



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield Flickr

This past week, Fairfield News published data on the undergraduate applicants to Fairfield's incoming Class of 2028. Notable statistics include an applicant pool 20 percent larger than last year's and an all-time low acceptance rate of 33%.

Fairfield's Incoming Class Sets New Admissions Record Once Again

BY BRIDGET KEOHANE
Assistant News Editor

Fairfield's growth and competitiveness has proven to be a theme for yet another year. Last week, Fairfield News reported the numerous records set by the most recent applicant pool whose size was 20 percent higher than last year's. 18,502 total applications. 46 states and 73 countries represented. An average GPA of 3.96. An admit rate of 33 percent. These are just some of the historic statistics behind Fairfield's incoming Class of 2028.

Corry Unis, the Vice President for Enrollment Management at Fairfield University, has expressed excitement on behalf of his office in welcoming the new group of students: "The Division of Enrollment Management is so thrilled with the increase in prospective student interest in Fairfield University. It is evident that students and families recognize the value behind a Fairfield University degree."

To say Fairfield is becoming more competitive would be an understatement. The drastic shift in the number of applications speaks for itself. Not only did the application pool increase by nearly 20 percent from last year, but the new acceptance rate of 33 percent presents a significant decrease from last year's 44.9 percent.

In addition, the new average GPA of 3.96 is up from the 3.85 reported for the Class of 2027, a

notable increase in just a year. These statistics not only speak to Fairfield's seemingly increasing popularity, but also to the academic strength of the incoming class as well.

“The Division of Enrollment Management is so thrilled with the increase in prospective student interest in Fairfield University. It is evident that students and families recognize the value behind a Fairfield University degree.”

**-Corry Unis
Vice President
for Enrollment
Management at
Fairfield University**

So, what's driving these numbers? While applications for Fairfield are certainly up, the total number of college applications are up in general. In November, Forbes reported that college applications showed a strong surge, as the number of applications Common App received by this time was already up

12% from last year, translating to almost 89,000 more applicants.

"Fairfield has become much more competitive over the last five years, while some schools saw increases in application activity, our growth of more than 50% is especially meaningful," remarked Unis.

Yield season – the time in between acceptance emails being sent out and the May 1st deadline for incoming first-years to commit to college – has become more chaotic for the Office of Admissions at Fairfield University as they use different models to inform their admission strategy and attempt to gauge which admitted students will sign up to become a Stag in the fall.

In deciding whether or not to attend Fairfield, accepted students may turn to recent University rankings for some guidance. Fairfield was recently ranked among the Top 125 Best National Universities by the U.S. News & World Report. Specific schools and programs also continue to receive several accolades as well, such as the Charles F. Dolan School of Business which was ranked No. 118 for Best Undergraduate Business Programs, the School of Engineering & Computing ranked No. 86 in the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs Category and the Egan School ranked 112 for Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs.

In a press release published by Fairfield News this past September, Fairfield University President

FUSA Hosts Inaugural Women's Clinic

BY MAX LIMRIC
Editor-in-Chief

In honor of Women's History Month, the Fairfield University Student's Association welcomed individuals to the Women's Clinic on Monday, March 25.

The Women's Clinic offered "on and off-campus resources that can be used to nurture ourselves – mind, body and spirit," states FUSA President Aliyah Seenauth '24.

"Because it's a Women's History Event, I proposed that the Women's Clinic incorporate other aspects of women's health instead of just physical and mental health—I wanted a holistic approach to health, which is why we included services like the Dimenna Nyselius Library and the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Awareness."

In addition to those organizations, Stag's Hospitality included a table promoting body positivity, and Counseling and Psychological Services were in attendance, as well as the Women's Health Clinic, a part of the Health Center which offered flyers promoting free and confidential walk-in STI testing.

Another off-campus organization, The Center for Family Justice attended the event. Campus Sexual Violence Advocate Marisa Paquette describes their presence at the event.

"Our table [is here] today to provide information on domestic and sexual violence services to students so they're aware of us as a resource. When women know about the resources around them, they are empowered to speak up for themselves knowing they will have support," she states.

Student-led clubs also attended in order to fulfill FUSA's goal of creating an event with a "holistic approach to caring for oneself as a woman"

President Rienna Pepaj '26 and Vice-President Lily Reilly '26 of the Women's Activism Club share their goal for the event: "We're here to raise awareness for our club which is a space to bring together Fairfield University students who are

passionate about social justice and activism as it pertains to women's rights."

Women's Activism Club is new to campus, but it is beginning to make an impact on the campus community and will be "throwing 'Pajamas against the Patriarchy,' a movie night showing 'Barbie' on Wednesday, April 17 in Gonzaga Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Additionally, the Women in STEM Club made their presence known. "We're here today to inspire women to never give up on whatever they want to do," says President Jill O'Brien '25. "We want to create a sense of community for women who are pursuing a career in STEM, a field in which they are historically underrepresented in," she concludes.

Senior Jackie Campbell represented Girl Up Club, "a United Nations Foundation organization that supports girls' education through 12th grade globally," she states. "There are many obstacles to girls' education in countries such as Guatemala, Malawi and Tanzania that we seek to mediate through fundraisers and projects," she continues. "We also work directly within the community to raise awareness around issues that prevent girls' education."

The Women's Clinic also served as a donation drive, in which The Alumni of Color Network hosted and accepted Feminine Hygiene products to benefit the Center for Family Justice.

Seenauth includes that FUSA is "also celebrating the approval of free menstrual product dispensers in the bathrooms throughout campus." She adds, "We now made them free, but we also changed them to high-quality products as well."

In addition to hosting the inaugural Women's Clinic and the success it experienced, Seenauth looks to the future of the event. "I look forward to having a stronger variety of local off campus resources that fit the theme and mission of holistic care for women," she states.



Kathleen Morris/The Mirror

Jackie Campbell '24 tables in the LLBCC for Girl Up, a club that fundraises with a focus on empowering women and girls.

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CAMPUS CHEF HIGHLIGHTS

BILL REARDON EARNS PRO CHEF II CERTIFICATION & MYLES HAMILTON WINS BRONZE IN ACE COMPETITION

CHEF BILL REARDON, PCII



A huge congratulations to our Executive Campus Chef, Bill Reardon, on successfully earning his ProChef II certification! Over the course of four days, Chef Bill completed seven rigorous written exams, as well as four physically demanding practical exams. His expertise was put to the test with written exams in nutrition, food science, finance, pastry, baking, garde manger, and Mediterranean cuisine. Chef Bill showcased his culinary skills by creating dishes for healthy cuisine, pastry, garde manger, and a Mediterranean family-style meal focusing on North African cuisine. Reflecting on his experience, Chef Bill shared, "It was an amazing experience that truly shows appreciation for what we do as chefs. I am eager to apply this newfound knowledge upon returning to my team." With ProChef II now a part of his culinary repertoire, Chef Bill sets his sights on the next milestone as he anticipates pursuing his ProChef III certification within the coming year.

Another success for our Stags Hospitality team! Congratulations to Chef Myles on clinching the bronze medal in Aramark's Culinary Excellence competition. Chef Myles dedicated two days of intense effort at William Paterson University, with one day allocated for preparation and the other for competing. The participating chefs were challenged with the task of creating a dish using a prescribed list of ingredients. Among the 10 talented chefs, Chef Myles showcased his culinary skills, ultimately securing the 3rd place position with his Crispy Pan Seared Cod dish. Reflecting on the competition, Chef Myles stated, "It was an incredible experience to compete against some of the region's top chefs. The moment the timer began, I felt a surge of excitement unlike anything I've ever experienced. As a newcomer to culinary competitions, I'm thrilled to have represented Fairfield and earn a medal that reflects my dedication and hard work as a chef." Chef Myles looks forward to more experiences that will help him move forward in his career as a culinarian!

CHEF MYLES HAMILTON, ACE COMPETITION BRONZE MEDALIST





Compiled by Kathleen Morris

Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety

3/20

7:05 p.m.

There was a full dorm fire alarm in Bowman Hall. The Fairfield Fire Department and the alarm company arrived at the scene. No cause was identified.

3/21

9:50 a.m.

An ITS employee dealt with a verbally aggressive student in the RecPlex parking lot. The altercation occurred after the employee told the student he had parked incorrectly. The student was referred to the Dean of Students.

3/22

9:40 a.m.

An employee in the Stag Spirit Shop reported that the store had received an obscene phone call. The source could not be identified and there are no suspects at this time.

3/24

1:45 p.m.

A student reported that their clothing had been “bleach bombed” while being washed in Campion Hall, which is said to have happened at 11 p.m. on 3/23. An RA identified the suspects as two males and one female, two of whom were guests of a Fairfield student. The Fairfield Police Department intervened due to the cost of the damaged items.

3/24

2 p.m.

The Assistant Director of Residence Life contacted DPS to assist with the confiscation of drug paraphernalia in Barnyard Manor. The student in possession of drugs was referred to Student Services.

3/25

10:45 a.m.

A paper towel caught fire in a microwave in Townhouse 4 block. The student was able to extinguish the fire and the alarm was not activated. The incident was referred to the Fire Marshall and the Office of Residence Life.

THE MIRROR

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Forced Labor Presentation Educates Students on Human Rights

BY SAMANTHA RUSSELL

Executive Editor

Students and faculty left the Barone Campus Center’s Dogwood Room on Wednesday, March 20, with a newfound understanding of the inhumane realities of forced labor, examined through a presentation from Senior Program Director of Research Innovation at Verité, Erin Klett. Her address underscored a need to combat forced labor practices all around the world.

Klett holds over 20 years of experience working towards advancements in forced labor measurements and the tracking of ethically made goods, namely within the electronic and apparel sectors. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), forced labor can be defined as “All work of service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.”

The foundation of Klett’s presentation, which examined her work in the field and then fielded audience questions, lay in the enlightenment of the severity of this global conflict.

“It’s a worldwide problem,” she stated. “It happens in plain sight sometimes, and it’s definitely not happening only in third-world places.” This point highlighted locations such as Southeast Asia, Africa, Mexico, America and China.

Klett’s 30-minute talk commenced with the history of forced labor and modern slavery. The speaker explained that forced labor equates to a form of modern slavery, sharing that 49.6 million people were modern slaves in 2021 and that half of those slaves endured forced labor.

This grave situation is most common with migrant workers who often bear vulnerability migrating in times of crisis. Services and manufacturing hold the highest number of forced labor cases, followed by construction.

“[Forced labor] is big business,” she asserted to her audience. While the problem remains difficult to solve, she did not neglect the fact that forced labor, along with its profits, continues to rise.

Regarding the two compartmentalized components of forced labor, involuntariness and penalty, indicators exist to measure the degrees to which they fit into ILO’s definition of malpractice. Indicators of involuntary work include factors like forced recruitment, recruitment linked to debt, degrading work-related living conditions, and those for penalty list actions such as physical or sexual violence, withholding of wages, restrictions on freedom and movement and induced addiction.

Klett transitioned her presentation to an overview of her own independent research throughout the electronic and apparel fields, which were recognized as the top two at-risk imports of forced labor out of an identified 14.

The researcher first showcased a study she conducted at Verité that, while not very recent, was one of the non-profit’s largest conducted studies and established a tipping point for forced labor advancements in the electronics industry. The piece interviewed 501 migrant workers across over 200 different factories in Malaysia.

“We really put it out to the world because it was more of a call-to-action, ‘this is a serious problem.’ It really got well-covered and really, kind of, helped contribute to the seachange in the industry,” Klett noted with pride. Following the report, the Major Electronics Industry Association adopted a policy to ensure migrant workers do not pay recruitment fees. If they do pay, they are to be reimbursed by their employer. Often, modern slaves are not told an honest salary before recruitment, resulting in inadequate funds to pay off recruitment loans and, thus, a need for extended work.

Klett disclosed fees and debt as a top risk of forced labor, along with limited freedom of movement, inability to resign contracts and withholding of passports. 94 percent of Malaysian migrant workers were restricted from their passports, eliminating their ability to leave their country of employment.

Although the release of this study increased recruitment reimbursement and migrant protection between governments, the speaker confirmed a hefty amount of work still awaiting progress. She listed that, in 2019, Verité research found 90 electronic workers had still paid fees and, in 2020, only eleven of the world’s 49 largest ICT companies made serious efforts to fight forced labor.

“It’s still a spot check and a sort of spot intervention,” she reminded her listeners, agreeing on a lack of effective penalty from legislation and the need for more regulations and investments towards policy change. “At the end of the day, the problems are very much present.”

Klett’s second demonstration of research was certainly a much quieter study, yet it clearly uncovered the top forced labor risks in the apparel sectors of Argentina, Mauritius and Madagascar. Funded by the United States Department of Labor (DOL), this study was a “collaborative exploration of problems,” according to Klett, conducted throughout 2021 and 2022 by long-time friend and Fairfield University’s own Professor Jennifer Cook.

As Klett continued to discuss forced labor in the apparel sector, she clarified that 18 workers, two-thirds of them male, were interviewed.

“Because it’s a migrant workforce,” she said, “you see a lot of the same vulnerabilities as in the electronics sector,” although she

still mentioned its differences. Its top forced labor risks include fees and debt, deception of recruitment, excessive overtime and no ability to terminate contracts.

By “deception of recruitment,” Klett refers to deceit about job type and, again, salary. Furthermore, many workers experienced withheld wages, in which employees were told their wages would arrive “later” or at the end of their contract.

“We were able to share through our research that there were clearly multiple risk factors present in this population for forced labor,” she announced. “[The study] helped with active conversations that were happening at the time.”

When addressing college students, of which the Dogwood Room hosted a considerable crowd, Klett looks to evoke the desire to learn more about the business of human rights. Through sources like nonprofits and government positions, she elaborates on countless ways to start working on these problems.

“I would hope that students would have more curiosity and awareness [about] where all the stuff we buy and consume comes from,” she described, “and have some ideas about what companies should be doing.”

A question-and-answer session emerged at the conclusion of Klett’s talk. Throughout the presentation, guests were invited to submit questions through Menti.com using a provided code.

Klett received numerous, thought-provoking questions from both students and faculty. One question pondered the difference between extreme exploitation and forced labor, in which Klett stated that forced labor is an extreme kind of exploitation, one that involves involuntariness and coercion. Moreover, she explained that employers often exploit the desperation of their employees with no other option.

“They can’t leave the job but not because they’re trapped by any employer directly, but because of their circumstance,” she said.

A succeeding question asked the speaker about the authority required by researchers to conduct social audits. Klett clarified that organizations can only perform audits if granted permission by a multinational company. She added that she often performs them in places where people naturally congregate, such as community centers or shopping malls, to reach people in more comfortable settings outside of their workplace.

A final conversation poked the issue of government responsibility, particularly that of the United States. According to Klett, the US government is behind Europe’s in terms of instituting policy, however, the United States made steps by implementing an import ban.

“Strengthening government ability to create strong laws and enforce them is really key, and track data on where the problems might be,” she announced, continuing that these efforts require investment in costs and resources. Simply stated, many countries do not obtain the resources to successfully enforce labor laws, so recognizing that a larger ecosystem of factors is crucial for establishing change.

Klett contended that social responsibility has evolved immensely, yet is still only at its beginning. At the college level, she acknowledges that evolution is being brought to life through courses like economics and applied ethics.

The researcher informs that, despite its global context, Fairfield University students are more than capable of taking action against forced labor. Aside from simply paying attention to the brands one is buying, Klett encourages students to “just do a little bit of research.” Many company sites include their utilized practices as well as Modern Slavery Statements, which have become required by many large corporations.

Essentially, an emphasis lies on making educated decisions, to which Klett highlights the fast-fashion outlet Shein. “Another thing just to think about, is like, ‘Do I think that the cost of this item is enough that people got paid at a fair wage to make it?’”

Encouraging students to apply for summer, fall and spring internships at Verité, Klett emphasized the significance of working in the business of human rights. Her incentive? “We need good people.”



Photo Contribued by Vimeo

Erin Klett is the Senior Program Director of Research Innovation at Verité. She examines forced labor practices in the electronics and apparel industries.

Undergraduate Admissions Office Unveils All-Time Low Acceptance Rate for the Class of 2028

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mark R. Nemec, PhD, remarked “Fairfield’s rise over recent years has elevated the University as one of the best investments in American higher education and one of the most respected Jesuit Catholic institutions in the country.”

As it’s growing in popularity, the University is increasing in size and space constraints continue to be a work in progress. In September, Fairfield unveiled a new residence hall – Sr. Thea Bowman Hall—that finished construction at the end of the summer and is complete with suite-style living designated for sophomores. Currently, Fairfield is in the process of constructing another residence hall next to Faber Hall, to continue to accommodate the larger influx of students.

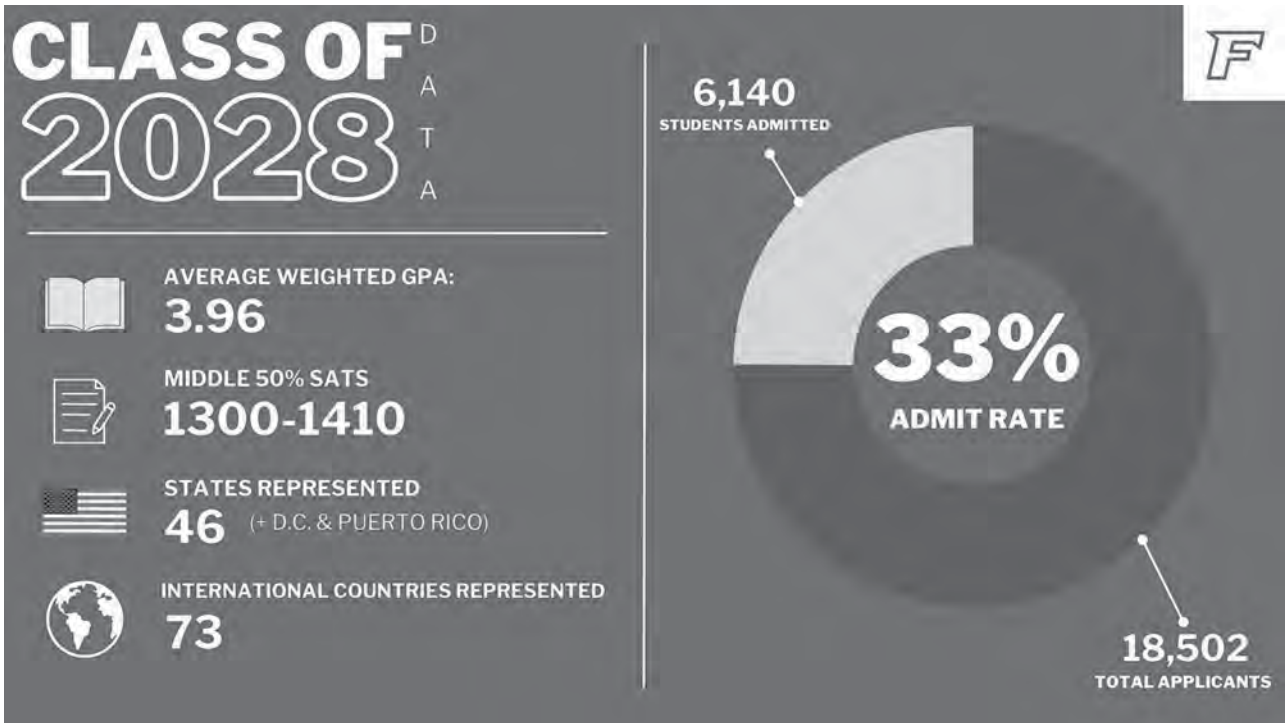
While space still proves to be a slight issue, students nonetheless remark that it feels rewarding to attend a University that is growing in demand.

“It appears to me that our hidden gem of a school is not so hidden anymore. With its growth, I’ve noticed new activities and clubs forming, along with the increased academic competition ... Fairfield is etching away its spot on the map offering a high-quality Jesuit education,” reflected Colby Zelano ’24.

Admitted students have the opportunity to attend one of the two admitted students day hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in April, referred to as “Fairfield in Focus.” The first is taking place April 7, and the second will be on April 13.

During these days, members of the Class of 2028 will have the opportunity to attend an academic fair with academic presentations from students and professors from

Data in this infographic is credited to Fairfield News and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Fairfield University.



various departments. There will also be an opportunity to explore campus and student life through a campus tour or by attending the Student Life Fair. The event will conclude with the President’s Reception and Closing Address.

“We look forward to meeting with our admitted students throughout various on-campus admission events this spring,” stated Unis.

For admitted students who may be deciding between attending Fairfield University and another institution, Unis emphasizes the value one can find in a Fairfield education, “Our shared Jesuit identity is tangible, our community is welcoming and our outcomes are truly in the top 1% of all colleges.”

Humanitarian Action Club Working to Provide Global Service This Easter

BY ASHLEY DEVLIN
Head News Editor

This past week, students leaving the Tully or stopping by the Dunkin’ Donuts or the Stag Diner were graced with the presence of the Humanitarian Action Club’s Easter Table. Their members shouted through the building as students walked by, hoping to gain their attention.

The Easter Table is a fundraiser that the club is currently hosting, where they sell raffle tickets for Easter baskets. All of the proceeds from this go towards buying water filters for disadvantaged communities living in areas with unsafe drinking water. This fundraiser is only one example of how the Humanitarian Action Club (HA) embodies service at the university by raising money for important causes around the world.

The Humanitarian Action Club is one of roughly 200 clubs that are offered to students at Fairfield University. This begs the question, why join this club? Bobby Schattle ’25, one of their lead team members believes that people should join because of their mission statement. The club is devoted to raising awareness about humanitarian issues on Fairfield’s campus and building strategies to successfully respond to these crises.

They currently have 452 members, which is more than the average club that typically has around 100 members. The club also has various team leaders and fellows, including: Amelia Bowles ’24, Jackie Campbell ’24, Evan Kaiser ’24, Grace Lannigan ’25, Kai Meiser ’25, Charlotte Savigny ’26, Bobby Schattle ’25 and Mia Vanmatter ’26.

Schattle joined the Humanitarian Action Club his freshman year after seeing their table at the Club Fair in the Fall Semester. He said, “I joined because I’m a very service-oriented person and did a

lot of service in high school. What we do at the club responds a lot more to global humanitarian crises and refugee work, which I was not very well-versed in in high school, so I did that to augment my service side.”

Schattle recommends that anyone interested in service join the club. He explained, “The club is so much fun. But, more importantly, there are so many issues going on in the world that need help. This is the perfect opportunity to provide assistance to these people and others on and around campus.”

The club is supported by their faculty advisor, Julie Mughal,

“There are so many issues going on in the world that need help. This is the perfect opportunity to provide assistance to these people.”

**-Bobby Schattle ’25
Humanitarian Action Fellow**

who is the Associate Director for the Humanitarian Action and the Center for Social Impact. Mughal has been involved with many non-profit organizations, as well as the United Nations, and has many contacts to help students interested in Humanitarian Action. She coordinates the fellow and lead team meetings every week. Mughal also deals with logistics with departments at Fairfield, including budget requests, tabling requests and reaching out to faculty and staff. While all of these are vital to the club, Schattle said that “we call her the club Mom because she takes care of us like her kids and cares about all of us and what we do as a club.”

Mughal really takes an interest in students, making the club an inviting environment. Bowles had glowing reviews about her faculty advisor. She stated, “Julie truly is the most amazing and involved club advisor. We are so lucky to have her because she is clearly passionate about the work we do and does everything within her power to support us... She has been a mentor to everyone in the HA community. She’s always there when we need someone to talk to, whether it be about personal, academic or professional advice.”

Mughal not only participates in the club as the advisor but also serves as the fellowship supervisor, giving her a unique position, stated Bowles.

The club has biweekly meetings that typically last for about an hour and are available to everyone and are held in Canisius 200. This hour consists of team and community building and planning and logistics for future campaigns. Schattle stated, “The meetings vary a lot, but they’re all really fun and engaging. There’s always a treat at every meeting and it’s a great way to meet people and make new friends. Right now, we’re building baskets for our Easter Table so that we can

raise money for Wine to Water.”

Wine to Water is a foundation that works with the United Nations to provide clean water to millions of people around the world. Amelia Bowles ’24, another team leader for the Humanitarian Action Club explained, “We work hard to raise money for this foundation by doing things, like tabling, raffling off baskets, and having our members set up donation pages for the cause. Our current raffle for Easter baskets is one of our efforts to reach our goal of raising \$5,500 each semester.” This goal is specific because they hope to donate 100 water filters every semester and each filter costs \$55.

In addition to the raffle, one of the club’s biggest events is coming up soon. On April 21, Humanitarian Action will be hosting a water filter build in the traffic circle outside of the Barone Campus Center and the First-Year Quad. This event occurs every year towards the end of the Spring semester. Bowles ’24 states, “We celebrate Earth Day by hand assembling water filters that will be shipped around the world to various crisis zones and regions with high levels of water insecurity.”

Schattle explains, after the club raises enough money to purchase 100 water filters, they send the money to the foundation and, in return, they send kits for students to put the filters together. These are later shipped back to Wine to Water so they can be distributed.

While building the filters is an amazing way to give back to the community and help those who are in difficult situations, Bowles also explained that students and other volunteers are able to write cards to the people that are receiving the water filters. She continues, “This is a super cool way to connect with the individual receiving the filter you put together.”

Bowles ’24 details that the club has been fundraising for the filter build since the start of the school year. Currently, the club has raised \$3,000 for the semester and \$370 of this has come from the Easter raffle that began last week.

Evan Kaiser ’24, another team leader, states, “In the past we were able to send more than 100 water filters to various areas of crisis around the world. Last year, a lot of them went to Ukraine and the year before, many went to Texas because they had a severe water crisis.”

Joining the Humanitarian Action Club allows for students to aid communities experiencing extreme circumstances and creates meaningful connections with people on and off campus.

Bowles ’24 also encourages students to apply to be Humanitarian Action Fellows, for multiple fellows are graduating this year. The Center for Social Impact is now accepting applications for students looking “to become involved in our campus and local communities... and are interested in leadership and advocacy.” Students are also urged to stop by some of the meetings and show up to the upcoming filter build on April 21.



Ashley Devlin/The Mirror

The Humanitarian Action Club runs their Easter table in the Barone Campus Center. Students can buy raffle tickets for a variety of baskets.

Opinion

Editor: Roisin McCarthy
Assistant Editor: Natalie Dripchak

Lawmakers Seek to Ban Sensational App, TikTok

By **NATALIE DRIPCHAK**
Assistant Opinion Editor

TikTok is one of the most popular apps right now for people of all ages, but maybe not for much longer. Recently, the House of Representatives passed a bill that could ban TikTok from users in the United States. This bill has to be passed in the Senate and then brought to the president for him to sign for it to be in effect. President Biden himself said that he would sign the bill if it came across his desk, but The Senate is in no rush to vote on this bill. Therefore, if a different president is elected to office, like President Donald Trump, he said he will most likely not sign the bill. This poses the question of whether TikTok should be banned. For clarifying purposes, an article by CNN states “The bill would prohibit TikTok from US app stores unless the social media platform—used by roughly 170 million Americans—is spun off from its Chinese parent company, ByteDance.” There is no confirmed answer on whether TikTok will be officially banned but there is a good possibility. Personally, I am 50-50 on this TikTok ban. I spend way too much time on TikTok so for the sake of prioritizing my

time on more important or productive tasks, maybe the ban is a good idea. That being said, I love TikTok. It is a fun app with diverse content that can be enjoyable for anyone of any age. I find it easy to be aware of a lot of things going on in the world when being on TikTok because I am on it so often. I am not saying that TikTok is the most reliable way to get your news and information but it allows people to get a certain amount of base information. People are then able to go to more trustworthy news sites to research more about a topic or event. TikTok is also a great way for people to not only be caught up on the latest trends or influencers but also allows people to find others that they have stuff in common with or people that they relate to. For me, one of my favorite people that I follow on TikTok is Alix Earle. She is a freshly graduated college student who shares her very exciting and interesting life on social media. I would have never discovered her or enjoyed her content as much if I wasn't on TikTok. Similarly, she would not be as popular as she is without TikTok. I understand that many people may think TikTok is bad, but there are many good aspects of it as well. A lot of the good aspects are people posting about awareness for

certain diseases or health conditions or posting awareness for things happening in the news. For instance TikTok creator and newly published author, Eli Rallo posts often about the awareness of Ménière's disease. Rallo's mother was diagnosed with Ménière's and ever since Rallo has been an advocate. Not only does Rallo serve as an advocate for the autoimmune disease, she also actively seeks out help from her followers and asks for resources and doctor recommendations to help her mother. TikTok is a community of people and it can be a good community for many. TikTok is also a platform where many people find their careers. Influencers are taking the world by storm and a lot of their fame and popularity is accredited to TikTok. That being said, there are many other ways to gain fame and popularity along with finding a career. TikTok being banned would not be the end of the world, but it would be sad in ways because this is a creative outlet for many people all over the world—not just in the US. I would prefer TikTok not to be banned in the US because I genuinely enjoy using the app and think it is a very unique form of social media with lots of different opportunities to offer for the people of the United States.



Recently a bill on potentially banning TikTok was passed through the House of Representatives. This bill must be passed by the Senate before it shows up on the president's desk. The app will not be banned unless bought by an American company. Many TikTok users are passionate about preventing the ban from coming to fruition.

Rumors Ran Rampant Prior to British Royal Family's Delayed Announcement of Cancer Diagnosis

By **SOPHIA COSSITT-LEVY**
Contributing Writer

Back in January, the Royal Family announced that Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales, would be stepping back from her duties to go under and recover from a planned abdominal surgery. Since then, there has been an incredible amount of speculation on Kate's condition and her life with William on social media, thanks to prolonged silence from the palace and some badly edited photos. My own attention was first caught by the edited photos. When I first saw the speculation on TikTok, I scrolled past it – Kate had abdominal surgery; there was nothing more to it. But then I saw the pictures. The photo for Mothers' Day, of Kate with her three children, was so poorly cobbled together, that major news outlets pulled it. There were issues with hand placement, the stones they were standing on, and even their clothes. Then there was the photo with Kate and her mother in the car, in which the car had five tires, clearly a result of bad editing. Finally, there was the picture with Kate and William in a car, in which the brick on the building behind them was obviously not continuous the way it should have been, and Kate's head looked like it had been taken from another, older picture. For me, this was it. I proceeded to watch all the theories I could find. Something wasn't right. On Friday, March 22, Kate announced that she had been diagnosed with cancer and was going through chemotherapy treatment. She didn't say what type of cancer she'd been diagnosed with and asked for privacy and respect as she finished her treatment.

My heart went out to Kate and her family, as this cannot be an easy thing to have to go through, and the frequently outlandish speculation from the news and on social media definitely did not make things easier for them. That being said, the position of power that the Royal Family maintains makes it their responsibility to maintain a level of trust and honesty with their people, and the way this situation was handled showed little of either quality. Here in the United States, when the president undergoes medical treatment, we get details. In 2021, Joe Biden went for a colonoscopy, and we received updates about the procedure as well as his health afterward. While he may have wanted to keep that information to himself, his position of power and his obligation to his people make it something necessary to share. As Prince and Princess of Wales, Kate and William have similar obligations to their people. They should have been more straightforward and honest about Kate's health, and the palace should not have thrown out poorly edited photos as a band-aid solution to people's questions. Those photos only invited more speculation and more questions. Instead, had they been upfront about Kate's condition when it was discovered and then asked for privacy, the wild guesswork would have been kept at bay, and I believe they would have gotten more respect and support from the general public. For example, King Charles's cancer diagnosis was announced in a timely manner, and the palace explained he would be stepping back from his duties to recover and that he was looking for privacy as he did.

While there was some speculation about what type of cancer he was diagnosed with, it was nowhere near as dramatic as what people wondered about Kate. Even if the Royal Family wants privacy regarding their health, a brief, straightforward and honest statement is all they need to maintain trust with their people. While this has been a messy situation, I hope we can all realize that the speculation was unnecessary and wish Kate good health and a speedy recovery.



After a prolonged period of absence, Princess Kate Middleton has just announced that she has been diagnosed with cancer.

Age Limits For Presidential Candidates

By **BROOKE LATHE**
Executive Editor Emerita

There are eight months until the next presidential election, but our top two front runners for candidacy is a match-up no American wants to go through again.

Despite all of the differing opinions and arguments about politics throughout the past few years, I think it’s clear that voters across the nation don’t want our choice to be between two men over a decade past the standard retirement age.

President Joe Biden is currently 81 and the oldest person to hold office in American history. By inauguration time next year, he will be 82 and potentially end his second term at 86!

Furthermore, Former President Donald Trump sits at age 77 which means he would join President Biden as the oldest President in office once the four years following his potential re-election finishes.

The constitution requires presidential candidates to be at least 35 years of age, but there is no age limit on how old they can be when they hold national responsibilities. Why is that?

According to the Pew Research Center, 79% of Americans favor age limits for elected officials in Washington, D.C. and while experience (and therefore older age) is preferred, 49% of Americans report that it’s best for a president to be in their 50s.

I agree that this is the prime range for each candidate as they will ideally represent the younger generation’s views and also work in good health.

The maximum candidate, however, should not be older than 66 during the election process as they should not surpass the age of 70 while in office.

A politician is not immune to the routine aging consequences every 70-year-old experiences, including hearing and vision loss, weakened bones, worsening memory and decision-making abilities, etc.

A leader at this age will also generally not be

able to successfully bridge each generation together as they are too out of touch with the younger American people.

In addition to age limits, there should be standard neurocognitive and physical health evaluations any candidate needs to pass before they are allowed on the ballot.

Are their mental abilities considered normal? Are they psychologically sound? These answers would ensure we are handing over the keys of our country to the right hands no matter what any person has to say about their political party or belief. No matter what, we should feel safe.

Most arguments against making an age limit are the problem of “ageism”—prejudice or discrimination based on a person’s age—but can’t someone make this same defense for our current age requirement? Is it not ageist that a person younger than 35 can’t be put on the ballot either?

The only jobs that force a person to retire are firefighters, police officers, and military service members if their age has considerably impacted their ability to perform in their roles.

In these cases, a person can not work to an ideal standard with impaired physical health.

For someone who holds power over an entire country, I would argue that their mental health stands just as much weight as physical conditions for active positions.

To make this change would require a constitutional amendment, and as a result, bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress—something that does not seem ideal these days.

But how can we continue to allow leaders in such a life-impacting position, who are clearly affected by their age, to hold so much power? It’s time to start putting some deeper thought into who exactly is going to be our next American president.

March Madness and Gambling Culture

By **TJ CRIARES**
Contributing Writer

It’s that time of year again! The NCAA men’s and women’s basketball tournaments are one of the most highly anticipated sporting events, especially during a relatively quiet period for major professional sporting leagues.

These games ignite numerous rivalries and passionate displays of fandom, but what’s even more prominent today is the prevalence of betting on individual games and the tournament as a whole. Undoubtedly, this can create an exciting environment amongst friends, but at what point can wagering money on sports have adverse effects?

As more states start to legalize gambling for individuals aged 21 and above, college students have the opportunity to participate more than ever. This highly controversial topic has compelling arguments on both sides. Many individuals on the anti-gambling side point to the alarming mental health consequences on both players and consumers.

A study from the Rutgers University Center for Gambling Study found that 28% of high-risk gamblers experienced suicidal thoughts. It’s also important to recognize that gambling addictions tend to intensify gradually and often without the individual realizing it.

There is also the argument that young adults shouldn’t have the responsibility of making financial decisions like this. As many studies have pointed out, the brain is not fully developed until an individual’s mid-twenties. Moreover, young adults are often known to make rash decisions, especially when a chance at making money is involved.

Mental health issues can be seen from the player’s side as well. When a player fails to reach a specific point total or misses a shot, there are numerous instances of bettors resorting to social

media to verbally attack the player and their family. This behavior can be detrimental to a player’s mental health not just in maintaining their performance for their team but also in their personal life beyond the game. A majority of these issues can also be attributed to the marketing strategies employed in the gambling industry. Numerous celebrities promote these sportsbooks with special promotions targeted at first-time users, to get consumers, particularly those in the young adult demographic, hooked on the platforms and betting in general.

Despite the seriousness of this topic, completely removing sports betting would be virtually impossible due to the financial implications it holds for many individuals involved in the industry and the substantial growth of its market over the past half-decade. Instead, we as a society should provide more resources aimed at informed and responsible gambling through real-world examples and presentations of the consequences. Unfortunately, this is not as prevalent in the media because it does not sell to the masses, it is simply mentioned briefly in advertisements for legal implications. There needs to be a more ethical approach to marketing sports betting, especially during this time of increased legalization.

Furthermore, sports betting offers several advantages, such as becoming more immersed in the sports world, especially with the increasing accessibility of sports media in today’s society, and providing an opportunity for bonding with peers, like participating in a March Madness bracket.

As you continue to keep track of your brackets, remain cognizant of these issues, but also enjoy the tournament in a healthy manner as you see fit, whether or not it involves betting.

Students For Life Club Attends March in Hartford

By **TRENT OUELLETTE**
Contributing Writer

Last Wednesday, I had the opportunity to attend the Connecticut March for Life in Hartford. The march, which was preceded by a rally outside of the state capitol building, aimed to raise awareness and garner legislative support for the pro-life cause. I attended with a small group from the Students for Life Cub which has attended the march in the past.

The turnout for the event was estimated at just under two thousand, which was enough to cover most of the capitol lawn. The crowd was made up of many different types of people including families, elderly individuals, students, a handful of nuns and many priests.

There was a very high concentration of Catholics at the march, which should be of no surprise. After all, paragraph 2271 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church reads, “Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable.” It is a moral duty for Catholics to adhere to such a definitive teaching of the church and defend the lives of those who have yet to be born. This year’s march was especially significant as it came in the wake of a proposal to enshrine access to abortion as a right in Connecticut’s state constitution. The proposal has only been through a single public hearing so far, but additional hearings are sure to follow. For the proposed amendment to be enshrined in the constitution, it will require the votes of three-fourths of the Connecticut House of Representatives and Senate and majority support by the voting public. Democrats, who generally support abortion, currently hold about a two-thirds majority across both chambers of the General Assembly. The approval of this proposed amendment currently seems unlikely, but nothing is impossible which is why the pro-life cause, especially in a state such as Connecticut, must make themselves known to the public and the legislator.

The pro-life movement has had some success in recent years. Most notably with the Supreme Court’s 2022 ruling in the Dobbs v. Jackson case which overturned Roe v. Wade. This decision essentially shifted the power to create laws regarding abortion from the federal to state level. Sadly, and despite this ruling, the number of abortions in the United States in 2023 eclipsed one million according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Pew Research found that 53% of American adults believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. This percentage jumps to 55% amongst Muslims, 60% amongst Mainline Protestants, and 83% amongst Jewish people. Perhaps most surprising of all is that nearly half, 48%, of American Catholics share this view.

This statistic is very concerning and prompts the question: How can one claim to be Catholic yet openly and unabashedly support abortion?

Simply put, one cannot. The Code of Canon Law states that an individual who obtains an abortion suffers immediate excommunication (Can. 1397). In no world can a Catholic support a practice so morally impermissible. Pope St. John Paul II, in his 1995 encyclical Evangelium Vitae, makes the moral gravity of an abortion absolutely clear. He writes, “I declare that direct abortion ... always constitutes a grave moral disorder, since it is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being. This doctrine is based upon the natural law and upon the written Word of God, is transmitted by the Church’s Tradition and taught by the ordinary and universal Magisterium” (62). While this declaration by the Pope was not Ex Cathedra in nature, it still rises to the level of a teaching that must be obeyed by the faithful, especially considering its presence in the universal magisterium. Both the Vatican II document Lumen Gentium and the Code of Canon Law in Canons 750-754 teach that Catholics must assent to the teachings of the Pope and universal magisterium on issues of faith and morals. As shown by the above teachings of the Church, a catholic must not, and cannot, support the practice of abortion.

Despite this, it is permissible, and even understandable, for a Catholic to struggle with the Church’s teachings regarding abortion. I can almost guarantee that the majority of Catholics have at least one church teaching they struggle to fully embrace. One may be a Catholic who struggles with the Church’s teaching on birth control, Communism, homosexuality or abortion but still submits to said teaching out of their duty to obey the Church which is the “pillar and bulwark of the truth.”

Abortion is a very delicate issue to discuss, particularly when attempting to sway another individual, or even your own opinion on the matter. Often, those who are pro-abortion take the stance they do from a position of perceived compassion, desire to fight for freedom or to protect those who are victims of

horrendous circumstances. This is crucial to remember as many will write off those who support abortion as evil, baby haters, or wicked. While I do believe the pro-abortion position to be morally abhorrent, it is subscribed to by many well-meaning people who I would probably enjoy interacting with. Those same individuals would most likely hold a very similar view of my position on abortion.

To best engage a pro choice individual on the issue, I believe the pro-life individual should ask the question: What is being terminated in the woman’s womb? If the person answers, in any number of ways, that a human life is being terminated, then the bridge to being anti abortion may not be a terribly difficult one to cross. It may be as simple as showing the pro-choice individual the immense value that human life holds as a unique member of mankind. If, however, the person answers along the lines of “a clump of cells,” “some tissue,” “not a human,” etc. then there is a much higher hill to climb. They would first need to be convinced that at the moment of conception, a human life has been created. That life may be at a very early, or the earliest, stage of development, but are nonetheless fully human and should be treated with full dignity in the same way you or I

ought to be treated. The absence of fully developed organs, the ability to survive independently or consciousness does not rob a child in the womb of their personhood. If this were the case, then those with certain physical disabilities, young children or individuals in comas must also be stripped of their status as a human being.

Ultimately, this article is merely a grain of sand in the desert of writings regarding the topic of abortion. While I hope to see a day in which America’s culture embraces an anti abortion position, I understand that society is not trending in that direction, and it may take quite a while for the pendulum to swing in the pro-life direction. Regardless, I still believe there is value in voicing the pro-life message and making it known to the public through articles like this or public demonstrations such as the March for Life.

Finally, while I am firm in my position on abortion due to moral and religious reasons, I am willing to be corrected on any mistakes I may have made in this article regarding my interpretation or presentation of church documents and teaching.



Four members of the Students for Life Club at Fairfield University attended a March for Life in Hartford, CT on Wednesday, March 20.



THE VINE



Editor: Caitlin Shea



Relay For Life



BY CHRISTINA SILVESTRI
Contributing Writer

Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Dr. Gordon “Gordy” Klatt sparked this international fundraiser when he ran around a track for 24 hours, raising money to donate to ACS. His efforts gained vast attention, raising \$27,000 during his 83-mile walk. The next year, an additional 19 teams joined Dr. Klatt on the track and earned \$33,000 for the cause. From then on, ACS has adopted this ceremony as its signature fundraising event. Since the first run around the track, Relay for Life has raised \$6.8 billion – yes, billion with a b – in donations and reached 31 countries.

Every year, Fairfield University hosts their own Relay for Life event. Typically held in the RecPlex, the event consists of six hours of walking and activities. The Fairfield chapter of this event is completely student-run. The Relay for Life Club on campus is run by an E-Board of five juniors; Kyle Gallagher, Emile Drolet, Allie DeFrancisco, Kelly McRae, and myself. We have been working tirelessly to organize the event all year to put on the best Relay yet.

But why do we relay? Hear from the Fairfield Relay for Life E-Board members to hear some of their answers.

President Kyle Gallagher says; “I relay because I want everyone that goes through this experience to have access to the same strong supportive community that I was fortunate enough to be a part of. The battle with cancer is unpredictable and downright terrifying, but although this experience can be daunting on its own, it doesn't have to be. This fundraising event helps to provide treatment and so much more for cancer patients that truly need it.”

Co-Vice President Emile Drolet adds, “There is a beautiful community of people that come to the Relay for Life event across the country that celebrate those that have survived and remember those that have lost their lives to cancer. I relay because my mom beat breast cancer when I was in elementary school so it is a very personal and meaningful organization to support!”

I am the Secretary of Relay for Life and I relay because cancer has touched the lives of many people I love. I walk, fundraise and hope for a cure for them. I relay because I can, and that is a privilege.

The E-Board of Relay for Life hopes you can come to our event and support our cause on April 20th, in the RecPlex from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Photo Contributed by Christina Silvestri
Stags step up and show their support for cancer awareness at Fairfield Universities Relay For Life event.



Spring into Action:



The Best Springtime Activities

BY FIONA WAGNER
Assistant Vine Editor

As the remnants of winter fade away, the arrival of spring brings fresh air and new attitudes all around. As the sun casts its rays down on us, a sense of renewal fills the air, infusing the campus with an irresistible energy. Suddenly, everyone wants to get out of bed, get outside and do something! I have compiled a list of fun spring activities students can partake in, on and off campus.

Go to the Beach

This is a very basic suggestion, but it works. One of the best qualities of Fairfield University is the fact that we are so close to the beach. On a nice, sunny, spring day, what could be better than grabbing a blanket and sitting on the sand? With its beautiful shores and breathtaking sunsets, the beach offers the perfect setting to unwind from the demands of academic life. For me, just going to the beach improves my mood because it provides me with a taste of summer.

Take a Walk

Another idea that sounds simple, but is one of my favorite things to do. When the weather is finally nice and the flowers start to bloom, I love to be out in nature admiring it. If you are stressed out about academic work or anything in your life, taking a walk

allows you to calm down and decompress. I love to walk with friends and just chat about life, but also going by myself is therapeutic. You can choose to walk around campus or even downtown. Not only are there physical benefits to taking walks, but it provides an opportunity to connect with nature, destress, and rejuvenate both your body and mind.

Visit a New Place

When the weather finally stops being rigid and unbearable, something to do is exploring. I love visiting new places and seeing new things. If you have a car on campus, I would suggest taking a road trip with your friends one weekend. If you are looking for somewhere close by, towns like Greenwich, Washington, New Haven and New Cannan are perfect for a little day trip. Newport, RI and Boston, MA are farther options but could be such good ideas for a weekend getaway. If you don't have a car on campus but still want to explore, I highly suggest taking the Metro North into NYC. There is so much to do in New York, especially during the springtime.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking to engage with the community this spring, there are so many

options to do so. Campus Ministry offers a plethora of opportunities for students, including service with children, animals and food insecurity. You can volunteer at Operation Hope or the Black Rock Food Pantry. There are also ways to volunteer at animal shelters with PAWS (Pets and Welfare Society). More simply, you can take a walk on the beach and participate in beach cleanup. There is always something to help with or clean up, and you can make a beach day out of it!

Attend Sporting Events

Nothing screams spring like a good baseball game. Attending a baseball or softball game is the epitome of springtime entertainment, offering a perfect blend of outdoor excitement and leisure. Our Fairfield University Baseball and Softball teams play many games a week, so I suggest attending one! If baseball is not your thing, maybe try watching a lacrosse game. Attending sporting events on campus is a great way to build a sense of community and support your fellow Stags!

Embracing the spirit of spring by trying new activities and getting involved on



campus opens doors for exciting opportunities and enriching experiences. As the cold weather gets pushed behind, I encourage you to take this list and try at least one thing. Being out in the warm weather is a perfect way to distract yourself from all the stressors in your life. Engaging in activities and making the most of your time is what the college experience is all about!

Hop Into Spring: Egg-Citing Easter Traditions

BY ROISIN MCCARTHY
Opinion Editor

Spring has officially sprung, meaning the holiday that contains the best candy and treats is around the corner.

Easter brings many fun activities for families that I always look forward to!

Traditions are the foundation of any holiday, and Easter has some incredible ones.

My first favorite tradition is receiving an Easter basket.

A simple cute easter basket always brightens my mood.

The Easter Bunny also provides the best surprises!

I love adding to my stash of spring candies. Receiving a basket with eggs and goodies from the bunny has to be one of the best moments of Easter.

Easter is not the same without my basket from the Bunny.

Anna Volkman '24 shares her love of Easter baskets; "I love still getting easter baskets even if it's just a few Reese's eggs".

Although I find it quite odd that we boil eggs and then paint them, it is a classic activity to do during the springtime.

Today, many funky gadgets make painting your eggs a whole new experience.

At Target, there is a machine called The EggMazing Egg Spinner Decorator.

It works by placing your egg in the center and you turn it on so the egg can start

spinning.

This can help make fun and different designs.

This takes the egg decorating experience to the next level.

Once the eggs are decorated, there has to be an epic egg hunt.

Whenever I think about egg hunts I am reminded of an episode of one of my favorite shows, "Gilmore Girls", where a character Kirk is left in charge of hiding the real eggs for the annual easter egg hunt in Stars Hollow.

Many of the eggs were not found in the hunt, making the town smell of rotting eggs.

It always gives me a good laugh.

A good lesson to always make a map for the hidden eggs!

An egg hunt is a great way to get some energy out and let the competitive kids have their fun.

My favorite eggs to find were the ones that contained cash, lots of cash.

Easter brunch is another fabulous way to celebrate Easter with loved ones.

Not only is there amazing food, but everyone

always seems to dress up in their Sunday best.

My favorite is getting to see all the little kids in their adorable Easter outfits.

The suits and the dresses are always so fancy!

Easter brunch is when the family shows up and has undivided time together.

Nothing screams Easter more than the Easter Bunny.

My grandpa used to dress up as the easter bunny for my Uncle's work events and I always got to tag along.

It was fun to see all the children flock to him when he would come and take photos.

Although it is kind of creepy to have an old man dressed as a bunny, I always loved the tradition of being his helper.

Elizabeth McLaughlin has a love for Easter brunch, "Easter brunch with the fam and occasionally still coloring eggs."

My last tradition that should be highlighted is getting to eat all my candy.

It may seem silly, but there is nothing quite like being alone and getting to munch on the best seasonal candies.

Traditionally, I do this at night after all the gatherings.

Easter traditions are such a beautiful thing. I cannot wait to celebrate this Sunday! And for those who celebrate, Happy Easter!



“Love Lies Bleeding” Review: Girls Gone Built

BY JOHN BIZUB
Contributing Writer

There is something so exciting found within just the opening moments of Rose Glass' sophomore effort, "Love Lies Bleeding."

An exterior long-take that subtly brings the audience into a world contemporary to our own, this film creates the feeling that we are strapped into the experience. While recent blockbuster films, "Dune: Part II" and "Oppenheimer", are all about giant vistas and immersive worlds, Glass pulls in her audience to this gross environment filled with spaces of chiseled beings aiming for perfection, finding solace in a place of hormones and pumping blood. A common thread sprinkled throughout the crime tale. The film stars Kristen Stewart, Katy O'Brian, Dave Franco, Jena Malone and Ed Harris telling the classic "Thelma and Louise " revenge plot. Following a gym employee and future bodybuilder murdering a man in cold blood, the audience watches as they do anything in their power to free their name. However, Glass creates a much more intimate story right from the jump, making the whole story feel neatly confined and, at times, even more entertaining as the film proceeds.

What Glass does when helming "Love Lies Bleeding " is just a classic, small revenge

thriller that continuously excites and aims to please with its incredibly attractive and lusciously musty cinematography. Such as moments where the audience nearly feels the drip of every sweat run down the characters' faces, but even Glass elevates this by placing the film's thesis of the body at its core horror roots. What are the body's limitations? If we damage our bodies, how else are we affected? This is shown through the film's various montages of veins popping and bodies bursting. All this under a pressure cooking pace that strikes with fury within its violence, it's like a cavalcade, a time and true moment for the film that feels "off to the races" and never lets up. I think that what makes "Love Lies Bleeding" incredibly mighty as a film is that even within its build-up nearly boiling like a tea kettle, the main focus is on intimate love as its definition is still slowly being unraveled. Something most modern arthouse filmmakers seemingly forget, maintaining consistency within its framing of these two women in love in a hopeless environment, with every decision feeling dumber than the last.

Forgetting to mention the startling sound design is a disservice to the sequences of violence in this film, focusing on every

crack of a muscle, or whip of a weapon. It's so fierce with itself. It feels nearly like a traditional action film in that sense, but director Rose Glass and composer Clint Mansell whose score keeps the film a fine line between an apocalyptic anxiety-inducing romance to a stead-fast romance gone wrong, it's a nice tonal balance, one that only becomes more fun and interesting as the film progresses.

Glass' film is mean, lean and to the point, a film that takes the viewer on such a whirlwind adventure that I feel most films, especially within the studio spaces are lacking. However in "Love Lies Bleeding", Glass' intimate and chaotic journey stretches our characters' grit and determination, seeing not only the rise and fall of the relationship between Stewart and O'Brian's characters as desperate lovers but as people making death-defying choices amid chaos, something that Glass tackles rather maturely. It keeps the audience on their toes.

The unexpected nature should be the main selling point regarding "Love Lies Bleeding".

In a film age where everyone is trying to be bigger and better with each passing project, Glass not only excels, but understands her limits as a filmmaker, making something, sure, grander in size than her previous horror debut, "Saint Maud", but it's more contemporary. Taking inspiration from a more ravenous Tony Scott film, but instead



Photo Courtesy of The Michigan Daily
Kristen Stewart in her new crime driven romance "Love Lies bleeding"

of bleeding colors coming from its vistas, it's the blood, sweat and tears coming down our characters' bodies.

Easter Eats: A Chocolatful Tier list

BY CAITLIN SHEA
Head Vine Editor

As the sun starts to extend its stay, and warm weather begins to overtake the bitter cold, spring is officially kicking off!

Alongside this season of rebirth, growth and albeit insufferable pollen allergies comes the adorable pointy ears of the ever so famous Easter Bunny.

Meddling in our homes, this bunny is known for leaving behind treats for those lucky enough to find them, and maybe even a little something extra for those who are kind enough to repay the rabbit with a carrot or two!

For many, candy is the highlight of the Easter holiday.

From the charming Cadbury Creme Eggs to the must-have marshmallow Peeps, Easter has earned a spot high on the list of sugary holidays. Though, as someone who doesn't particularly enjoy the sweetness of chocolate (crazy, I know), I may have something different to say. Here is an extensive list of the best - and the worst - Easter treats!

C For Cottontail

Starting off strong with the sweet treats that impress me the least, I know I am going to have a few unpopular opinions. The dessert lowest on my list is the Chocolate Easter Bunny. A typical fan favorite, for good reason, this adorable-looking sweet treat is the perfect addition to any Easter Basket,

supposedly adding a perfect amount of chocolatey crunch to your holiday festivities. Except for the fact that this chocolate cottontail is often hollow, and even so it is typically left unfinished and discarded after a few bites. Now you may deem me as a candy hater, but I just can't get behind marshmallows either. This means any form of chocolate-covered marshmallow egg, rabbit or chick lands itself on the bottom of my list. The mix of over-sweetened chocolate with the sugary gelatinous of a marshmallow leaves my mouth crying for water. This may be your cup of tea, but it certainly is not mine. This hatred of marshmallows leads me to another item doomed to the end of my list, Peeps. There is just something about those little beady eyes that haunt me every time Easter comes around. Akin to eating a sugar-coated sponge, these chicks leave my taste buds overrun by artificial flavoring and waving a white flag in defeat. While I know some people will disagree with me, just know that in my book, you are wrong if you like any of these candies.

B For Basket

Continuing up on my list, these are some of the candies that I deem to be just okay. While they are not show-stopping, they definitely earn their spot in any delight-

ful Easter basket. First on my docket is Jelly Beans. Fun and colorful, I can't deny that these treats are an Easter Classic. While it may be more fun to indulge in the tart or sour options, sometimes the original Jelly Bean can provide just the right amount of holiday joy! Once more, as someone who isn't the



biggest fan of chocolate, Hershey Kisses find themselves towards the middle of my list. A

holiday classic, their lack of Easter theming prevents them from moving any higher. On the other hand, Hershey's Eggs provide not only a more enjoyable sweet treat experience, but the perfect amount of Easter fun!

A For Angelic

A motif throughout this piece, at this point, I do not have to say it anymore, but it may surprise you that some of the themed chocolate eggs find themselves at the very top of my list. Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs, Twix Caramel Cookie Eggs and Cadbury Creme Eggs take the cake for the best Easter egg treats. The perfect mix of chocolate egg and peanut butter filling, as well as caramel cookie, leave you devouring the bag in mere minutes. I could not call this a list of the best Easter candies if I did not include Cadbury Mini Eggs. The perfect crunch of Easter joy, these little eggs can be enjoyed by the handful (as I typically can be seen doing) or as the perfect topping to other Easter-inspired baked goods.

Whether you are not the biggest candy fan like me, or find yourself not getting enough of these Easter Holiday treats, I hope this season brings you baskets filled to the brim with sugary goodness!

FUDE Frenzy: A Fantastic Dance Performance

BY NOHEA BREEDEN
Contributing Writer

Fairfield University Dance Ensemble (FUDE) took the stage this past Friday, March 22 with their annual dance showcase. I look forward to this performance every year! FUDE is a student-led organization and it is amazing to see all that they accomplish on their



own. Every year, this performance showcases choreography from various students on the team. This year's theme was, "Dance the Night Away." With performances in the style

of Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Ballet, Irish Step and so much more, the event wowed viewers!

Some tips if you plan to attend next year's performance is to buy your tickets ahead of time and head over to the Quick Center early as seats fill up fast. When attending you can expect to see the Quick Center lobby filled with family members and friends holding flowers in their arms and smiles across their faces.

Leading up to the performance, months in advance, FUDE has been practicing at the RecPlex late at night. My roommate Elizabeth McLaughlin '25, a part of the Fairfield Irish Dance team, had the chance to choreograph her own song this year! Asking Elizabeth about the preparation and satisfaction after performing she said, "It was so fun performing a dance I was able to choreograph! We spent so much time perfecting it and everyone worked so hard."

Elizabeth's hard work and dedication paid off as every person in the audience interacted with her dance by clapping along to the beat of the music. Many of these dancers

spend their days working hard to complete their homework and then spend their nights at dance practice. These dancers had some very late nights, sometimes Elizabeth wouldn't come home till midnight!

Throughout the audience, there were a lot of first-time attendees this year, including Megan Farrell '25. "I thought the performance was amazing! It was so cool to see so many styles of dance, some of them even coming together for a few dances!" she exclaims. "The crowd was lively and helped to create such a fun and encouraging environment! The dances were amazing and I would definitely go again! I particularly loved the hip-hop performances!" she concludes.

Another attendee, Natalia Llano '25 adds that "It was an amazing, very well put together show! It shows how much hard work and effort the girls went through to make a great show, and the Hip hop dances were my fav!" Junior Bianca Pineiro offers her favorite dance of the night, "I loved the Irish Tap! Watching Irish Step has never been so fun to watch!" Pinerio continues, "I was also captivated by the fact that all of

these dances were student choreographed, along with how good they were presented. They all blew my mind, and it was a great atmosphere to be a part of."

A bustling crowd outside and a packed audience added to the exciting atmosphere that propelled the show to Fairfield University stardom!

In the crowd were also other avid attendees, junior Lexi Currivan said, "I really enjoyed the song choices. You could truly feel the excitement and positive energy throughout the room." Another junior, Celia Huber expressed her enjoyment of the event. "It looked very professional. The hip-hop dancing and Irish dancing were my favorite!"

All in all, anyone could easily tell by the look on people's faces during the performances along with all the crowd participation, that the FUDE event was a hit.

Congratulations to all the dancers who worked extremely hard to perform their hearts out for the whole audience.

It was truly a great environment to be a part of and I can't wait for next year!

Out with the Old, In with the Clean:

Spring Cleaning Tips

BY NOELLE GORI
Contributing Writer

In my opinion, spring is one of the best seasons where people can get together with friends and family and enjoy the outdoors. Whether that's grabbing food and coffee or going on drives and walks, the options are endless.

When spring comes around, everyone wants a fresh start with new beginnings and what's better than doing some fun spring cleaning?

Spring is my favorite season of the year so I always love cleaning and reorganizing everything.

When the weather gets warmer, I do an entire transformation.

The most important one is spring cleaning because it helps me relax and feel like a new person.

Spring cleaning is personally one of the most important things to do for the new spring season because it can help clear your mind of all the stress you have had from the previous winter season.

The tips and tricks I am about to share with you will prepare you for the new spring season ahead.

The first tip is to find out what type of cleaner you are.

This process can be confusing for most,

so here are some examples.

Types include chore procrastinators, stress or angry cleaners.

Once you figure this out, then you can find incentives to help you become more motivated like going to Starbucks, Dunkin or getting food after you clean.

The second tip is to make sure you have enough cleaning supplies.

Before you start your spring cleaning, it's very important to double-check how many cleaning supplies you have and what you need to buy.

Another trick and alternative is to make your own natural cleanser with essential oil, rubbing alcohol, dish soap and water.

This helps ensure that you are ready for the new spring season to come.

If you are someone who loves staying organized this tip is for you.

The third tip is creating checklists, which I love doing because it can keep me on track and I will easily remember what I need to do.

Sometimes, cleaning takes multiple days and it is easier to do once you split it up into sections and create to-do lists for each day.

For spring cleaning, I love splitting up every-

thing into different sections and breaking it all down one by one by different rooms.

For example, one day I will focus on my room and then the next few days the kitchen, living room and bathroom.

Additionally, before and when spring comes, I will switch out my winter clothes to my spring clothes in my closets.

I also love putting on some music while I clean to get me in the mood as well.

For me, I love cleaning because it helps me feel refreshed and like a new person.

I really love spring cleaning and it is one of my favorite things to do.

When I prepare for spring, I clean everything which includes the fridge, counters, floors, windows, mirrors, bathrooms and many other things. If I am feeling stressed or overwhelmed or even bored I will dedicate that time to cleaning which, as a result, makes me feel like I am breathing a new breath of fresh air.



Tap Into a Taste of Spain

with Fairfield's Tapas Bar!

BY KATHLEEN MORRIS
Managing Editor

The white brick facade and towering neon signage of Hotel Hi Ho create an unintended diversion, with striking aesthetics that may distract passersby from the hidden gem that sits beneath the restored motor inn.

A few concrete steps will lead curious visitors to the Barcelona Wine Bar, harnessing the warmth of Spanish culture on Fairfield's Black Rock Turnpike.

The tapas bar is lit by flickering candles and adorned with rich jewel-toned wallpapers that solidify its romantic atmosphere.

The bar is lined with cozy high-top tables, their tight placement creating a closeness that fosters intimate conversation. The essence of familiarity aligns with the art of tapas, as the cuisine is intended to be consumed in the presence of loved ones.

Rafael Ansón, President of the Spanish Royal Academy of Gastronomy, expressed that "tapas is a style of eating. It's not just what you eat, it's how you pick it up and the way you share the tapas experience."

Barcelona Wine Bar boasts an extensive menu, allowing patrons to embark on a choose-



Photo Courtesy of Barcelona Wine Bar
Customers indulge in the delicious cuisine and delectable drinks at Barcelona Wine Bar

your-own-adventure rendition of the standard "tapas experience" described by Ansón.

The menu showcases 32 items, ranging from plates of roasted vegetables to skewers of seasoned meats. Upon first glance, the list may appear daunting. The options may differ from the options typically available within a Connecticut suburb's restaurant. Yet, the

willingness to expand one's horizons will be worthwhile. Plus, the friendly waitstaff is prepared to supply recommendations to indecisive patrons.

On a recent visit, I indulged in a trio of tapas: hummus, a potato tortilla and jamón and manchego croquetas.

Hummus - \$8.50

The hummus, delivered on a wooden platter, was paired with thin crackers reminiscent of matzah bread. The crunchy vessels were ideal for scooping the savory spread, which was topped with piquillo peppers and infused with the aromatic spice blend of za'atar.

Potato Tortilla - \$7

When greeted by the potato tortilla, I was surprised by its appearance. To me, the word "tortilla" renders the image of a quesadilla. Yet, this snack arrived as a stack of thinly sliced potatoes accompanied by a dollop of chive sour cream. Classified as a "Spanish omelet," the potato tortilla is prepared by gently cooking potatoes, onions and eggs in olive oil.

Jamon and Manchego Croquetas - \$7

The gooey center and deep-fried golden

coating of the jamón and manchego croquetas serve the satisfaction of an elevated comfort food. The smoky ham and zesty Manchego cheese, stirred into a creamy blend, synergize to create an unbeatable flavor profile.

Admittedly, these choices could be classified as "tame" in comparison to their more daring counterparts. I am not sure if my palette is prepared to handle boquerones (fresh anchovies) or pulpo (cooked octopus). However, once I gain a heightened level of culinary confidence, my tastebuds will be pleasantly surprised by the freshness and flavor that is characteristic of all Barcelona Wine Bar offerings.

The Paella is an additional staple on their menu. With beef, vegetarian or chicken options, it's sure to suit all restaurant goers!



Kathleen Morris/The Mirror



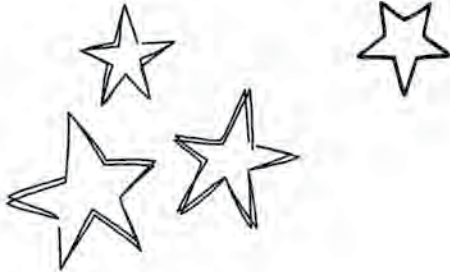
COFFEE BREAK



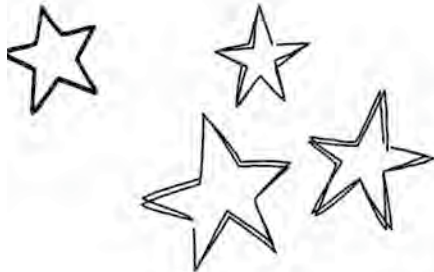
GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE
Editor: Matthew Robles



MIRROR WORD SEARCH CELEBRITIES



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Taylor Swift
Lada Gaga

Beyoncé
Rihanna

Kylie Jenner
Oprah

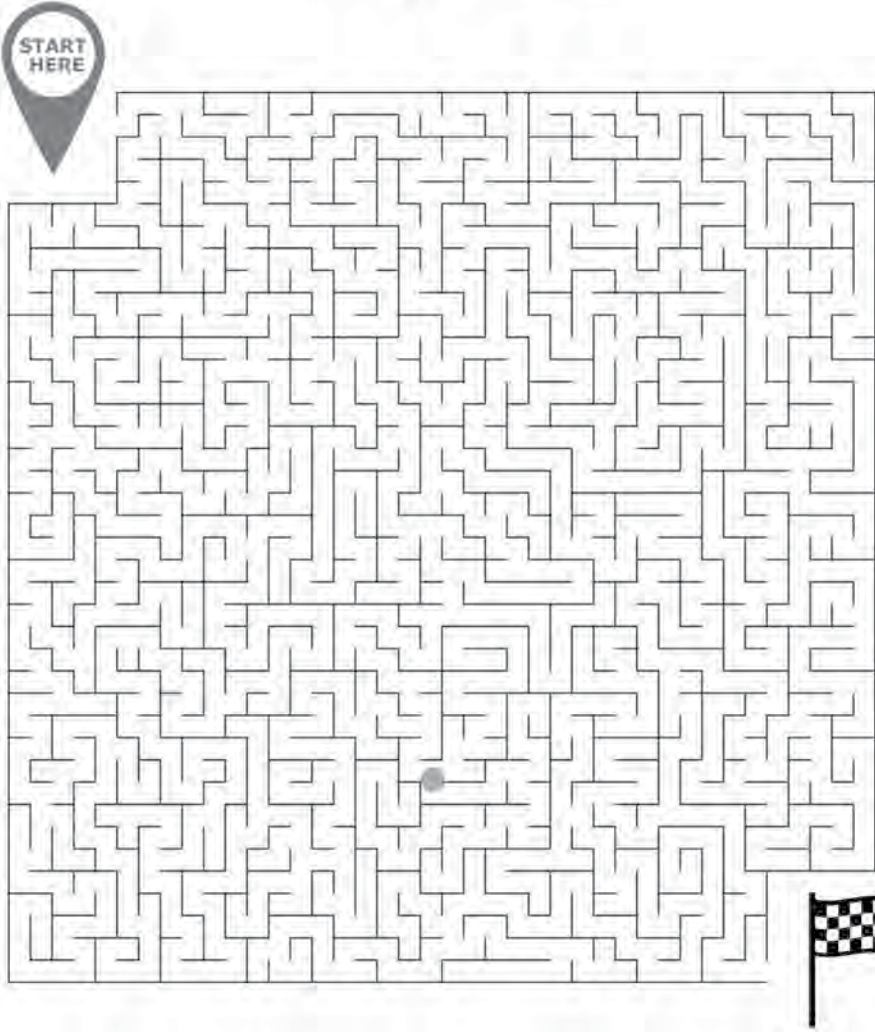


MIRROR WORD SCRABBLE WOMENS ATHLETES

EERASNILSWALIM _____
ONSIMELEISB _____
ALEXGRAMNO _____
NADROSOUREY _____
ABYBGUDGLSOA _____
MGANE OERAPNI _____

SERENA WILLIAMS
SIMONE BILES
ALEX MORGAN
RONDA ROUSEY
GABBY DOUGLAS
MEGAN RAPINOE
KEY SWAN

MIRROR MAZE



SPORTS

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WE ARE STAGS

March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2
Women's Lacrosse vs Iona University Fairfield, Conn. 3 p.m.	Baseball at Iona University New Rochelle, N.Y. 3 p.m.	Women's Golf Intercollegiate at Prospect Bay Grasonville, Md. All Day	Women's Golf Intercollegiate at Prospect Bay Grasonville, Md. All Day	No games scheduled	No games scheduled	Baseball at St. John's College Queens, N.Y. 3 p.m.
Softball at Central Connecticut State New Britain, Conn. 3 p.m.		Men's Golf Battle at Rum Pointe Berlin, Md. All Day	Men's Golf Battle at Rum Pointe Berlin, Md. All Day			Women's Tennis vs Quinnipiac University Fairfield, Conn. 3 p.m.
		Women's Tennis at Siena College Loudonville, N.Y. 12 p.m.	Softball at Saint Peter's University Jersey City, N.J. 12 p.m.	 Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk		
		Men's Tennis at Siena College Loudonville, N.Y. 12 p.m.	Women's Lacrosse vs Canisius University Fairfield, Conn. 12 p.m.			
		Softball at Saint Peter's Jersey City, N.J. 12 p.m.	Women's Tennis vs Merrimack College Fairfield, Conn. 12 p.m.			

The women's lacrosse team reached 12th in the AP top 25 poll this week with a dominant win over Niagara.

Men's Tennis Continues Hot Streak with Conference Win

By RYAN MARQUARDT
Head Sports Editor

On Wednesday March 20th the Stags were able to sweep cross-town rival Sacred Heart University winning 4-0 for their third straight victory which gave them a record of 6-8. This started with Sam Hodges '25 and graduate student Thomas Smart losing 6-1 in the number one doubles match. Following the loss both the number two and number three doubles team won their matches for the Stags with graduate student Nick Condos and Will O'Brien '25 winning 7-5 and Luca Benaibbouche '27 and Kostas Kollias '26 winning 6-1 which gave the Stags the doubles point.

The six singles matches saw Fairfield winning three of them and the other three not finishing due to inclement weather and the

fact that their outcomes had no bearing on the outcome of the match overall. Graduate student Griffin Schlesinger won both his sets 6-1, followed by Hodges who won 6-2 and 6-0 and Kollias winning his sets 6-4 and 6-2.

At the time of the inclement weather Smart was entering his third game after winning the first and dropping the second. Condos was entering his fourth set after a tightly contested third and Kean Shah '24 was entering his third set after winning the first two.

The Stags next match was to open conference play traveling to Mount St. Mary's to take on the Mountaineers. The Stags extended their win streak to four defeating the Mountaineers 5-2. This moved the Stags to 7-8 overall and 1-0 in conference, the loss moved the Mountaineers to 5-9 and 0-2 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Fairfield swept the three doubles matches with Smart and Hodges winning the first 6-4. Condos and O'Brien followed winning 6-4 and closing out the doubles matches were Benaibbouche and Kollias who won 6-2.

The Stags did not fare as well in the singles matches but still won four total of the six matches. Smart won both sets 6-1 in a dominant performance followed by Hodges who won 6-0, 6-2. Condos also won 6-3, 6-1 with Shah winning the number six singles 6-3 and 7-6.

Head coach Jeff Bricker said "It's nice to start off MAAC play 1-0. Great energy by the men today to come out quickly and assert themselves. We still have a few things to clean up, but a good start!"

On Thursday the Stags will continue their season and conference play with an away match at Siena at noon.



Junior Sam Hodges who is from New Zealand is 4-8 in the Spring season in singles play and is 6-7 in doubles play with partners Alex Aguiar, Luca Benaibbouche and Thomas Smart.

In this week's issue...

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- Baseball Falls Short of Series Win (Page 15)
- Softball Picks Up Conference Win in Weekend Series (Page 15)
- Men's Lacrosse Celebrates Rainy Senior Day (Page 16)

Opinion: Mocking Up March Madness

By **DANNY MCGUIRE**
Assistant Sports Editor

The dust has settled on the opening weekend of the 2024 Women’s NCAA Tournament, setting the stage for a host of highly anticipated Sweet 16 matchups between the sport’s biggest stars. With our hometown hero Stags bowing out in the first round against Indiana to cap off their magical season (more on that in next week’s issue!), we here at The Mirror figured now would be a good time to give some unbiased predictions for the rest of the tournament. So, if you’re looking to fill out the perfect second chance bracket for bragging rights over your friends and family, look no further (I give zero guarantees that any of this will be right).

Let’s start with Regional One in Albany, featuring the tournament’s top seed, South Carolina. Simply put, I see this as the “don’t overthink it” region. The Gamecocks haven’t lost a game all year, and as much as I’d like to see Indiana go on a deep run after taking us out, it just seems incredibly unlikely for them to pull the upset.

On the other side of the region, we have Oregon State matching up with freshman phenom Hannah Hidalgo and Notre Dame. Despite Hidalgo’s individual brilliance and her ability to take over games, I’m gonna go with the Beavers here in a minor upset. In what will become somewhat of a common theme throughout these predictions, I think the strength of the Pac-12 Conference during the

regular season will pay dividends as we progress further into the tournament. Oregon State has been repeatedly tested by other top seeds in a way Notre Dame can’t quite compare to, and in a close game late I think that makes the difference. Hidalgo will get her time in the spotlight soon, but the Beavers do enough to get over the hump and reach the Elite Eight where they’re unceremoniously disposed of by the Gamecocks buzzsaw.

That takes us across the bracket to Regional Two, also in Albany, featuring perhaps the most hyped up teams and players of the event. Fans across the country are clamoring for a 2023 National Championship rematch between Caitlin Clark’s top seeded Iowa and Angel Reese’s three-seed LSU, this time in the Elite Eight. But what if I told you neither of them will get that far?

In likely the biggest upset of the bracket thus far, I’ve got Colorado stunning the Hawkeyes, followed by UCLA taking down LSU to set up an all Pac-12 Elite Eight matchup. Caitlin Clark is generational, there’s no doubt. But she’s been less than stellar in her recent outings, shooting just 32.5 percent from three and 40 percent from the field overall. And behind her, the Hawkeyes just don’t have enough production to overcome those types of performances against the best teams in the country. Hannah Stuelke and Sydney Affolter are good players, but they don’t provide the Hawkeyes with a reliable one-two punch that can

pick up the slack when Clark’s logo threes aren’t falling.

As for UCLA and LSU, a win for the Bruins isn’t really an upset, but would still be big news given LSU’s national reach and their standing as defending champions. Between the seemingly constant drama surrounding the team and the lackluster play of point guard Hailey Van Lith, I’m gonna play it safe and go with UCLA, who I also have reaching the Final Four after a win over Colorado.

Then we go to Regional Three in Portland, where top seed USC will take on Baylor and three-seed UConn will play the upstart seven-seed Duke. In the Sweet Sixteen I’ve got the top seeds; Baylor doesn’t have the firepower to compete with JuJu Watkins and co., and despite their great upset win over Ohio State, I think Duke’s run comes to an end against the Huskies.

Then, in a high-flying Elite Eight matchup between two of the game’s biggest stars in Watkins and UConn guard Paige Bueckers, I like the Huskies again to make yet another Final Four. Much like Hannah Hidalgo earlier, I think JuJu Watkins will have her time in the sun eventually, but the championship pedigree and experience of the Huskies will make the difference as they return to yet another Final Four.

Last but not least, Regional Four in Portland. Here we have the top four seeds straight up, with top seed Texas taking on Gonzaga and Stanford matching up with North Carolina State.

I think the balanced scoring of Gonzaga helps them spring an upset over Texas, while Stanford knocks out NC State and the Bulldogs afterwards to reach the Final Four behind the frontcourt tandem of Cameron Brink and Kiki Iriafen.

To cap it all off, I’ve got UConn over UCLA to reach the National Championship Game, where they’ll meet... not South Carolina?

That’s right, I think the perfect season comes to an end at the hands of Stanford. Maybe it’s just the upset lover in me, but I really think Brink and Iriafen pose a significant challenge for the Gamecocks on the defensive end. Star center Kamilla Cardoso can only be in so many places at once.

And to cap it all off, I like the Cardinal to ride that momentum and beat UConn for their program’s fourth national title. Head coach Tara VanDerveer took over the lead for most wins all time in either men’s or women’s college basketball this year, and I think with this roster she’s able to reach the mountaintop once again after doing so in 2021.

So there you have it. My totally expert and very much not going to be completely wrong Sweet 16 and beyond predictions for Women’s March Madness. The game of women’s college basketball has never been played or appreciated at a higher level than right now, so regardless of the results we should be in store for some great games.



Photo Courtesy of @stanfordwbb Instagram

Cameron Brink (22) is averaging 17.5 ppg with 11.9 rebounds per game

The Weekly 5x4

Five People. Four Questions. Because we have witty things to say.

	Max Limric Editor-in-Chief	Samantha Russell Executive Editor	Kathleen Morris Managing Editor	Claire DeMarco Copy Editor	Matthew Robles Coffee Break Editor
What’s your favorite Spongebob scene?	So actually, my mom didn’t let us watch Spongebob. Embarrassing... I’m one of them.	When Spongebob and Mr. Krabs make the Health Inspector the most horrendous Krabby Patty	“Gary’s Song,” featured in the episode “Have You Seen This Snail?,” is the greatest ballad of our time.	“Chocolate? What? What are they selling?”	When Patrick and Spongebob get brought back to life in the Spongebob Movie.
What are you getting up to over Easter Break? Egg hunt?	Celebrating my 21st with my two other brothers who are also celebrating their 21st.	Easter brunch, delicious food and a lovely easter basket from mom	I will be indulging in the best “genre” of meals... brunch!	Relaxing and seeing my sister!	Work out and go to work.
Recommend a song that’s not in English.	“Que Onda” por Calle 24, Chino Pacas, y Fuerza Regida cantado en español.	“99 Luftballons” by Nena	“Paris Latino” by Bandalero will transport you to a French club in the 80s!	“De Aqui No Sales (Cap. 4: Disputa)” by Rosalia. Incredible song.	Un x100to by grupo frontera
How’s your March Madness bracket doing?	In fact, I did not make one. So I guess it’s doing good?	Joining the “I didn’t make one” club.	I didn’t make one. But, my Dad’s imparted basketball wisdom is solidifying my sister’s success thus far!	Didn’t make one either!	Didn’t get past the first round.

Baseball Falls Short of Series Win

By **CRYSTAL ARBELO**
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University baseball team collected just one win this past weekend in a three-game series against the NJIT Highlanders. Both offensive and defensive highlights were part of the weekend of baseball, but Fairfield failed to come out on top for two of the three games. The Stags are now 7-14 overall.

Game One
Senior left-handed starting pitcher Blake Helmstetter went six innings in game one, with an ultimate final line of 6 IP, 6 H, 3 ER, 3 BB and 7 K. The Stags took advantage of a scoreless start to the game, as Hibbard brought home junior third-baseman Dean Ferrara who had stolen second earlier.

Being up by two by the second inning, Helmstetter gave up two doubles and a single, which pushed NJIT even with Fairfield at 2-2. The damage was not done, as a walk with full bases put them above the Stags at 2-3 going into the bottom of the second.

Following NJIT's three-run inning, sophomore shortstop Luke Nomura hit his third home run of the season past the left field line, evening out the score to 3-3.

Both teams' offenses quieted down for the next seven innings, with only a run scored on a sacrifice bunt in the fifth for NJIT breaking up the innings of silence. By the top of the seventh, the Stags had switched to Senior RHP Colin McVeigh to relieve Helmstetter. McVeigh kept NJIT under control but slipped up in the top of the ninth and gave up a 2-run homer, making it 6-3 going into the bottom of the inning.

Leading up to the ninth, the Stags were stuck in a pattern of popups, ground-outs and fly-outs, but managed to snap out of it in the hopes of rallying a walkoff. Graduate student second baseman Zach Selinger singled to left field, giving sophomore catcher JP Kuczik an opportunity to pinch hit and double, bringing Selinger home and cutting down their deficit to two runs.

With two runs to go, graduate student

center fielder Ryan Strollo embraced the pressure and singled to right field, bringing home junior Nick Sturiono who pinch-ran.

At 5-6, with one run left to send the game into extra innings, Ferrara managed to reach first on a fielder's choice, to which NJIT caught Strollo at second base and ended the ballgame.

Game Two
Seeking a double-header split in the nightcap, senior starting left-handed pitcher Bowen Baker brought his best stuff and struck out the first three batters faced. Powerful pitching was the highlight of Friday's nightcap, with skillful appearances coming out of each Stag pitcher that touched the mound and one collective earned run.

The Stags' offense was ready to go by the bottom of the second, with excellent discipline at the plate resulting in Hibbard walking and advancing to second on a wild pitch. Sellinger also walked, and Kuczik followed with a RBI single. Another two walks followed, and another run was scored. Taking advantage of NJIT's complicated relationship with the strike zone, Ferrara hit a 2 RBI single to right field, capping the Stags' scoring at four runs.

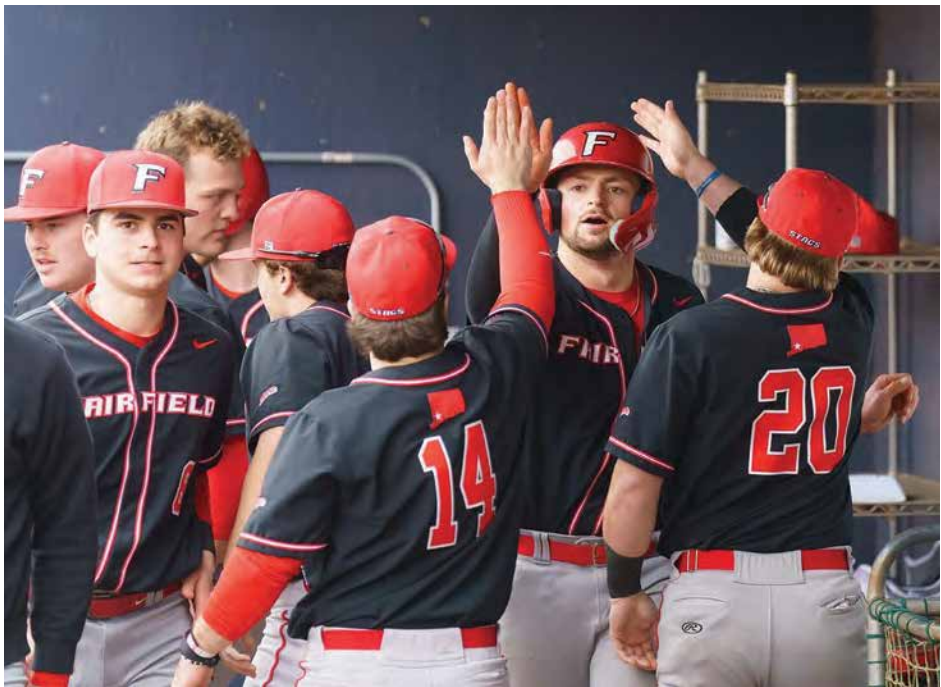
The Stags' 4-0 lead was unanswered until the fourth inning until they managed to string together a 2 RBI single.

After stranding two men on base in the bottom of the fourth, the Stags put in sophomore RHP Kevin Kell to relieve Baker who had a final line of 4 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 2 BB and 6 K.

The Stags decided they had unfinished business to take care of and threw a party in the sixth inning. With two men on base, senior first baseman Matt Bergevin ripped one to left field to collect 3 RBIs. Hibbard got in on the action and hit a solo shot to left field, leaving the Stags with eight runs in total going into the seventh. Kell's three shutout innings were the highlight of his final line which was 3 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 1 BB and 1 K.

First-year RHP Ben Alekson took the mound in the top of the eighth, to which NJIT's final words came with a RBI sacrifice fly to make it 8-3.

Graduate student RHP Jack Erbeck



Ethan Hibbard (2nd from right) is averaging .552 at the plate with 11 home runs.

pitched a perfect ninth inning and struck out two. Ultimately, the lead was too much to overcome for NJIT and the score remained stagnant to end the ballgame, earning Fairfield their doubleheader split.

Head Coach Bill Currier commented on the Stag bats, saying "Other than the two home runs, our hitters took many good pitches to hit or missed pitches by way of fly balls today." Addressing the unusual performance from the team, he added "We were fortunate to split with our defense and hitting decisions today."

Game Three
In a game marked with 23 baserunners and 17 of them being left stranded, Fairfield bats had trouble clearing the bases during their last game against NJIT. In search of a series win, graduate student starting RHP Kyle Lesler had a rocky start and gave up three runs from a home run and RBI single. Fairfield provided a little run support with a sacrifice fly RBI from sophomore right-fielder Matt Buciero, but the Stags remained down by two.

NJIT kept their rally going, scoring another two runs from singles. Senior RHP Peter Ostensen replaced Lesler to get the final three outs, and the Stags answered with two runs of their own. Both Kuczik and Sturino walked, Bergevin brought Kuczik home with a sacrifice fly and Hibbard kept the runners going with a single to send Sturino home.

By the top of the third, the Stags cut their deficit to 3-5. This did not deter NJIT, however, as they picked up another two runs from a double. The Stags were silenced with a man left on base in the third but made up for it by having a 1-2-3 inning in the top of the fourth and then scoring a run off a Hibbard RBI single.

The score was paused at 4-7 until the bottom of the sixth when NJIT pitching had trouble commanding the plate and gave up a run 100% generated from either walks or a hit-by-pitch. The same situation occurred for the Stags, though, as they also lost a run from a wild pitch. The score was 5-8 going into the 8th and stayed there through the end of the ballgame, giving NJIT the series win.

Softball Picks Up Conference Win in Weekend Series

By **BILLY MCGUIRE**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Coming off the heels of their appearance in the University of Maryland Tournament, the Fairfield University softball team took on crosstown rival Sacred Heart University as well as commencing their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference regular season campaign against Iona University this past week. The Stags made the short trek across town this past Wednesday, March 20 to take on the Pioneers.

After a scoreless first inning, Sacred Heart made some noise at the bottom of the second, scoring runs off of a walk and a two-run single to give them a 3-0 advantage. The score remained unchanged heading into the top of the fourth, as Fairfield scored

their first run of the inning thanks to a triple from right fielder and graduate student Megan Forbes, sending home catcher Allie Bridgman '24 to make it 3-1. On the next at-bat, Forbes was able to complete her lap of the bases thanks to a single from first and third baseman Cara Kochakian '26 to make it 3-2. Sacred Heart increased their lead to two at the bottom of the fourth.

Fairfield tied the game at the top of the sixth, Kochakian started the process by taking a walk. She then advanced to third by means of an error and a sacrifice bunt. She then crossed home plate thanks to a wild pitch, bringing the game within one run. Center fielder Charli Warren '25 then singled to left field, bringing home pinch runner Darby Weller '27 to tie the game at four runs apiece. Weller subbed in for designated hitter

Delaney Whieldon '26, who ran the bases until she reached third thanks to the error, bunt, and wild pitch that occurred earlier in the frame.

After falling behind, Sacred Heart responded by regaining their two-run lead, giving them a 6-4 advantage. Fairfield then entered the top of the seventh seeking to tie the game. The team was given some hope thanks to a smash from Bridgman that landed over the left-center field fence to bring the margin to one. The solo shot was the fourth long ball of the year for the East Windsor, N.J. native. That was all the Stags could do that inning unfortunately, as Sacred Heart defeated the Stags in the final "Battle of Fairfield" as non-conference foes, as the Pioneers will become conference foes starting on July 1, when they officially become full-time MAAC members.

After the rough loss, the Stags took the short bus ride back to campus and kicked off their MAAC regular season schedule against Iona. The first two games of the three-game series took place on Friday, March 22 in a doubleheader. Game one saw the Stags endure a difficult start, as the Gaels took a commanding 7-0 lead after the first two and a half innings of play. Fairfield managed to start barking at the bottom of the third, as Warren and second baseman Morgan Sylvestre '25 hit back-to-back singles, putting Bridgman in a comfortable position.

The catcher delivered, sending Warren home to make it 7-1. Sylvestre then scored off of a fielder's choice to lessen the gap to a five-run margin.

The Stags added another run at the bottom of the fourth, as Warren singled to left to bring home left fielder Danica Silvestri '27 to make it 7-3. Fairfield did not score again for a short period, as Iona gained two more runs in the preceding three innings, extending their lead to 9-3. Kochakian did single to left to bring home Sylvestre at the bottom of the seventh to make it 9-4, but it was not enough, as Iona took the first game of the doubleheader.

Play resumed immediately after with the second game of the doubleheader. Things looked the same early on, as Iona scored off of a single at the top of the second to give themselves a 1-0 lead, but Fairfield soon responded in kind. They knotted the tie at one at the bottom of the second thanks to a solo blast off of the bat of Forbes for her first home run of the season. The top of the third was scoreless thanks in strong part to the efforts of Chela Kovar '27, who put together a one-two-three inning that consisted of a strikeout.

The momentum kept swinging in the Stags' favor at the bottom of the third, as a triple off the bat of Warren got things going. A Sylvestre fly-out to second brought home the leadoff Warren to put the Stags in the driver's seat

for the first time this series with a 2-1 lead. They then pushed that lead to 3-1 off a single from third baseman Anna Paravati '26, who brought home the designated hitter Bridgman after the latter hit a double in the prior at-bat. Two more shutout innings from Kovar followed, only giving up a combined two walks in the process.

After Iona narrowed the gap by scoring a run to make it 3-2, the Stags capitalized on their lead by securing two more runs of their own. Singles from Forbes and Kochakian put Silvestri in a solid position. She executed, sending home Forbes while moving Kochakian to third off a single through the left side to make it 4-2. In the next at-bat, a single off the bat from Warren followed to make it 5-2. The score remained unchanged the rest of the way, as the Stags took home the win, with Kovar pitching a complete game with five strikeouts and two earned runs in the process.

The Stags were not as lucky in the last game of the doubleheader, as they fell short, 3-0. Bridgman and Kovar did manage to only give up three earned runs and accumulate three strikeouts, but it was not enough. The Stags will next play at Central Connecticut State University on Wednesday, March 26. For more information on the Fairfield University softball team, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com.



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The softball team was able to win one of their four games this past weekend.

Men's Lacrosse Celebrates Rainy Senior Day

By SEAN BELLAMY
Contributing Writer

This past Saturday, the Fairfield University men's lacrosse team faced off against the Towson University Tigers. The Stags were unable to pull out a win, falling to the Colonial Athletic Association's top-seeded Tigers with a final score of 12-10. Towson is now 6-3 (2-0 CAA) on the season, and Fairfield is now 4-5 overall, with a 1-1 record in the conference.

Additionally, the team was celebrating Senior Day, honoring the members of the class of 2024. Unfortunately, the Stags did not get to celebrate Senior Day in perfect weather. It poured throughout the day on Saturday and the gusts of wind were chilling. Still though, the message of the ceremony was not lost in the storm.

After the game, senior captain Braden Lynch spoke on his experiences both over the last four years and his time as a senior. "It's a brotherhood everyone's there for one another," said Lynch. In addition, Lynch described the pre-game ceremony as "the culmination of four years of hard work", so it was certainly a special feeling.

Coach Andrew Baxter stated after the game that the seniors "have elevated this program tremendously," said Baxter, noting that they have helped the team achieve a "higher standard of excellence."

Interestingly, both Baxter and Lynch mentioned "leaving the team better than they

found it." Given that the class of 2024's first season in spring 2021 ended with a 2-9 record, it really shows that the team has been able to improve thanks in no small part to the efforts of the seniors.

Now onto the game itself. The match against Towson was a back and forth affair throughout the entire game. Just when one team seemed to pull ahead, the other would answer back immediately.

Senior midfielder Luke Okupski got the Stags off to a hot start, scoring the first goal of the game just 19 seconds in. However, the Tigers would respond quickly, as just 40 seconds later Mikey Weisshaar got his first of three goals in the game.

One thing to note is that the team was able to score its first man-down goal of the season. Instead of waiting for the penalty to end, sophomore Jake Gilbert noticed an opening in the Tiger's defense and made them pay for it, notching the first of his four goals on the day.

Unfortunately though, a defensive miscommunication left the goal wide open for another Tiger's goal to close out the first quarter. Heading into the second, Towson led 4-3.

Not wanting to be outdone, Gilbert took it upon himself to catch the Stags back up. Gilbert got two back to back goals just over two minutes into the second quarter. The Stags had just regained the lead in the blink of an eye.

Still though, the Tigers would answer once again with



Senior midfielder Brady Strough has one goal this year with four ground balls in five games played.

another goal from Weisshaar. The back and forth scoring came back, with neither team willing to concede an inch. Going into the second half, the game was tied 8-8.

For the second week in a row, junior Owen Hirsch came in relief of starting goalie Will Snyder for the second half. When asked about it, Coach Baxter said that this was by design, as they are "trying to figure out if we're going to stick with two guys or if one guy is going to emerge."

One thing to note was that by the time the second half began, the conditions on the field were not great. The wings of the field were flooded, and for lack of a better term, it was a slip and slide out there.

The third quarter was

rather slow, perhaps due to the adverse weather conditions. Keegan Lynch got a nice pass from Bryce Ford to score two minutes into the half. However, this would be the Stags' only goal of the third quarter.

To give an idea of just how much water was on the field, on one possession, Towson shot the ball wide of the net. Instead of the ball rolling out of bounds, the shot actually stopped dead in its tracks and remained in play.

However, the Tigers ended the third quarter on a very strong note, scoring three straight goals to take an 11-9 lead.

Ford did manage to score a goal three minutes into the fourth quarter. However, the Tigers once again responded

quickly, with Joaquin Villago-
mez scoring an unassisted goal a minute later (12-10).

From here, it was a defensive battle, as Towson drained the clock during their possessions. Despite two man-up opportunities in the fourth, the Stags failed to score for the rest of the game.

This was a tough loss for the Stags, but they have a good opportunity to bounce back at Drexel this weekend. Fairfield will face off against the Dragons on Saturday in Philadelphia at 1 pm.



The Stags celebrated their senior day on Saturday in a rain storm, The Stags lost to Towson in a closely contested contest for their first loss in the CAA this year.