expected to consult with every faculty member's opinions or background first, because if that were the case no decision would ever be made.

In a simplified model, prior to COVID-19 if I work somewhere, I'm expected to follow the rules provided to me and understand that I as an employee don't make or have a say in higher-up decisions. That's the job of my manager and company owners. I know that it is my right to talk with my manager on any concerns I have, but that doesn't guarantee there will be change.

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

EDITORIAL

BOARD

STAG BUS SYSTEM NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT

MOLLY LAMENDOLA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During my first year at Fairfield, there was such a thing as food diversity. The library had a little Starbucks tucked to the side. Where the Dunkin' is now in the Barone Campus Center, there was Einstein's Bagels. Now, it's all Dunkin', all across campus.

Though I'm proudly from upstate New York, where I'm nowhere near anything of the Starbucks variety, I'll state that I'm sick of Dunkin'. But, I am lucky enough that I have a car at my disposal. I have the ability to travel off-campus and in just minutes secure a coffee from a handful of different Fairfield establishments. My friends, with no cars and no meal plan, are left with just Dunkin' or the slightly pricey Stag.

Now, this realization got me thinking about this cycle Fairfield puts us under. It's a known fact that only juniors and seniors (and second-semester sophomore nursing students) can have their car on campus. If you want your car on campus it's \$150

for the year. If you do not have a car, or cannot afford the price for a parking pass, the Stag bus is available.

Again, during my freshman year, the Stag Bus went in a loop around the local area, every hour on the hour. Then, in addition to the local town Stag Bus, there was a smaller bus that went to the Trumbull Mall every hour on the hour. This allowed students easier access to the local area and opportunities to buy last-minute goods. But, though the website hasn't been updated, I've heard from students that this bus to the mall stopped running seemingly after COVID and now students can only utilize the Stag Bus into town.

Now, I don't know if you've ever used the Stag Bus for more than just a fun trip into town your first year with friends. But, if you're using it to just go to CVS or the grocery store it's incredibly cumbersome. You take the bus, get to your destination in around 15 minutes, finish your shopping

in 10 minutes and then are stuck waiting around for about an hour until the bus gets back around to you.

You could always take the Stag Bus to your destination and then Uber back, but this is often expensive and puts the burden on students to pay for transportation when it's the University that should be providing the transportation as part of our student fee or any excessive money the Fairfield University Student Association isn't using.

This is only going to become more of an issue in the future with Fairfield accepting more students. In addition, the University is reportedly building more dorms in place of where current students park. With limited parking spaces already, some students may opt to utilize the Stag Bus system more, and the entire system is already in a poor state.

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

Advice for Securing Your Dream Internship

By Molly Lamendola
Editor-in-Chief

My name is Molly Lamendola, I'm a senior at Fairfield University and I... just got a job!



Photo Courtesy of Molly Lamendola
Pictured above is Molly Lamendola on Election Day 2020 when she was campaigning for Christy Smith.

Woohoo! It's all incredibly exciting, but of course, a heck of a lot of work went into it. I'm a student in the College

of Arts and Sciences and that led my parents to immediately start with the, "Well, how are you going to get a job?" questions.

To be transparently honest, I never had a perfect answer for them. I just knew I was going to try and try hard. But, as someone who's now had many internships and has secured a job, I'm full of sound advice for the next generation and can give you the perfect path to success on how to secure your first internship and/or job.

Firstly, if you don't have a LinkedIn, start there. Students of any and every major need a LinkedIn and you need a lot of connections. Unlike any other social media site where it's cool to have a lot of followers but not follow a lot of people, LinkedIn works like a branching tree. The more people you're connected with, the more people you can connect with ease in the future.

Furthermore, LinkedIn is a great, great way to network. Once you have a LinkedIn, you can go through a list of all of the Fairfield University alumni and see where they're currently working or

where they've worked before. You can also narrow down your search results by a major or specific company to find alumni you're interested in.

Now that you found an interesting alumnus, it's time to connect with them. So... connect with them, but you've got to add a note. I typically go with something like, "Hi [Their Name]! My name is Molly and I'm a [Class Year] at Fairfield University. I'm totally fascinated by your role as [Job Title]. I'm interested in a [Career or General Job Field] and would love to chat about your path if you ever have the time?! No worries if not! Thanks!"

You've got to keep it short and sweet as you only have a few characters to squeeze it all in. The goal here is just to get them to connect with you and then the world is your oyster in terms of character amount, as you have unlimited space using the message function once they're connected to you.

Then if you meet with them, we call this an "informational interview." You're not interviewing for anything, in particular, just asking about how they

got to where they are, what internships they had, what classes they took at Fairfield, what skills have made them successful, etc.

I'm 100% honest in these meetings about stating I'm not sure what's right for me yet, but I'm trying to figure it out and just hoping they can help. Everyone was once in their late teens/early twenties without a clue of their future! So tell them you don't know what you want to do, or what you like about what they do, be as open and free as you'd like.

Once you've done this leg work, the time comes to actually start applying. The tricky thing is, this is the most complicated and highest chance of failure step. You could apply to 150 things and not hear back from one. This often leaves a lot of students frustrated, but there are ways to avoid this frustration.

Firstly, you might be applying for the wrong jobs. If you're a first-year or sophomore student with no job experience or very little job experience, you shouldn't expect to score an internship at some prestigious company. If you're interested in journalism, your first in-

ternship just isn't going to be CNN or NBC, you've just got to work up to it. You need smaller experiences first.

So before you start applying, re-evaluate your skills and what internships are right for you. Your informational interview can help with this, or you can even make an appointment with your designated school's career counselor. But, as a general rule, if you're a first-year or sophomore student you should start really small with clubs or local activities first.

Then start applying to some off-campus, but still local opportunities, and then by your junior and senior year, you have the experience to get those bigger internships.

Let me walk you through my path as an example of what might work for you.

I became the Social Media and Marketing Intern for the University's Career Center my freshman year. I also was kind of interested in journalism, so I began writing for The Mirror.

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

Constructive Criticism for the University: A Series

By Pedro Garcia
Contributing Writer

Between its ever-expanding admission pools and growing national profile, it is clear that Fairfield University is on the rise in the minds of college students. As a sophomore who's currently in his fourth semester on campus, it's really not that hard to see why.

Fairfield has so much to fall in love with: a well-designed campus enriched with contemporary glamor, a diverse array of learning and career opportunities, and a location that serves as a nexus point between New England and the metropolis of New York City.

Even in the worst weather, the ugliest, grayest of days, Fairfield has an energy to it that makes getting up and being productive feel exciting and full of potential for self-improvement (or at the bare minimum — some mindless socializing).

In a world where picking a college feels like the hardest choice you'll ever make, Fairfield feels like it was a sure-fire hit.

That being said, everything

has room for improvement. Fairfield University, like every institution, isn't perfect, and that in itself can be a good thing. Imperfection isn't necessarily always negative. Some imperfections give a place character, something wholly unique unto itself.

But then there are the pet peeves, the imperfections that make you exhale through your nose in quiet disgust whenever you see it. The imperfections that make your day just the tiniest, ittiest, bittiest, bit more difficult than it should be. In my opinion, Fairfield University, as great as it is, has a fair amount of peeves. These are just a few of them, in no particular order whatsoever.

First, when driving into campus, why is there not a giant arrow or sign pointing at where to turn once getting to the circle in front of the Stag statue? If I had a dollar for all of the Uber's and DoorDash's that somehow ended up at Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies instead of the places where people actually live, I would have enough to pay tuition and buy

a nice apartment in lower Manhattan. I could maybe even invest in some crypto with that money while I'm at it.

Also, where are all the parking spaces? Disclaimer, I don't have a car on campus, but once again if I had a dollar for every student that mentioned the lack of parking, I would be able to pay for a Super Bowl ad that features Harry Styles playing hopscotch with Harry Potter. A fifteen-second one, not a minute one though; capitalism is ruthless.

On the note of parking, it does not take rocket science to understand that human beings like sunsets. Sunsets are pretty, they give a little bit of magic and awe to the end of our days and provide just a little bit of positive energy to carry us through the rest of the evening. That being said, why are there so many trees on the west side of campus? Don't get me wrong, I love trees. I wish there were more trees! But for gosh sake, can we please bust out a chainsaw and give the west side of campus a trim? The student

body would be thankful for a little bit more golden hour.

Furthermore, I propose that we start mandating community service to be completed by all those who get written up, because I am so sick and tired of tripping over crushed beer cans on a Sunday morning. All litter is bad, don't get me wrong, but when you're throwing cans in trees no more than 10 feet away from a trash can, you're being a special kind of ignorant. Sorry, not sorry.

Speaking of tripping, what is with the weird booby trap system set up outside the Stag and Barone Campus Center? You know which one I'm talking about. One second you're walking on perfectly normal looking square tiles, the next you're tripping over and twisting your ankle while a turkey stares at you — laughing quietly in its tangerine-sized brain.

Okay, now for the lightning round: Why is there no dining in the Tully past 8:00 p.m.? Some people have turbos man, give us a break pretty please. Oh, and whatever

happened to that pizza food truck? I would never call the COVID-19 era the "good ole days", but for those little pizzas, I might reconsider. And last but certainly not least, I got two words: Blackout. Curtains. If you know, you know.

Like I said,



Fairfield is pretty awesome. It has a level of consistent goodness that many colleges rarely achieve.

But if these insignificant bullet points mean anything, it's that sometimes, nitpicking has some merit to it.

All Students can Benefit from Campus Ministry's Retreats

By Tristan Cruz
Chief Financial Officer



Photo Contributed by Tristan Cruz
Pictured above from left to right is Gabby Persechino '22, Nicole Dana '22, Christina Cardona '22, Campus Minister Marc Alibrandi, Liz Ricker '22, Jack Kelly '22 and Tristan Cruz '22 on their Senior retreat.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of being a senior retreat leader at the annual senior retreat. In the months leading up to this retreat, the team and I worked together to create an experience that seniors from all over Fairfield could never forget, and I think we did just that.

The weekend was filled with inspirational talks, following themes centered around compassion and joy, which

were the focus throughout the retreat. I had the honor to speak to my 30-odd classmates about gratitude, and how it has played an important role not only in my college experience but my life in general.

We also heard wonderful heart-warming stories from Liz Ricker '22, Jack Kelly '22, Christina Cardona '22, Nicole Dana '22 and Gabby Persechino

'22. These leaders alongside myself made everyone in the room feel the positive energy that we all need going into the last few months of our undergraduate time here at Fairfield. Through the smiles and tears throughout the retreat, we found joy and compassion as underlying themes present with every moment.

Through much reflection and open dialogue about our time here at Fairfield, and of course, the future that is getting closer and closer, it made me realize how important it is to take this time to reflect. This being my first retreat here at campus turned my whole perspective around to realizing that going on these retreats is crucial. Even if you do not find yourself aligning with some of the religious values expressed there, the reflection and experience overall make every second worth it.

Marc Alibrandi, campus minister for spiritual programs, expressed to us how this is one of his favorite retreats as he had the wonderful opportunity to watch the Class of 2022 grow since he started at the University four years ago. Throughout the retreat, Marc reminded us how time is winding down, and to cherish these last few months.

He provided wonderful insight on how to find happiness and comfort in the process, and to not be intimidated by the idea that "the end is approaching". After all, he reminded us that Commencement is a new beginning, not an end. Although the entire retreat was only slightly more than 24 hours, it was an incredible 24 hours filled with laughter, reflection, appreciation and warmth.

Now it may seem biased, that as one of the retreat leaders I am expressing the importance of the retreat, but as mentioned before, this was my first retreat, and it made me wish I went on more retreats during my time here at Fairfield.

It is often difficult to ignore the stress and anxiety that being a second-semester senior can cause, but this retreat was a perfect way to get a breath of fresh air and be grateful for the time we have had here. Many of the seniors on the retreat spoke of their anxiety for the future, whether it be in regard to relationships, career paths or even where to go next, and Marc had just the way to ease some of these nerves. Joining us on the retreat were Paul Hovey and Margaret Morrell '20 from the Office of Admissions, along with alumna Hanna Meegan '20.

These amazing individuals took time to share their experiences with graduation, time freshly after college and many of the challenges or stressors associated with this transition period. I found it very reassuring to hear from people who not only are not that far off from where we are, but individuals who shared similar experiences regarding employment, college time, and graduation during the pandemic.

It made me feel like if the Class of 2020 could handle such a hard transition, then the class of 2022 certainly can, considering how things have gotten somewhat better in the past two years.

The entire retreat felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders, and I feel like I can say that for many of my classmates as well. The senior retreat certainly provided some positive outlook and inspiration for us seniors to be excited about the future, and be grateful for our time here at Fairfield.

I strongly recommend that if you have the opportunity, go on at least one retreat during your time here at Fairfield, even if it only ends up being the senior retreat. There is something truly special about the retreats offered here at the University.

A watercolor illustration of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring the Freedom Tower. The sky is filled with a large, vibrant orange sun and soft blue and white clouds. The foreground is dominated by large, colorful watercolor washes in shades of green, blue, and pink. The overall style is artistic and expressive.

The Vine

Arts, Features,
Entertainment

Editor: Brooke Lathe
Brooke.lathe@student.fairfield.edu



Judd Tully's Tales of Art, Journalism and NYC



By Molly Lamednola
Editor-In-Chief

When asked how he started his career in art journalism, Judd Tully says that he just went out and looked at it. It was lucky for him that he was in the perfect city, at the perfect time to do it: New York City in the 1970s.

Tully said that back then, New York wasn't this "hedge-fund driven, very, very expensive city...It was the atmosphere for somebody starting out was really quite exciting because it was doable."

You could get a part-time job, rent was cheap and though he didn't know it when he arrived in 1972, this was the city he'd make his home. This was the city he'd become completely immersed in the art world.

He didn't have a formal art history degree, so

he learned the art world through self-education. When he needed to write a piece about a specific artist, he'd investigate them as any journalist would. He'd spend hours at the library reading through books, interview a dealer or art historian familiar with the work, go to any exhibitions that displayed their work and create a profile off of all of that leg-work.

When asked why he still enjoys it after all these decades, Tully states it's become a habit at this point. He's been able to slow down and do more creative projects, like his upcoming documentary on the relatively unknown American artist, David Hammons.

He adds that the art world has changed a lot in recent years. With the start of these non-refundable tokens, commonly referred to as NFTs, entering into the art world.

"It's been embraced by I think," Tully says, "Mostly younger people that are involved in whatever cryptocurrency sort of very tech-minded people relate more to pixel than to an actual work on canvas."

If he reflects on his career as a whole, he's most proud of his work with a federally funded government program where 300 different painters, sculptors, dancers, poets and writers were paid to create work for public buildings. For almost two years he was part of the documentation team, conducting oral history interviews of some of the participating artists.

He said that what made this

so special is that he didn't feel like he was a historian, but decades later, some of those artists have become important historical figures and thus, his work, has become even more important.

He happened to interview a poet named Norman Prichard. Though relatively unknown at the time, now he's incredibly celebrated and when an academic found Tully's records they were incredibly excited about these new records.

"I mean, you know, I've met a lot of really interesting people that later became much better known," he says.

He adds that he also knew this photographer that would just walk around, do his thing, and no one thought much of him. Now, a book is being printed of his photographs.

But, for every artist like that photographer or Norman Prichard, there were some that were working for it, but would just never receive the notoriety they were searching for.

He adds, "It's interesting how careers can change over time or, you know, not go anywhere."

Tully also thinks of his own career in terms of luck.

When the famous Vincent Van Gogh painting, "The Portrait of Dr. Gachet" went up for sale in 1989, it was Tully that was given the front page of the Washington Post for its coverage over another writer. The other writer had published a book about Sotheby's that year and was "persona non grata on the premises" according to Tully. It was a complete chance that he got the coverage over that writer, a complete chance that he moved to NYC when he did and just always seemed to be in the right place at the right time.



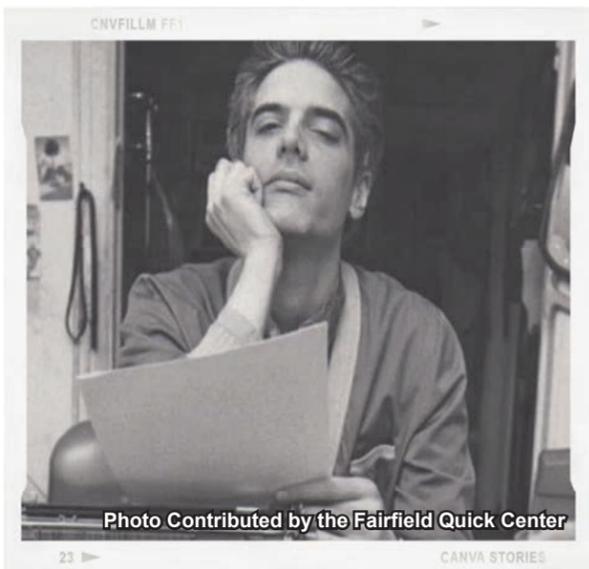
Judd Tully in front of an Alberto Giacometti.

The last thing we discussed was what, if any, advice he had to students.

"They probably hear it more from their parents," Tully says, but goes on to say that the need to get away from screens and step out to look around is paramount. He encourages young people to travel and interact with the world around them.

"So if you wanted to, just for entertainment sake, go and take your friend, bring your boyfriend or girlfriend or whoever and go to the museum on a free night and walk around, get a coffee, or have a drink or something" and just immerse yourself in the world of art.

If you want to hear more about Tully and his career, he will be speaking at the Regina A. Quick Center on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for students are free but can be reserved at: <https://quickcenter.fairfield.edu/spring-2022-season-calendar/lectures/ovfe-judd-tully.html>



Judd Tully in front of a typewriter.

Stags Hospitality Honors Black History Month

By Madison Gallo
News Editor

A creole gumbo bowl, white chocolate banana pudding, pulled pork pretzel roll sandwiches and short rib, rice, beans and collard greens are only some of the meals the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons will be serving up to Stags as a way to celebrate Black History Month during February.

Director of Stags Hospitality Jay DeGioia '80 said that "today, more than ever, people are proud of their beliefs and are making them known."

For the month of February, "Stags Hospitality along with Aramark is celebrating and shining a light on chef's who are one of the many unsung heroes of unity."

Stags Hospitality celebrated Black History Month "by recognizing the chefs in our family from around the country who have had a major impact on our organization, and

more importantly, our guests."

A statement released by Stags Hospitality stated, "It's not just about making great meals; it's about feeding the movement."

The chefs honored throughout the month include Franchesca Bland, Durante Knight, Terrance Murphy and Arnold Williams Jr.

Each chef was honored with a signature dish of theirs that represents them and their heritage and

culture.

The statement from Stags Hospitality continued, "Some individuals have this incredible power to bring people regardless of differences, together through craft. Their creations are made with passion and demonstrate how unique elements brought together can make something wonderful. Once prepared, it is an open invitation for all to expe-

rience, connect and bond over."

On Feb. 23, there will be a special pop-up from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. where Chef Murphy's signature "White Chocolate Banana Pudding" with layers of vanilla wafer cookie crumbs topped with whipped cream and chocolate chips will be available for Stags to enjoy.

The final speciality meal is available on Feb. 23 from 11:00

a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Tully located at the Main Ingredient station. The final meal served during this series is Chef William's "Pulled Pork Pretzel Roll Sandwich with Cheddar Cheese and Apple Cole-slaw."

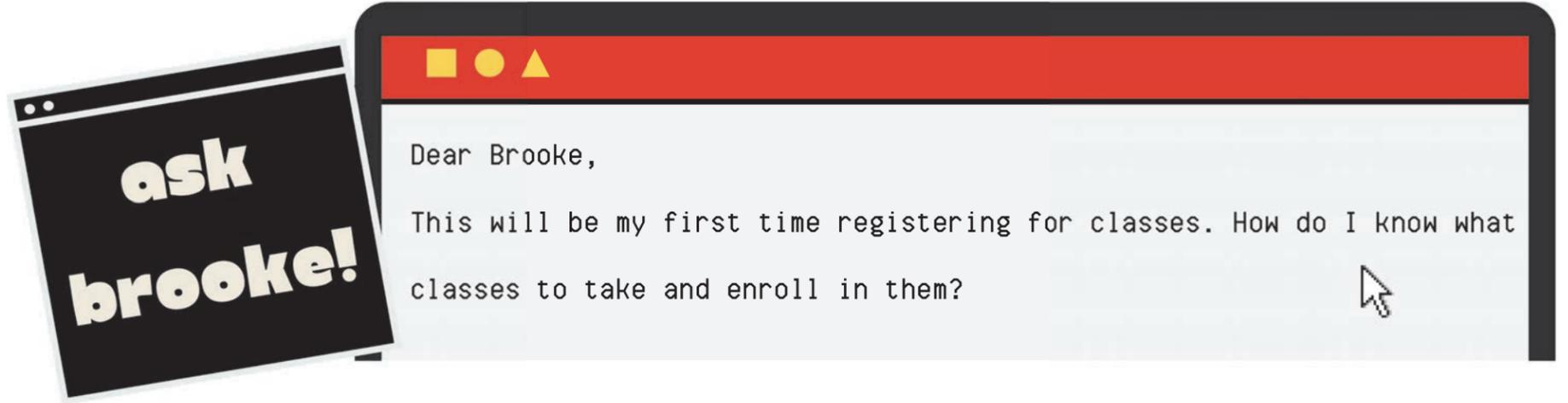
The other special dishes include Chef Bland's "Creole Gumbo Bowl" served on Feb. 15 with Bland's gumbo that features chicken, shrimp and andouille sausage on top of rice and garnished with scallions and "Chef Knight's Short Rib, Rice and Beans" served with collard greens, rice and paired with a spicy pepper sauce on Feb. 17.

Stags Hospitality and Aramark believe that cooking "has the platform to connect communities by shining a light on these cultural game-changers with Chef spotlight."

Stop by the Tully today, Feb. 23, to experience the last day and last installments of the specialty dishes made by the aforementioned chefs!



Stags Hospitality



By Brooke Lathe
Vine Editor

Ugh, yes, the stressful period of registration is nearing once again. I remember when it was my first time signing up for courses on my own, and I was utterly confused and terrified. Thankfully, I feel like now that my fourth time is coming closer, I have a well-rounded knowledge of how to go about registration.

First, in order to prepare, you must visit my.fairfield.edu and take a look at your degree evaluation (don't forget you have to be on the student wifi server to be able to connect). There, you will find what requirements you still need to fulfill. Those sections will provide you with the course offerings list if you click on the numbers following the subject abbreviation.

For example, in the "Natural Science Courses," you have to click on the "1000:4971" after "BIOL" to see all of the options. Additionally, most of these classes won't be taught in the upcoming semester, so if any of them catch your eye, make sure it reads "Fall 2022," the following sections it offers and the number of seats open.

Once you note all of the possible courses that interest you, there will be a time when the registra-

tion tab opens early, allowing you to plan a schedule ahead of time. This can be found in the "course registration" tab and then "plan ahead." A tool like this is incredibly helpful because you're able to map out all of your classes to work however best fits your schedule.

if I find a class I really want to take at 8:00 a.m., I might be able to find another that meets at noon! Always be thorough.

One of the more important steps is making more than one plan; actually, make at least four. I've never gotten all of the classes I had picked out

(I learned the hard way last semester) is to go into your favorite proposed schedule the night before and click on each class to look at how many seats are available. There are not only multiple class years signing up before you but also athletes and honor students who get first pick. So, I recommend making sure there are open seats in the first place. Last semester, I went to register, and three of my first choice classes were already full before my registration time - make sure you double check!

This goes without saying, but confirm that you know the date and time of your registration. Once you double, triple and quadruple check, set an alarm for ten minutes prior (which will most likely be 6:50 a.m.), make sure your computer is fully charged in a location where the wifi is working and that your device is properly functioning.

If you follow these steps, you should be able to stroll into the fall semester without any issues. I wish you luck, but just know, getting your top choice isn't sometimes all too bad. I've had some super eye-opening courses I would've never taken without a deep search trying to find a replacement. Nevertheless, just plan ahead!

Are you seeking any advice? Email Brooke at brooke.lathe@student.fairfield.edu or direct message our Instagram @fairfieldmirror to be featured!



Most times, I fail to realize two of the courses I want to meet at the same hour, so planning it physically will aid you in seeing which ones line up or overlap. As a personal tip, I make sure to review each section offering because multiple professors will teach a majority of classes at different hours. So,

the weeks prior to the registration date because so many students will press "schedule" at the exact same time as you. If you find yourself not getting into any of the classes your first plan had, you can quickly press "plan two" to ensure you can at least get your second choice. But, an essential tip

BEST BITES: GERONIMO'S GOLDEN ALL AROUND

By Matthew Adamski
Contributing Writer

As a member of an organization on campus, we had moved in early after Christmas break in order to attend training.

But we all wanted to do something exciting for the first night back, and so found ourselves deciding on a place to go for a good social bonding time.

After relaxing at home, we were ready to break into the new semester with vigor.

After a long debate, I heard most of the classic Fairfield locales being mentioned, but then one name stuck out to my ear: Geronimo Tequila Bar and Southwest Grill.

I had never been or heard of it, but I can now rank it as one of my favorites.

First impressions are always the ones that stick with you and what sticks with me till now was the massive wall of bottles behind the bar. It reached up to the ceiling and had multiple levels. It was a sight to see.

There was a very Western feel to the establishment, and of course, my brain had caught up with me enough to remember Geronimo from history class, the famed Apache leader, and hence the name for this establishment. There was a live fire crackling in the back.

Antlers and skulls of desert animals on the walls, paintings of Native Americans and images of buffalos and horses running in the plains.

There was a general rustic and desert feel to it, even though we were in the very beachside area of Fairfield, Conn.

I particularly enjoyed that some of the tables had glass in the center through which you could see a sand display with fake skeletons sticking out, and hidden treasures.

My general rule of thumb is that you can measure the quality of an establishment by the quality of its bathroom, and this bathroom was exquisite.

The ambiance was mysterious, with dim lighting that fit the vibe of the restaurant.

A welcome contrast to the usual LEDs shining on you. The washbasin looked like a carved out, hollowed stone that was found in the Grand Canyon and I was all for it.

But the proof is in the pudding, as they say, and so we come to the meal. Well, others did, because I didn't. I watched as plates of tortillas and quesadillas were dished out to my peers.

Drinks were refilled, and the aroma of sizzling meat filled the atmosphere as I sat and watched on. I gave a subtle gaze towards the kitchen to see if I could sus out

our waiter but he had disappeared promptly.

Of course you had to have my luck to be at a table with well raised, polite people because no one touched their food on account of me. The best part was they were acting as if the food wasn't there to console my feelings and hungry belly.

I couldn't watch their misery and I told them to dig in! The food is on its way, I told everyone, and myself.

10 minutes... 20 minutes... 25 minutes go by. The waiter comes up apologizing. I say it's fine. 30 minutes pass and a manager finally rushes up to me apologizing for the delay and explains that my steak (yes, I ordered a steak at Geronimo, enough people have given me the confused look but I don't care; I like what I like) was burned and they're re-cooking it.

I said it's fine, but then she hit me with the proposal of a free drink "on the house" and I could have literally forgiven her for stealing my wallet at that point.

I ordered an additional soda water with extra orange slices and sat patiently for my food, which did eventually come.

It was delicious, they even tossed up a complimentary salad for my wait, which I certainly appreciated.

After an experience like that

some might say "no way," if asked to go back. But I would say "oh yes!"

The reason is simple. The customer service there was unparalleled. They were so genuinely concerned about this slight delay and went the extra mile to guarantee my satisfaction which made me feel like they cared for the cus-

tomers.

That was a great show of character for the establishment as a whole and I will certainly be returning in the future.

Geronimo serves a southwest style of food located at 2070 Post Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824.

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday
12 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday
11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Sunday
11 a.m. to 1 a.m.



Bake With The Mirror

By Tobenna Ugwu
Managing Editor

In celebration of National Banana Bread Day, I will be sharing my very esteemed award-winning banana bread recipe.

During the pandemic, I started exchanging recipes for different dishes and desserts with my close friend, Vinny Gadioma.

He gave me the banana bread recipe in exchange for my honey cornbread (but that's a recipe for another day).

I made the loaf Vinny's way the first time, but I did not love the texture so the second time around, I made a few tweaks and I struck gold.

Since then, I've made one or two adjustments to the recipe, but it has that unreplacable one-of-a-kind taste that all of my friends and other taste testers who have tried the bread have come to know and love.

To the right, you will find my delicious recipe.

If you want to mix things up you could replace the milk chocolate chips with macadamia nuts and top with dark chocolate chips instead- it gives the bread a different texture but is equally delicious.

It goes well with a nice iced coffee or tea.

It takes about 15 minutes to mix the batter and preheat the oven and then an hour to bake, so definitely take some time to try the recipe and if you do, send pictures of the finished product either to the Mirror Instagram (@fairfieldmirror) or email me at tobenna.ugwu@student.fairfield.edu.

Happy Baking!!



Toby's Award Winning Chocolate Chip Banana Nut Bread

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

YOU'LL NEED....

4-5 overripe bananas
7 oz melted butter
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 tsp almond extract
2 tsp cinnamon
2 cups flour
(1/2 cup almond
flour and 1 1/2 cup
all-purpose for a
buttery
flavor)
3 eggs
2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees

In a bowl:

Mash 4-5 overripe (Spotted) bananas to a gooey thickness
Pour 1 stick of melted unsalted butter into the mash;

Add:

1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 tsp almond extract
2 tsp cinnamon
2 cups all purpose flour (1/2 cup almond flour
and 1 1/2 cup all-purpose for a buttery
flavor)
3 eggs
2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
Mix Until brown and homogenous

Add 1/2 cup Milk Chocolate Chips and 1/2 cup of preferred nuts

Mix and Transfer to buttered up bread pan:
Sprinkle with additional nuts

Fill just above halfway of pan

Cook for 55-60 minutes

STAGGERING SHOW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TIMES OF SELF CARE

By Pedro Garcia
Contributing Writer

As we continue to power through the spring semester, it's important to take some time to catch up on some good ol' self-care. College, more than most other chapters of our life, presents a unique opportunity when it comes to free time. Regardless of one's schedule, we could all use a destresser once in a while. Yes, there's always music, working out or some other recreational activity — but nothing quite hits the same itch as binge-watching some good television. What better way to spend some free time than to kick back and get invested in some excellent storytelling?

The issue in binge-watching, however, becomes the moment you decide you would like to watch some TV. You lay down on your bed, you open up your laptop or flip through your Roku and then, to your brain's dismay, you sit there and flip through rows and rows of shows and movies trying to figure out only what is good, but what you are in the mood for. It's taxing work! And as previously mentioned, you don't get this time often so you better use it wisely.

Well, as someone who has found some good free time to check out some shows, I've made it my mission to find the gems so you don't have to waste your time finding out what to throw on. Across all the different platforms, here are the five shows I think you would most enjoy bingeing during your free time.

Starting with some zany fun, Netflix's "Murderville," is a really funny and unique take at a murder mystery, which also features Will Arnett as a grizzled crime detective, who is paired with a guest celebrity partner in each episode. The twist? The guest star is completely improvised... meaning they have to stumble their way through one

silly mystery after another without any script. It's short, sweet and a ton of fun.

Continuing with the murder mystery theme, what do you get when you mix a comedy legend, a wizard and Jack Frost? Well, if you throw those three into a heartfelt, funny murder mystery, you get Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building". The show stars Steve Martin, Selena Gomez and Martin Short as three complete strangers who are brought together to solve a mystery. It's a pretty random concept,



on Netflix. It has garnered rave reviews, as it places the viewer in the shoes of a friend of Kanye's who decides to drop everything and record the highs and lows of West from the very beginning of his career. While the subject of the documentary may be quite a polarizing figure today, here he is portrayed at his embryonic stage — a confident kid with big dreams who will stop at nothing to achieve the success that we know today he eventually finds. For anyone interested in the artist,

right? Well that's the thing, the show is so fun and unique that by the second episode you'll fall in love with this bizarre trio and their detective shenanigans.

Moving onto a personal choice is the excellently filmed and scored documentary series for the influential (and controversial) music and fashion icon, Kanye West. The three-part doc, titled "Jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy," just premiered

DC Comics film "The Suicide Squad," also directed and written by Gunn, is this unruly spinoff that blends action, comedy and a shocking amount of heart.

John Cena puts in a star turn as the main character, an anti-hero who is essentially Captain America mixed with Star-Lord and a touch of Deadpool, and the supporting cast of characters is so colorful and fun that you'll be rooting for this raunchy band of superhero misfits. A second season from this show was just confirmed, as well as buzz for potential movie appearances from the characters. If you're into this style of show, it will make for a fast-paced, high-energy romp of a miniseries.

To round out the bunch, we have the most basic of the group — the show I'm sure everyone has heard of HBO's "Euphoria". Now, if you have seen the show, I'm sure you know that this beast of a drama is unlike any other. The acting is superb, the score and soundtrack will leave you obsessed and the subject matter is topical and poignant (especially for this generation of audiences).

Now if you haven't watched the show, it really is a no-brainer, with one big caveat: it's a very, very intensely graphic show. Much like other HBO romps like Game of Thrones, this show does not shy away from showing mature subjects in full display. But, if you can stomach some intense content, the writing and stylish directing make Euphoria an absolute must-watch.

So whether you're in the mood for something lighthearted and fun, serious and captivating or just something to throw on in the background, these shows could be exactly what you're looking for.

Do yourself a favor and take some time to check these out for yourself! Speaking from experience here, you won't regret it.

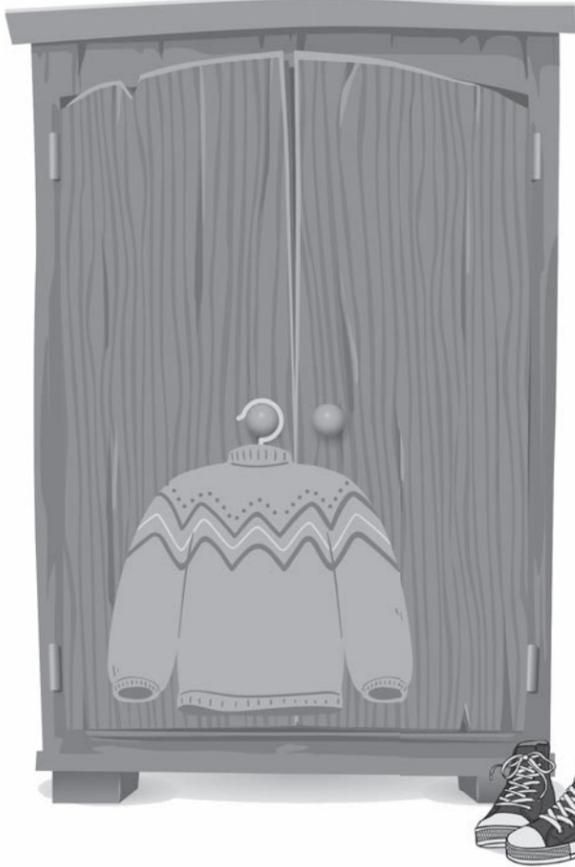
music history or wants an uplifting pick-me-up, Kanye's story is a refreshingly nuanced story of rags to riches.

Next, for all the fans of the ever-dominant superhero genre is the HBOMax original series "Peacemaker," directed by James Gunn (Scooby-Doo, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 1 & 2) starring John Cena as the titular character. Coming off the heels of the surprisingly brilliant

What to Wear During a Season of Transitions

By Liana Giacobbe
Contributing Writer

Though it may not yet feel like it, spring is almost upon us! Thus, we have entered one of the most tumultuous periods of time for weather. One day, the sun will be shining down on us, birds chirping all around and the next, the



ground is coated in even more snow. This time of year can be incredibly difficult to dress for, as it seems any outfit choice ends up being the incorrect one by the end of the day.

To combat this dilemma, I have curated a list of some spring transitional pieces that are intrinsic to any wardrobe. The weather might be unpredictable, but you can still remain prepared: all with a few purchases here and there, or even some mindful repurposing of existing pieces!

The main concept that will help you style and properly wear any of these pieces is a cult classic: layering. Though it may seem intuitive, learning how to delicately layer certain pieces to make an outfit (without any of the bulk often associated with layering fabrics over one another) is a skill that will completely change the capabilities of your current wardrobe.

As we move into slightly warmer weather, it is important to layer using light fabrics, such as cotton, to create unique silhouettes. Throwing on a thin turtleneck undershirt under a light sweater with some jeans allows you to stay warm, while still adding an element of intention to your look.

Layering is also incredibly useful for days that are slightly on the chillier side, as it allows you to bundle up without the thickness of too many knit fabrics rubbing up against one another. It is a skill that certainly takes time to master, as layering really only works when neutrals and more delicate colors are used to tone down the overall effect of so many fabrics. Despite these seemingly harsh “rules” of layering, don’t forget to enjoy the process and have fun: fashion is an art form, not a rule book!

Another piece that I cannot imagine surviving these strange months without would be my platform high-top Converse. I own a pair in virtually every color, and while they have little support or overall traction, I have found them to be the perfect transitional shoe.

In some ways, they closely resemble a boot, providing coverage up to the ankle with the outer fabric. The rubber outer sole and bottom of the sneaker can also

provide a fairly surprising amount of protection from the snow, especially as it starts to melt, and we are left with icy puddles.

By no means am I saying that Converse are the ideal winter shoes, but I think that they are a great choice as we move into the warmer months. They are also incredibly easy to clean, meaning the investment is very worthwhile in my opinion. I am telling you this as someone who owns practically their entire line of platform shoes, go buy yourself a pair!

Another staple during this seasonal transitional period is a classic and might seem intuitive: long sleeve tops! I cannot count how many times I have fretted over finding an outfit for class, only to remember that I have an entire drawer filled with options for when I don’t want to be too warm in my travels.

They pair effortlessly with sweatpants, or for a slightly dressier option, with jeans or trousers. I know it may sound silly to suggest adding such an indistinct category of garment to your wardrobe, but I truly think that long sleeve shirts do not receive nearly the recognition they deserve! Find one that suits your personal style, pair it with a jacket on colder days, and you are all set to face whatever elements may greet you outside.

The period of time between winter and spring can be a difficult one to dress for, as the anticipation of warmer months brings feelings of excitement and glee. However, it can also be stressful attempting to figure out how to transform your current wardrobe into outfits that can fluctuate with the temperature.

Though these tips may seem obvious, I often find that when I take a closer look at my own wardrobe, I find so many additional ways to style things, as opposed to simply buying new pieces when I feel that none of my current garments will suffice.

I hope that this fashion guide has allowed you to gain insight and knowledge on your own personal preferences and will encourage you to make more purposeful choices when putting together looks!

Eight Songs To Energize Your Morning

By Brooke Lathe
Vine Editor

On a cold, windy morning, it can often be really difficult to crawl out of bed and put a start to your day. Usually, I find myself clicking the “snooze” button repeatedly until there’s ultimately no more time left to spare before my classes start and I have to rush to get ready. However, I have found that with the right upbeat, energetic song, you can go from a half-asleep zombie to a peppy bucket of sunshine in just three minutes.

Most of these songs have been on my playlist for years now, finding their way onto the aux only when it’s summertime. Yet, I’ve recently realized that I may need the serotonin boost these tunes give me more than ever in these drowsy weeks. Without further ado, here are eight songs you absolutely have to give a listen to tomorrow morning, if not today!

“GAP IN THE CLOUDS” BY YELLOW DAYS

This song has been my favorite for about two months now, placing it as my top number one listened-to tune for 2022 already. Right from the start of the distant croons, synth pulses and George Van Den Broek’s voice, “all this time I was just running around,” my shoulders instantly released all of the tension I was unknowingly holding.

I feel such relief and joy that my chest becomes light, and a smile spreads across my face. It’s undoubtedly one of the most calming, stress-free songs as it reminisces about a beautiful, unexpected love, comparing it to “a gap in the clouds [where] the sun comes out.”

“BROKE” BY SAMM HENSHAW

This is not the first time that I am confessing my love for Samm Henshaw, and it most likely will not be the last. “Broke” is one of Samm’s best feel-good songs due to the jazzy, upbeat drums and saxophone, and of course, his stunning voice.

He brings humor into his breakup, sharing, “My girl just kicked me out she thinks I’m lame; Maybe she’s got a point who gets the sack from Five Guys.” Maybe it’s just me, but I could cry from how much happiness this song brings me. It immediately gets my adrenaline pumping and my body moving because I can’t not dance along to this amazing track!

“CHEMICALS” BY SG LEWIS

I’m not sure how I found this song, but I’m so glad I did. Its electric instrumental and breathy lyrics make you feel like the main character that everyone is fawning over, which I’m not afraid to admit I totally love. It’s more than a confidence booster; it’s a four-minute reason to invoke a god complex as SG tells you, “Cause I feel like my dreams have always been about you now.”

“FLOAT ON” BY MODEST MOUSE

As someone who also tends to overwork, overthink and overanalyze anything and everything, the meaning behind the song is what really sells it to me. The chorus constantly reassures you, “Alright, don’t worry, even if things end up a bit too heavy, we’ll all float on okay,” on top of an alternative guitar and drum beat. It’s definitely a nice reminder to hear before you start your day, especially an overwhelming, hectic one.

“HIDE” BY RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE

I was introduced to Rainbow Kitten Sur-

prise not too long ago, and I honestly really love all of their songs. However, I feel like “Hide” has the potential to be a crowd favorite due to the sanguine feel. In addition to the electric guitar and fast-paced drums, it’s hard not to join the singers as they chant, “hide your love, hide your love; don’t let it slip away.” If you’re feeling unmotivated to get out of bed, this is a great choice to blast on your speaker. It always gets me up and jumping to the beat.

“NEVER HAD THE BALLS” BY REX ORANGE COUNTY

I would be remiss if I did not include at least one Rex Orange County song, as Alex O’Connor is one of the few artists I’ve followed religiously for an extended period of time and have not gotten sick of (and I am seeing him live in May for his “Who Cares” tour!!). While I love the entirety of his “Pony” album, “Never Had the Balls” would without a doubt be my go-to on the days that I need a pick-me-up.

The introduction of birds chirping followed by the drumbeat and silly chorus “but I never got the chance to tell you; I never had the balls to tell you” makes it a 10/10 for me.

“SNAP OUT OF IT” BY ARCTIC MONKEYS

This indie rock/alternative tune sends me right into a

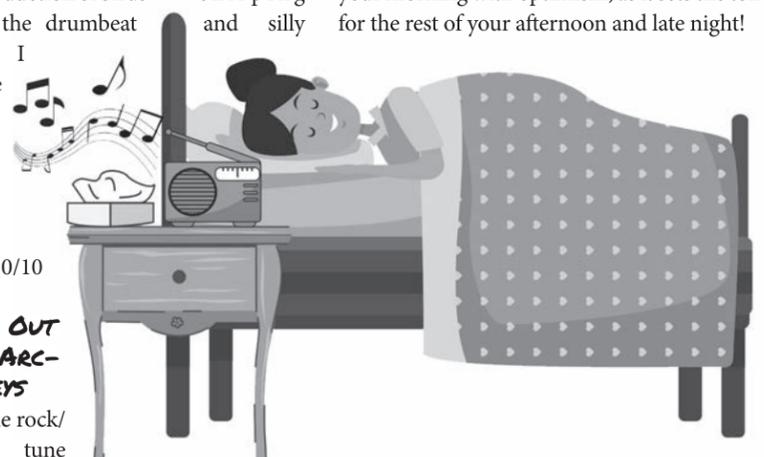
spirited episode as soon as Alex Turner sings “What’s been happening in your world?” This head banging, foot tapping beat will never fail to get my heart racing and energy spiked, an obvious necessity for those lacking, dark mornings.

“WHY” BY DOMINIC FIKE

This tune is honestly kind of repetitive but it’s still one that invokes a lively burst in me, nevertheless. As I brush my teeth and listen to Fike’s smooth, husky tone sing “I write about her thighs in my latest lines, I remember her eyes when I asked her why,” the day doesn’t seem so daunting, but one that is ready to be explored. Maybe out there, someone will write a song about me like this one.

These are only a handful of my favorite songs that put me in a good mood to start the day.

But, whatever style you find works the best for you, just turn up the volume and attack your morning with optimism, as it sets the tone for the rest of your afternoon and late night!





COFFEE BREAK



SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editor: Tristan Cruz
tristan.cruz@student.fairfield.edu

EUPHORIA Word Search

- ALI
- CASSIE
- KAT
- FEZCO
- MADDY
- RUE
- ASHTRAY
- ELLIOT
- GIA
- LESLIE
- MARTHA
- CAL
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- JULES
- LEXI
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SPORTS

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



WE ARE STAGS



| Feb. 23 | Feb. 24 | Feb. 25 | Feb. 26 | Feb. 27 | Feb. 28 | Mar. 1 |
|---|--|---|--|---|------------------|--|
| Women's lacrosse vs. Boston University Fairfield, Conn. 3:00 p.m. | Women's basketball vs. Monmouth University Bridgeport, Conn. 7:00 p.m. | Softball vs. St. John's University University of South Florida Tournament Tampa, F.L. 9:00 a.m. Softball vs. St. Joseph's University University of South Florida Tournament Tampa, F.L. 11:30 a.m. Baseball at Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, G.A. 4:00 p.m. | Women's tennis vs. Stony Brook University Fairfield, Conn. TBA Women's lacrosse at Hofstra University Hempstead, N.Y. 12:00 p.m. Baseball at Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, G.A. 1:00 p.m. Men's basketball at Villanova University Villanova, P.A. 1:00 p.m. Women's basketball at Manhattan College Riverdale, N.Y. 2:00 p.m. | Baseball at Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, G.A. 11:30 a.m. Men's basketball at Manhattan College Riverdale, N.Y. 2:00 p.m. Men's tennis vs. Wagner College Trumbull, Conn. 5:00 p.m. | FAIRFIELD | Basketball at Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. (SHU) 7:00 p.m. |

Baseball Begins Campaign With Pair of Wins



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

The Fairfield University baseball team began their season with a pair of wins against Elon University; although they lost the final game of three contests, they still were able to walk away with the series win.

By Tommy Coppola
Sports Editor

In their first real taste of out-of-conference play since the 2019 season, the Fairfield University baseball team opened the season's floodgates with a decisive series win over Elon University.

The Stags capped off their first game in the series with a 6-3 victory over the Phoenix. Senior Michael Sansone played five innings, striking out an impressive eight batters. The Cheshire, Conn. native would step aside the next game for Jake Noviello '22, who

would go on to pitch four innings the next day.

On their second attempt to bolster the Stags, Elon would come up short once again, this time by a score of 5-3 in favor of Fairfield.

Sadly, in the third and final competition of the series, Elon got the upper hand of Fairfield in a 4-7 showing. Even with impressive feats like Mike Becchetti '24's long-distance home run, it unfortunately was not enough to rally past the Phoenix.

After four days of rest, the Stags will return back to play in a three game series over the weekend at Kennesaw State University.

In this week's issue...

- Stags Secure Thrilling OT Victory Over Rival Bobcats (Page 14)
- NC State, Lehigh Overpower Fairfield In Season Opener (Page 15)
- Stag Spotlight: A Q&A With Swimmer Erini Pappas (Page 15)
- Opinion: Do Stags Show School Spirit? (Page 16)

Stags Secure Thrilling OT Victory Over Rival Bobcats

By Zachary Stevens
Contributing Writer

The number one team in the women's Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, the Fairfield University Stags, hosted the second place Quinnipiac Bobcats this past Friday, Feb. 17, in a game that lived up to all the hype.

Fairfield got off to a great start, hitting their shots on offense and limiting a strong Bobcats offense to just 13 points in the first quarter. While this Fairfield team has been a juggernaut on the attacking end, head coach Joe Frager has been more impressed with their defense.

"We work hard to try and to get better defensively throughout the year and you know, I don't think we win last night's game if it wasn't for our defense," said Frager. "I classify last night's game as sort of a rock fight, not the prettiest thing in the world. It's going to come down to stops and rebounding and I think that this is a group that's really committed."

After a first quarter controlled by the Stags, the Bobcats would slowly creep their way back, bringing the game within three points at halftime, with a score of 31-28 Fairfield.

Senior Lou-Lopez Senechal (pictured) scored eight points in the overtime win.



While Fairfield never failed to give up the lead the entire game, Quinnipiac would simply not go away, successfully keeping the lead within five points throughout the entire game.

With Quinnipiac in striking distance, all they needed was a late run to get some momentum, and that was exactly what they got at the end of the fourth quarter.

After a Sam Lewis '22 three pointer to extend the lead to 52-48, Quinnipiac would answer with back to back baskets, tying the game with 58 seconds left in the game. Fairfield would have two offensive chances to win the game but would ultimately fail to convert.

The game was heading to OT and the Stags were in the same spot they were against Canisius, where they were able to muscle out a big win.

The Bobcats started the overtime period the same way they ended the fourth, capping off the first basket of extra time with a basketball to take a two point lead.

This would be the only lead Quinnipiac would take, as Lou Lopez-Senechal '22 tied the game with a jumper just moments later. The Stags would sink five of their next six free throws to seal a 54-49 victory.

Graduate student Callie Cavanaugh led the Stags with an amazing performance, securing a double-double with 17 points and ten rebounds. Rachel Hakes '22 had a game-high eight assists and also scored ten points in a strong performance on both ends of the court.

Senior Andrea Hernangomez Joined two of her fellow Stags in double figures with 11 points and brought the usual energy we are all so accustomed to. Lopez-Senechal, the MAAC's leading scorer was held in check by the Quinnipiac defense, finishing with just eight points on 4-for-12 shooting.

While the France native had an off-night in terms of scoring, her teammates were there to pick her up and carry the load, which will be essential for Fairfield going forward into March.

"Credit to Quinnipiac, they just completely doubled and tripled every time she touched the ball and I thought she played a really good second half but obviously struggled in the first half and got some foul trouble," said Frager. "When that happens, others have to step up and we put three other players into

double figures and make some big shots."

With the win, the Stags clinched at least a share of the MAAC regular season title. This will be the program's fourth overall and the first since the 2000-01 season.

The Stags are now 18-6 overall with a 15-1 record in the MAAC, a season Frager and his team should be proud of, no matter how the season finishes. By no means is he or his squad satisfied, as they will not be happy until they are hold-

ing the MAAC championship and claim a spot in the NCAA tournament.

The Stags will need to win just one of their remaining four games, or Quinnipiac needs to lose one of their remaining five to win the title outright.

Fairfield's next game will be on Thursday, Feb. 24 against Monmouth at Webster Bank Arena at 7 p.m. The Stags will have a long week of rest, but will be eager to build on this title run. Show your support and Go Stags!

**FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 7 P.M.
WEBSTER BANK ARENA
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.**



**(18-6)
#1 IN
MAAC**

59 (OT)



**(16-9)
#3 IN
MAAC**

54

Weekly 5x4

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

Because we have witty things to say ...



Tommy Coppola
Sports Editor

What are your plans for Spring Break?

Stress about all the school work I'll need to do upon returning.

Are you excited to see masks are coming off at Fairfield University?

I'm thrilled, since it feels like we finally reached the light at the end of the tunnel- still gotta be careful though.

What former goal did you have for The Mirror that you have now accomplished?

Putting my own creative vision into the sports section has been an amazing opportunity.

Since the 5x4 will be taking on a different format next week for the final issue, what is your final message to your 5x4 fanbase?

Although I'm excited to argue with new columnists, I'm gonna miss this crew.



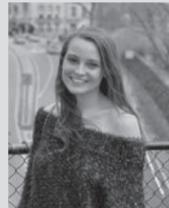
Molly Lamendola
Editor-in-Chief

Drinking in Disney.

I hope faculty and staff with immunocompromised family members aren't put under too much stress.

Brewing hot tea and revealing issues within the university.

I'm never joking.



Julia Lanzillotta
Executive Editor

I have none, and I'm very excited about that.

I'm cautiously optimistic that this will be a move in the right direction. We'll see.

I wanted to get to a point where I enjoyed it... and I have!

I've been here the longest of the 5 of us, and this year has been the most fun for sure.



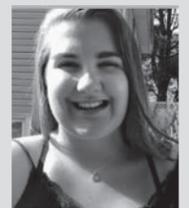
Tobenna Ugwu
Managing Editor

I'm a private man! I can't reveal those details.

I hope the guy cyberbullying Fairfield on Instagram finally stops.

Being able to reshape the goals of the newspaper, I think Edboard did a great job at that this year.

Doing these has been really fun! And as someone I know would say "the 5x4 is camp!"



Sheila McCombs
Managing Editor

I am heading down to Fort Lauderdale!! Woohoo!

I am excited but I think the initial change will be super weird.

Making The Mirror a more fun and reasonable place to work!

Being part of the 5x4 has been one of my favorite things about being on the staff at The Mirror and I will miss it immensely.

NC State, Lehigh Overpower Fairfield In Season Opener

By Tommy Coppola
Sports Editor

Beginning on Friday, Feb. 18, the Fairfield University softball team took the field for the first time this season. The Stags, among other teams, have participated in the Wolfpack Classic hosted at Dail Stadium at North Carolina State University.

Their season slate began against North Carolina State University themselves according to the official Fairfield University softball schedule; this game saw the Stags being handed a difficult 2-5 loss.

Immediately after, however, the Stags had the chance to bounce right back against the Mount Saint Mary's Athenians, which they did. The team was able to topple their competition by a score of 11-6.

Sophomore Allie Bridgman took the mound for the second game of the day, but her defensive performance was not the only highlight for her day. She was able to record three hits as well as a home run in the Stags' impressive win over Mount Saint Mary's.

The second day of action saw two more games: one against a familiar opponent in NC State and one against a new challenger in Lehigh University. In a 10:00 a.m. tilt against Lehigh, the team was unable to hold onto their early lead which led the game into extra innings. In the eleventh frame of play, Fairfield scored one, whereas Lehigh scored two, giving them the edge by just one score to win the game 8-9.

That same afternoon was no walk in the park for the Stags, as they were routed by NC State by

a final score of 1-16. NC State's relentless offense in the first, second and third innings of the game was simply too much for the Stags to handle, even though they did secure a sole score of their own in the fourth inning. Junior Meghan Forbes was able to produce the lone point for the

Stags.

In the final game of the tournament on Sunday, Feb. 20, the Stags had a chance to take revenge against Lehigh University, who they were previously stunned by in extra innings. Although a much closer game than the morning's festivities, the Stags were just edged out by a final score of 2-3.

Senior shortstop Madison Robicheau registered two hits in three at-bats, which led the team on the day.

Another impressive performance on the mound by Bridgman was not enough to propel the Stags over the Mountain Hawks for the second time.

The squad will have a little less than a week to regroup and prepare after their trip to North Carolina. Later on this week, they will take to Tampa, FLA. in the USF Tournament hosted by the University South Florida.

In Tampa, they will play teams like St. John's University, Saint Joseph's University, and the University of South Florida themselves, with two games in between to be determined.

They will play in two other tournaments before their regular season fully kicks off; the first is the Thundering Herd Invite hosted by Marshall University in Huntington, W. VA. The second will be the Rutgers University Tournament hosted in Piscataway, N.J.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Junior Megan Forbes (left) and Madison Robicheau '22 (right) were key contributors to the Fairfield University softball team last year, and will look to do the same in this upcoming season.

Stag Spotlight: A Q&A With Swimmer Erini Pappas

By Tommy Coppola
Sports Editor

The Fairfield University Swim and Dive team recently wrapped up their conference play in their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship, which took place in Buffalo, N.Y. last week. There, the men's team placed second and the women's team placed third, but both teams had great performances in the pool.

According to the official standings on the MAAC website, the women's team fell just short of the teams from Niagara University and Iona College.

The Mirror had a chance to sit down with Erini Pappas '25 of the women's swim and dive team to get her thoughts on her very first MAAC championship experience with the team.

Tommy: To get us started, can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your resume as a swimmer?

Erini: Well, to start, I am from Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. I'm a triplet. I started swimming when I was five, and I have stuck with it ever since. What led me to Fairfield was that it honestly wasn't really on my radar at first,

but my cousin goes here so she was like, 'you might really like it'. The campus is so pretty, and I felt like it would fit. So I came here and visited it in my junior year of high school, and I just fell in love. Like it was just perfect, it was the perfect fit for me swimming-wise and academic-wise, and I knew I could do well here. And also, the coaches here are awesome.

Tommy: How did your season go as a whole, in both a personal and team sense?

Erini: Well, this season was unlike anything I've done before...it starts way before my club would usually start when I would have meets at home. It started off pretty strong, like, I adjusted pretty quickly. And I started [swimming] faster earlier than I usually do, which was surprising, but also really fun. I think the team did really well this year, and I think that we're a lot closer with each other than I've heard that the past used to be.

Tommy: I know that the MAAC Championship just wrapped up. How did that go? What was your experience like there?

Erini: I thought it was awesome. I think we did everything we could. Like, we fought really hard all the way to the end. And my performances, specifically, and some of my team-

mate's [performances], were really good and everybody was so loud on the pool deck cheering on everyone. It was just a good vibe for everybody. Even though at the end, maybe it wasn't the best end result, we all fought to the end and had a good attitude the whole time.

Tommy: What does it mean to you to be a part of this team?

Erini: It's really special being an athlete here. It's really awesome because the community is so big and we can all relate to each other. You always have someone that has your back on our team. It's a really big family and we all get along pretty well.

Tommy: What does next season look like for you and for the team?

Erini: I think I'm just going to do what I'm already doing. Like this season especially, I felt it was really awesome. For my freshman year, getting first in events at MAACs was really awesome. I hope to keep that momentum going for next year and for the following years, and my hopes are that we continue doing what we're doing and staying as close as we are, and just support each other and work hard always.

The star first-year swimmer has had an impressive season this year, earning herself multiple accolades and securing school records in just her first chance at swimming in the collegiate level. Clearly, the future is bright for her and the entirety of Fairfield University swim and dive.

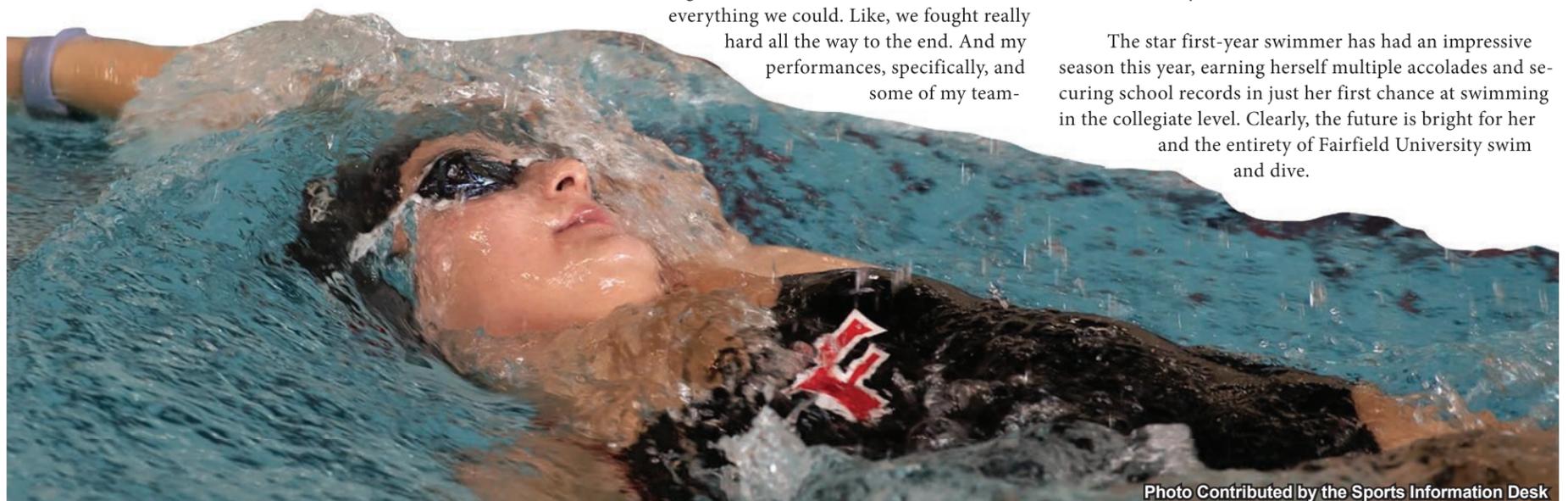


Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

First-year swimmer Erini Pappas, pictured above, has made a massive splash on the Fairfield University women's swimming and diving team this year, and will look to continue her success next year.

Opinion: Do Stags Show School Spirit?



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Alumni Hall, Fairfield University's former basketball arena, was knocked down in the Spring of 2021. The basketball teams have since been playing off-campus at Webster Bank Arena.

By Madison Gallo
Head News Editor

During my junior year of high school, when I began researching prospective colleges and universities, my list of requirements was simple: a school on the east coast, small-midsize campus, walkable, with some other attributes as well. School spirit was definitely not in the top five of my priorities, probably not even top ten.

But, now after three years of college, I find myself wishing that at Fairfield there was more of a presence of school spirit surrounding the University's athletics.

I don't deny that all over campus people have pride in attending Fairfield. Alumni and current students alike show their dedication to the school in fundraisers held, a commitment to networking with fellow Stags and repping school gear. However, when it comes to sports, that spirit is not as universal.

Sacred Heart University, also located in Fairfield, has more athletic school spirit than our University, but I'm not sure the sole reason is just because SHU has a football team and we don't.

If you look at each University's website, the images displayed are entirely different. Fairfield's displayed images are all student-centered and show people walking around campus and laughing with friends. While SHU displays its basketball and hockey teams, among other photos.

Prospective students looking for a University with strong athletically-driven school spirit will obviously be more enticed to SHU over Fairfield University if a school that values athletics is a must-have requirement for their college. Fairfield does not do enough to market itself as a University with strong athletic school spirit whereas it seems that SHU tries to show that its school spirit is

fostered in its athletics.

And because Fairfield does not market itself heavily as a school centered around athletics, the students who apply and then attend the University may not be bothered by the lack of athletic school spirit across campus.

In addition to this, it definitely does not help that the basketball teams don't play on campus while the new arena is being built.

Even before the construction of the new Convocation Center, some home games were still played off-campus at Webster Bank Arena in nearby Bridgeport, Conn. — around a ten-minute drive from campus. Though buses were provided, not having a game on-campus can be a major deterrent for attendees.

This goes for hockey too.

Fairfield does not have a Division I hockey team, but does have a pretty good club team that competes in Division III play. There is no ice rink on-campus, so people have to travel off campus if they want to see a game. Home games for the hockey team are played in Shelton, Conn. — about a 20-minute drive from campus.

Though the hockey games are often packed with fans, many of them are friends of the people on the team. Further, a lot of the fans tend to be upperclassmen which might be attributed to the fact that upperclassmen have the capability to drive themselves to the games. The University only allows students to have cars on campus starting their junior year, so any underclassmen interested in attending would need to Uber to the games. While this might be feasible every once in a while, it can become costly and is inconvenient to students.

Speaking from personal experience, more often than not, students attending sporting events are there because they have

friends on the team, not because they just wanted to go see a game. It's not like Fairfield doesn't have teams who consistently perform well — the field hockey, women's swim & dive team, men's and women's basketball, women's lacrosse and both men's and women's soccer usually have strong finishes in their seasons.

So, we can't attribute the lack of athletic spirit due to there being no "good" teams on campus.

It could have something to do with the fact that many of the high-performing teams are women's teams and commonly, women's sports teams suffer from lower attendance numbers compared to their male counterparts.

In an article written by Sara Swann of The Daily Orange, Syracuse University's student newspaper, this very topic was explored.

Swann wrote that Syracuse University Newhouse School of Communication Dean Lorraine Branham said that "she thinks women's sports are typically seen as 'second-class' in comparison to men's sports."

This year, the women's volleyball team made it to the NCAA Tournament. However, the buzz across campus was dull and did not match the excitement of the momentous occasion.

But last year, when Fairfield's baseball team had a Cinderella-story season, you couldn't walk around campus without hearing people talking about the impressive season and stats from the baseball players. At almost every home game, students rallied around the stadium to watch and cheer on the players, diverging from the typical friends-only in attendance.

The difference in attitudes felt towards male versus female sports might provide some explanation for the lack of turnout and spirit surrounding the women's teams at the

University, but does not directly address the overall low dedication and low morale in regards to Fairfield's athletics.

It is so interesting that Fairfield Preparatory School, the all-boys preparatory located on the campus of Fairfield University, has no trouble packing Rafferty Stadium for their football games. Walking up to the townhouses on a night where Prep has a football game, you can see Rafferty more packed than I have ever seen for any lacrosse game.

Of course this does not directly correlate with Fairfield University, but what is the disconnect between the quite obvious and deafening athletic school-spirit Prep fosters and the low levels at Fairfield University?

The University seems to be actively trying to adjust this attitude with its construction of the Convocation Center which will provide students with an elevated on-campus opportunity to watch basketball and volleyball, but what will this change for other teams who don't play their games there?

At the last Red Sea Madness, an event meant to kick off the men's and women's basketball seasons, I remember exclusively attending the Fall Concert with little regard to the basketball teams. I know my friends felt similarly.

Junior Alyssa O'Keefe echoed this sentiment: "I went for the concert and wasn't super tuned into the pep rally before Fetty Wap performed."

Will the Convocation Center be enough to change the attitude students have towards athletics on campus?

I'm not really sure.

If Fairfield wants to become a school centered around prominent athletic spirit, the University needs to employ strategies that reflect that and go beyond more than just building a new arena.