

## Quarantine Housing to Cost \$200 a Night



Molly Lamendola / The Mirror

Students who tested positive for COVID-19 stayed in isolation rooms at the Conference Center last year if they were unable to go home. However, this year, the University will offer one free night for students who are contact traced or who test positive, charging \$200 for each subsequent night that these students use quarantine housing.

By Max Berryman  
Contributing Writer

Since last spring, Fairfield has made progress towards lifting many COVID-19 restrictions on campus. Although 92.7 percent of the Fairfield Campus Community is vaccinated, on-campus emergency quarantine housing is still being offered since testing positive is still a possibility.

On July 29 an email was sent out from the Office of the Dean of Students regarding plans for quarantine and isolation procedures this year. The University made it clear that it will, “not be offering Isolation or Quarantine Housing during the semester.”

The email continued by prompting students to derive a plan of action over the summer with family or nearby friends who might have to help shelter them over the 10 days of quarantine.

Within these plans, the school offers a backup that hasn't been as widely publicized.

For many that remember the process last year, students who tested positive for COVID-19 could isolate themselves in the Conference Center. Students who were contact-traced and tested negative could stay at nearby hotels — paid for by the University — for the duration of their quarantine.

This year, although a few are still not open, 64 single rooms are being offered in the Conference Center in case of emergency for those on campus.

Christina Hill, director of the Office of Conference and Event Management, spoke about the quarantine/isolation housing situation for the year. “The requirements for quarantine have changed since last year,” she begins. “If you are vaccinated, you need to be quarantined if you contract COVID-19. If a vaccinated student is contact-traced, they only need to go for tests and wear a mask at all times until the results come back.”

Unvaccinated students will be put into the 10-day quarantine period whether they test positive or are simply contact-traced. The University has continued to remain in compliance with the new findings of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The importance of having a plan becomes evident when looking at the worst case scenario.

Hill starts by saying, “If an outbreak occurs on campus, we would not be able to accommodate all students that want housing.”

Luckily, at this moment, less than 10 students have been placed in emergency housing and it was only for a limited period of time.

If a student needed to stay overnight before driving home or being picked up, they could spend a night in one of the rooms.

The housing is mainly for those students who are at a distance, not for the majority of the school who comes from the northeastern area of the country.

According to last year's Fairfield yearly fact book that is published by the school,

roughly 300 students come from areas that would qualify them for emergency housing for 10 days. Although the numbers for this year have not been published, the growing student population every year suggests that the number may be even higher.

This leads to a large issue for students at a distance or those that can't go home as more information was discovered relating to the emergency quarantine housing.

Past the first 24 hours of living in the emergency housing, every subsequent day would cost \$200 per day for the students staying there.

To finish out quarantine for those that have nowhere else to go, it may cost up to \$1,800.

Two such students, who both live on the west coast, Megan Caro '24 and Leif Alino '24 both gave their input on how they felt about this new information.

Megan said she felt like it was a “slap in the face,” and goes on to explain that she has no family on the east coast.

“Many can quarantine at home for free, but I will have to pay the fee or stay at a hotel.”

As a student all the way from Washington, she feels that Fairfield should commit to her as much as she committed to them by going to a school so far away from home.

Leif, who comes all the way from California, also voiced his frustration.

“Why should I have to pay for something that's not my fault? I can do everything right and still get COVID

and be left with no other options”

Leif mentions he's vaccinated, which references back to a worry of students and parents who felt Fairfield should have mandated the vaccine.

Even moreso, this new cost raises concerns for international students at Fairfield.

International student Kostiantyn Kaldaras '22 is currently staying at the Conference Center in one of the isolation rooms as he recently tested positive for COVID. He said that he was made aware of the \$200 a night after the first night fee when they were moving him into his isolation room.

“Since I am an international student, the school usually waives the living cost over breaks and similar occasions, so I wrote to the dean asking to waive the fees, but I haven't gotten a response yet,” Kaldaras said. “I can't really pay to stay here since I can't afford to pay \$200 every day and I can not stay anywhere else since my closest home is Michigan.”

Hill maintained that, “the \$200 rate is for everyone and requests for financial assistance will be considered on a case by case basis.”

She continued to say that, “It's my understanding from the Health Center that if you're in need of isolation or quarantine you should not take public transportation.”

Kaldaras said that he does “not think it is fair to charge students who have COVID to stay on campus, no matter how far away they live” and believes that “students

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

### News

Club hockey hosts its annual Soap Hockey Tournament and fundraiser.

Page 2

### Opinion

Student expresses need for a vaccination mandate on Fairfield's campus.

Page 5

### Vine

Celebrate the start of spooky October with five horror movies.

Page 9

### Sports

Matt Turner '17 returns to Fairfield for a night in his honor.

Page 16



# Stags get Soapy in Support of a Good Cause

By Madeline West  
Assistant News Editor



Madeline West/The Mirror

The winners of Soap Hockey pose for a picture. (From left to right) Devin Kelley '22, Brendan Cullen '25, Danny Shae '22 and Cameron Daly '22.

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the Fairfield University club hockey team hosted and participated in their fourth annual Mathew R. Tobin Soap Hockey Tournament.

The event took place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the lawn between Townhouse Blocks 3 and 6.

The Mathew R. Tobin Soap Hockey Tournament is hosted to support a cause started by a Fairfield alumni, Nick Lanni who graduated in 2018. He was a goalie who created the idea of soap hockey to raise money in support of his cousin who passed away from cancer.

Senior captain Mark Vaughan credits Nick Lanni who "was the mastermind behind the idea of soap hockey

and it has really turned into an ongoing tradition that people look forward to every year."

This has been an ongoing tradition at Fairfield, but it did not occur last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, this year students came out to the townhouses and gave positive feedback in regards to the event.

Junior Caroline McConville stated, "I am so happy we all came together since this event didn't get a chance to happen last year, and be there to support a great cause."

Likewise, Jacalyn Pugliese '23 felt a similar sentiment, calling soap hockey "one of the best events I have attended on Fairfield's campus!"

Pugliese continues,

"the energy was incredible and the way our campus community was brought together for such a good cause was amazing!"

Junior Catherine Robinson compared the event to, "Christmas morning," continuing to say that "the fact it was for a good cause made it so special."

Participants consisted of 16 five-person teams in a bracket style double elimination tournament.

Moreso, there was additional fundraising at the event where t-shirts and bracelets were sold to students and other attendees. There was an entrance fee for each person on the soap hockey teams that was put towards the cause as well.

Players from every grade participated in the tournament, and some alumni even came back to play as well.

Junior Carlton Lee spoke at the beginning of the day saying "I'm excited to play with my teammates and get at it with the boys for a good cause."

Similarly, Owen Lacourciere '23 reflected on the event saying, "the team had a great day after our first win the night before. [There was an] excellent turnout for the event and lots of fundraising for a great cause."

Senior Dominic Robidoux emphasized his excitement to participate. "I do it for the kids who never got a chance," he said.

After a few hours of playing, the last game consisted of five alumni players and the winners of the tournament: Devin Kelley '22, Cameron Daly '22, Danny Shea '22, and Brendan Cullen '25.

The winners spoke on behalf of the day and their success in the tournament.

Daly stated, "I just like to pay it forward and get the dub."

Additionally, Kelley shouted out that "Dan Shea was instrumental to the

success of the game" and continued to mention that it was

"People look forward to this event every single year and to have the turnout that we did speaks to the impact it has on everyone involved."

-Jack Stanton '22

"a great day for a great cause."

The hockey players said that overall, the event was a success.

Senior captain Jack Stanton shared his feelings about the event.

"People look forward to this event every single year and to have the turnout that we did speaks to the impact it has on everyone involved."

The men's club hockey team had their home opener on Oct. 2 with a 5-0 shutout against Southern Connecticut University, and the rest of their schedule can be found on @FairfieldHockey on Instagram.



Photo Courtesy of '@fairfieldhockey on Instagram



Madeline West/The Mirror

Juniors Alyssa O'Keefe and Tess Morrissey watch the Soap Hockey Tournament. Attendees were able to purchase t-shirts to fundraise for the cause.



Madison Gallo/The Mirror

Students compete in the Soap Hockey tournament. This year, competitors came from every grade at the University and even included some alumni.

**FAIRFIELD ARTS FEST**

LIVE AT THE QUAD FOR STAGS, BY STAGS

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 21

Thursdays • 4:00PM - 6:00PM • Outdoor Stage at The Quad

DANCE	09/30	10/14
MUSIC	GUEST ARTIST PILOBOLUS MIKE CASEY TRIO	THEATRE FAIRFIELD MUSIC MINISTRY DREAMVOID
THEATRE		
FILM	10/07	10/21
ART	DANCE FUSION REMIXX	GUEST ARTIST THE FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY BENSONIANS SHANELLY ALYSSA
CULTURE	BIG LOVE FEATURING MICHELA MARINO LERMAN	
FOOD		

ENTER TO WIN PRIZES



WVOF 88.5FM will be onsite each week to keep the music flowing. Learn more about Art Club, Italian Club, Humanitarian Action Club, Wounded Warrior Project, the Annie Tran installation "AWAKEN", and more!





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

10/1  
5:15 p.m.  
There was theft reported of an Ikea couch from a townhouse on 10 block. Public safety advises students to keep an eye on your belongings.

10/1  
4:00 p.m.  
A cell phone was reported missing from the campus center. The phone was charging and when the owner came back, it was reported gone.

10/2  
1:00 a.m.  
A mix of prep students and university students were trying to get through the checkpoint. However, there was a fake ID confiscated and students were referred to student conduct for COVID-19 violations.

10/2  
10:00 p.m.  
A neighbor on North Benson Road near the townhouses complained of multiple ubers dropping off students near the townhouse gate. There were complaints of students being loud and running into traffic without any regard for safety.

10/3  
4:43 a.m.  
In the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies building, two people were found sleeping. One was a student and one was a non-student. The non-student was escorted off campus and given a Criminal Trespassing Warning. The student was brought back to her residence.

10/5  
1:15 a.m.  
There was narcotics possession in Barnyard Manor. Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were confiscated.

10/5  
1:30 a.m.  
There was criminal mischief in Faber Hall. A student ripped off a handrail and propped it in the door handle. Suspects are being sought out and any information would be greatly appreciated by DPS.

# A Return of Alumni & Family Weekend

By Molly Lamendola  
Editor-in-Chief



An overview shot of Stag Fest 2019. Family Weekend and Stag Fest make their return to campus from Oct. 15-17 after happening virtually last year due to the pandemic.

From Oct. 15 - 17, the annual Alumni & Family Weekend will be held at Fairfield University allowing current students, alumni and their friends and family to come together once again.

Though it was previously just referred to as Homecoming until 2013, Alumni & Family Weekend, "Is an excellent opportunity for family members to check

so any opportunity we have to engage with them is a welcomed one. This is one of our favorite events to host on campus and we look forward to it every year."

Each night of the weekend there's a collection of activities students and families can sign up for on the UniversityTicketing website.

On Friday, Oct. 15, the weekend will start with a paint night, a juggling act and a screening of "Mamma Mia!" and end on Sunday, Oct. 17 with a "Brunch & Canvas Pillow Workshop" and the annual Glee Concert.

But, it's the event happening on Sat. Oct 16 that seems to be a crowd favorite, "StagFest." From 12 - 4 p.m., on Bellarmine Lawn behind Bellarmine Hall, it seems to have something for all ages.

Horstmann agrees with the sentiment saying, "StagFest is my favorite event, as it has a little bit of everything! There are food trucks, live music, a Lil' Stags Zone filled with a petting zoo, cotton candy, popcorn and inflatables in addition to beer and wine offerings and an athletic pep rally. She goes on to say, "Stag-Fest is an incredibly lively event that brings our entire campus together and puts everyone in a great mood." But, with StagFest comes the reality of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In compliance with all COVID-19 regulations, the ticket sales were limited to the first 1,000. As of writing this article, all 1,000 of the StagFest Drink Package (Unlimited beer, cider and wine, and commemorative Fairfield University mug) and the StagFest Ultimate Package (Three food vouchers, unlimited beer, cider and wine, and commemorative Fairfield University mug) have been sold out.

Horstmann adds, "We are following

all state and local guidelines when it comes to our COVID-19 protocols for this weekend." She notes that as last year's Alumni & Family Weekend was only virtual, they're expecting a "large participation."

"Many of our alumni and family members are looking forward to returning to campus and participating in our in-person events."

If students and families would still like to purchase tickets, they can see a full schedule at the Alumni & Family Reunion website: <https://www.fairfield.edu/alumni-family-weekend/> or simply visit UniversityTicketing.

All tickets must be purchased by Thursday, Oct. 14 at midnight, any time after this date the tickets must be purchased in person, on campus, upon arrival.

**"The families of our students are such a huge part of our student's lives, so any opportunity we have to engage with them is a welcomed one."**

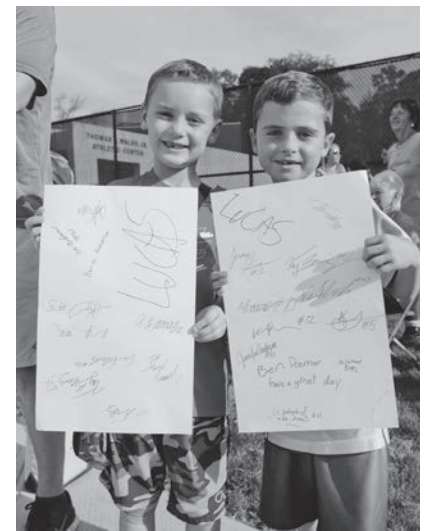
- Colleen Horstmann,  
Assistant Director of  
Student Engagement

in with their students and explore both the Fairfield University campus and the town of Fairfield" as stated on the university's website.

Colleen Horstmann, assistant director of student programs for the Office of Student Engagement has been involved in the planning of the weekend since 2014.

She stated that her office wants families to have the opportunity to return to campus and learn more about campus life.

"The families of our students are such a huge part of our student's lives,



Visitors received autographs from Lucas the Stag while at the event.



Two members of the Dance Team smile at Stag Fest 2019.

## THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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

### Editors

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

### Staff Photographer

Kyler Erezuma

### Business Department

Email: [info@fairfieldmirror.com](mailto:info@fairfieldmirror.com)  
Tristan Cruz, *Chief Financial Officer*

### Advisor

Tommy Xie

### Contact Information

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

The Mirror is the recognized student newspaper of Fairfield University. Opinions and ideas expressed herein are those of the individual student authors, and not those of the Fairfield University or its Board of Trustees

**ON AIR**

**THE MIRROR IS LIVE ON THE RADIO!**

**WED. 7-8 PM**

**88.5 FM OR ON WVOF.ORG**



# Mask Mandate Lifted In Town of Fairfield, Not at Fairfield University

By Madison Gallo  
Head News Editor



Kyler Erezuma // The Mirror

Students in classroom wearing masks following the Fairfield University mask mandate. Fairfield University has decided to keep their indoor mask mandate after the Town of Fairfield decided to lift their restriction.

The Town of Fairfield's mask mandate was lifted on Oct. 1.

However, in an email sent to students from the University, it was announced that a mask mandate will continue while inside University buildings. Fairfield First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchik sent an email to Fairfield residents discussing the lifting of the mask mandate.

She stated that the decision was made in consultation with the Health Director and Emergency Management Director, on Monday, Aug. 23 to instate a town wide mask mandate "as an added layer of protection against the very contagious Delta variant."

Leading up to the lifting of the mask

mandate, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention downgraded Fairfield county from high transmission to the substantial category.

The town of Fairfield was also downgraded by the State from red to orange.

According to Kupchik's email, Fairfield is 67 percent vaccinated with 71 percent having received their first dose. However, people ages 18-24 have the lowest vaccination rate.

The age group is currently only 63 percent vaccinated.

Kupchik states though that, "we expect [this] is likely higher due to data that shows many university students vaccination rates are counted in their home states and not in Fairfield."

The Fairfield University campus

community is 92.7 percent vaccinated as of Friday, Oct. 1, according to the University's Campus Testing and Reporting website.

Neighbor Sacred Heart University mandated the vaccine before students arrived on campus in the fall and now reports being over 90 percent vaccinated.

"Both National and State Public Health professionals have advised the peak of the Delta variant wave is likely behind us and our Health Director also advised me that, while conditions can always change and future increases could occur, it currently appears that this wave peaked in the Town of Fairfield about two weeks ago," Kupchik wrote.

The decision to maintain the indoor mask mandate was made by the University health team and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges.

The University's email continued on to cite the University's reasoning behind this decision. "In the densely populated living and learning environment in which we operate, masks and testing protocols have been an important factor in maintaining our vibrant student experience this semester," the email stated.

Director of the Student Health Center Julia A. Duffy MS, APRN, BC, echoed the University's statements on the matter of facemasks as "an important factor in preventing COVID-19 disease transmission."

"Facemask use is helping to keep our case counts low," Duffy said. "Maintaining the requirement to use facemasks indoors is particularly helpful in our residential college setting."

Additionally, the email stated that following the upcoming fall break, a portion of the campus population will be tested.

Senior Shamrock Barrera said, "I feel like the University should wait to lift the mask mandate till after the fall break. A lot of students will be traveling, then they can reassess after the students have completed the repopulation testing regimen."

Another student, Michael Riggi

'23, expressed positive sentiments about the continuation of the mask mandate. "With classes and other events on campus being back in full swing, [a mask mandate] will help to limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone safe," Riggi said. "It will also help ensure that the student experience remains as robust as possible in the middle of the ongoing pandemic."

The email assured that "[the University] will communicate any updates or modifications to our community."

"With classes and other events on campus being back in full swing, [a mask mandate] will help to limit the spread of COVID-19."

- Michael Riggi '23

Kupchik wrote that, "Many residents have written to me regarding masks in schools. I have repeatedly shared through my newsletter that the requirement for students to wear masks in schools is a mandate from the Governor's Executive Order and town leaders do not have the authority to change that policy."

Businesses in Fairfield still have the ability to continue to require masks for their employees and customers. Kupchik hopes "our residents will be respectful of the decisions of businesses that chose to require masks or not, and to also be respectful to residents in Town who choose to wear a mask, or not."

Vice President for Student Life Karen Donoghue stated that the "University monitors] the [COVID] situation daily and will adjust if necessary."

"I have been very pleased with our Stag community and their willingness to follow protocols to keep our community safe," Donoghue said.

## Students Voice Frustration With New Cost to Quarantine Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Kyler Erezuma // The Mirror

Students who test positive for COVID-19 have the option to stay in on-campus isolation rooms in the Conference Center but will have to pay a per night fee during their stay.

should be able to stay on campus for quarantine if they choose to."

"Students already pay tuition to live on campus and I don't see the difference in staying in your assigned dorm with roommates or in the Conference Center by yourself," Kaldaras said.

"I also believe students should not be forced to go home if they have COVID, they would just be putting more people at risk by moving from place to place."

Kaldaras stated that he feels

the University "should give students the [option] to either go home or let them stay on campus if they already have some sort of on-campus housing."

He continued to say that "I understand that there might be a problem finding room for the sick if there are too many."

He ended by saying that "once there is no room for sick people on campus, I believe it would be fair to start sending them home."

Maeve Foley '23 tested

"I don't think having to worry about paying for quarantine housing should be a concern on top of everything else some would be going through at that time."

- Maeve Foley '23



Photo contributed by Maeve Foley

Maeve Foley '23 tested positive for COVID-19 last year. She was taken to the Conference Center where she quarantined in a University van.

positive for COVID-19 last school year and utilized one of the school-provided isolation rooms during her quarantine.

Foley explained that after finding out she tested positive, she "was extremely stressed and overwhelmed."

She was "going to be sick, alone, missing class and was very worried about how to handle it."

She stayed in one of the isolation rooms on campus, so she would not go home and expose her

family to the virus, and says that she "cannot imagine having to worry about a financial burden on top of everything else going on at that time."

"Having to pay for quarantine housing would definitely have made me contemplate going home, risking giving my parents and siblings COVID," Foley said.

"I don't think having to worry about paying for quarantine housing should be a concern on top of everything else some would be going through at that time."



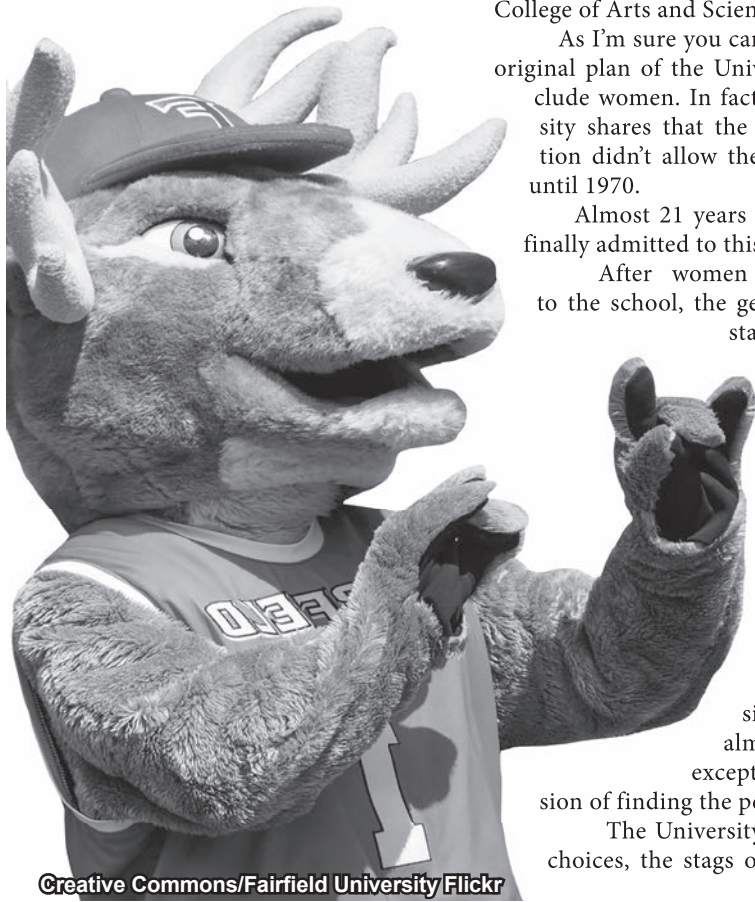
# Opinion

Editor Peyton Perry » [peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu](mailto:peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu)

## Lucas the Stag Fails to Represent Female Students

By Rheya King  
Contributing Writer

Mascots are an important aspect of any college. It unites a diverse group of students and brings them together under one common goal.



Creative Commons/Fairfield University Flickr

It sets off a sense of school pride that encompasses everyone. Whether you are a boy, girl, international student or right in your hometown, a mascot establishes a sense of pride that bridges all differences, at least theoretically.

In 1947 Fairfield University admitted its first ever undergraduate class into the College of Arts and Sciences.

As I'm sure you can guess by now the original plan of the University did not include women. In fact, Fairfield University shares that the academic foundation didn't allow the first female class until 1970.

Almost 21 years later, women were finally admitted to this prized university.

After women were introduced to the school, the gender ratio rapidly started to flip.

Fairfield University went from a 100 percent male dominated school to a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, being mostly populated by women.

This newly founded University had checked almost every box off except the tasking decision of finding the perfect mascot.

The University had come to two choices, the stags or the chanticleers.

For those of you who don't know, a stag is a male deer and a chanticleer is a male chicken. Both of these options perfectly represented the all male population of Fairfield University in 1947.

"Lucas the Stag," Fairfield University's well loved stag correctly portrayed students at the school in 1947, but 70 years later and only 40 percent of the schools population is being accurately represented by the term "stag."

At all those women's soccer, basketball and softball games we hear yelling in the stands "go stags!"

This well known phrase on campus is not as inclusive as originally thought. Female athletes put in countless hours of training, practice, and dedication only to miss out on the inclusivity that our campus promises each and every one of its students.

Now this begs the questions: What happens when a mascot doesn't represent a portion of the community?

Would school spirit stay the same?

Who is represented and how do the people who aren't represented view school spirit?

What does it say about masculinity in sports?

What does this say about Fairfield?

Being a part of a school that is academically in the top five percent of education, it is our job to set an example for other schools in these progressive times.

To strive for excellence in all aspects, creating well rounded, educated, motivated and inspired students. For years women and girls of all ages have struggled with finding

equality, enduring years of setbacks.

Growing up and hearing common phrases such as "Man up!" and "You run like a girl!" sets an unwritten precedent for women. The Fairfield University Stag is just another example that falls into the unfortunate category surrounding sexism in everyday life.

According to Stanely Eitzen in his book "Fair and Foul," Fairfield is one of just a handful of schools using a male as a false generic. While something as trivial as a mascot might seem minor in the bigger picture that sexism plays, it doesn't mean that it should go unnoticed.

Going to college and being a part of your school is something everyone should take pride in. It doesn't matter what religion, ethnicity, background or gender you are. School pride stems from a commonality, a singular goal.

Whether you personally know all your classmates or not, everyone has the same sense of dignity and pride for their school. To condense this pride, schools often adopt a mascot to centralize and unite all of its students.

Did Fairfield accomplish this? Do all of its students feel represented? I don't. I don't want to be portrayed by something that isn't inclusive to me. I don't want to only cheer for half of my school.

I don't want to be a stag if it means that I don't get the representation and credit that I deserve.

Even after all my hours of hard work, studying and dedication, why am I still not represented by my university?

## Fairfield University Must Enforce a Vaccine Mandate

By Thomas Lane  
Contributing Writer

How do you end a pandemic?

The answer has nothing to do with acceptable case numbers or hospitalization rates.

After eighteen months of life under COVID-19, gaining vast insight into pandemics in the modern era, and adjusting to a vastly different lifestyle from that which we knew before the pandemic, the world still labors every day under the prospect of life with COVID in perpetuity.

With this in mind, we as a society have continuously asked this question curiously, impatiently and despairingly: How do you end a pandemic?

The answer is one that I had hoped would be unnecessary, but now appears to be the only way toward what all of us on campus would call "normal."

I am writing, of course, about a vaccine mandate for all members of the Fairfield community.

Fairfield is certainly not alone in its examination of this contentious issue. New York City recently implemented a mandate for school faculty without a testing exception and, certain legal challenges notwithstanding, it is expected to be upheld.

If a city of more than eight million people can handle such a logistical challenge, then a similar mandate by the University should be comparatively easy to enforce.

However, despite an impressive community vaccination rate that exceeds 90 percent, vaccine holdouts remain.

Ideally these members of the community would abstain from the vaccine entirely out of an abundance of caution, but there are undoubtedly also a select few that refuse to accept it for reasons that are completely unfounded.

Opponents of vaccine mandates across the nation argue against the fact that the decision to vaccinate, which has tradi-

tionally been granted to individuals, is being increasingly overseen by governments and other influential organizations.

This resistance is somewhat understandable—few people prize individual freedoms to the extent that Americans do.

Still others balk at the nature of widespread mandates because they are unprecedented. This argument is grounded in fact to a degree, but not for the reason that anti-mandate activists might believe.

For guidance on this issue, I encourage the Fairfield community and Americans in general to examine the epidemics of Poliomyelitis that ravaged the nation in the 1940s and '50s.

This horrifying disease indiscriminately struck its victims, many of them children, with a degree of paralysis that utterly damaged, if not destroyed, their lives.

Polio was the undisputed scourge of post-World War II American youth.

Yet when Jonas Salk announced in 1955 that he had developed a safe, effective vaccine to combat Polio, everything changed.

Suddenly, we had a weapon to strike back at the disease, and Americans took to this good news with such urgency that Polio, the shadow that hung over vulnerable young Americans for so long, was eliminated in the United States in just a few short years.

This effort was nothing short of a triumph for both the public health system and the American spirit.

For our parents and their parents be-

fore them, receiving vaccinations for life-altering diseases was a no-brainer.

Believe it or not, many of our parents still bear the tell-tale circular scar of the smallpox vaccine on their arms.

There was never any question of whether such vaccines were safe or if

healthcare workers were trustworthy; for all intents and purposes, vaccination was a ubiquitous part of life that made everyone safer.

A vaccine mandate would have been unheard of in the twentieth century not because of its potential infringement on individual rights, but because one would have been unnecessary.

A greater sense of duty, coupled with a desire for safety from endemic disease, trumped petty selfishness, and our lives are so much the better for it.

Unfortunately, the world of 2021 is a far cry from the world of the twentieth century.

Gone is the unshakeable trust of the public in important medical figures. The scathing criticism reserved for Dr. Anthony Fauci is unimaginable to those who observed the quiet, determined heroism of those like Salk.

Gone too is trust in vaccines, miraculous inventions that have ensured the health of billions. In many ways, our generation has become the first victims of vaccine skepticism.

We were the first to come of age after

the fateful 1998 paper published in the *Lancet* that claimed to support a link between vaccines and autism (a paper that has since been thoroughly discredited).

Vaccine hesitancy has skyrocketed in recent years, and the detriments are now more tangible than ever. Because these are not challenges that generations before us faced, we must devise new ways to solve them.

All of this is not to say that a vaccine mandate for the campus is a decision that should be made lightly; frankly, the implications of such a decision still make me somewhat uneasy.

Furthermore, the Fairfield community must still abide by the COVID restrictions set by the town, whose vaccination rate continues to lag behind that of the university.

Without assurances from the town of Fairfield that a fully vaccinated campus would be able to return to business as usual (or something very closely resembling it), I believe that a vaccine mandate remains a moot point.

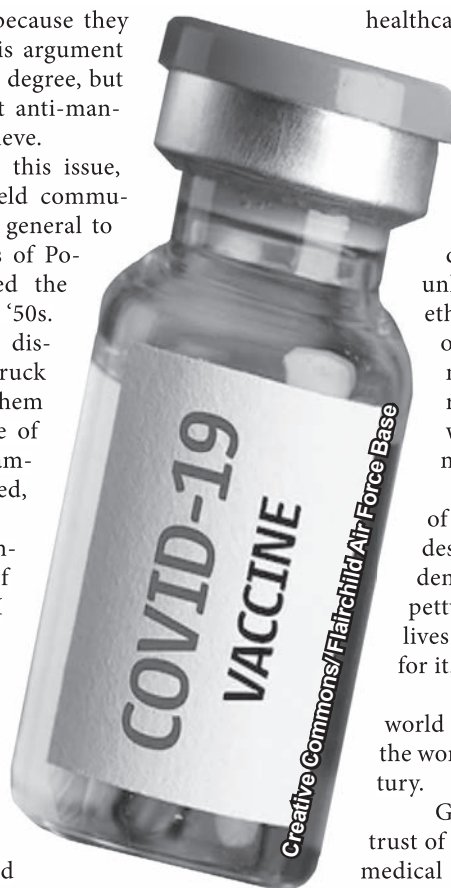
However, if the school, as a community unto itself, should receive some sort of exemption from the town's requirements, then it would be in the best interest of the university that a vaccine mandate be implemented.

With each passing day, the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as the dangers of vaccine hesitancy and skepticism, became ever clearer.

Soon enough, vaccine hesitancy will be a matter of intransigence rather than caution.

Fairfield University can, for the first time in more than a year, bring a truly normal college experience back to the students and faculty who have sorely missed it.

If we as a community would like to answer that persistent question of ending this pandemic, then a vaccine mandate can and must be the solution.





# Fairfield's National Rankings Matter

By Julia Lanzillotta  
Executive Editor



Creative Commons/ Fairfield University

As a high school senior, the most important thing to me in my college search was the renown of each school. I was determined to go to the best, most esteemed school. In all honesty, I didn't think that Fairfield University fell into the same category as some of my top choices, but when acceptances and scholarship packages were rolled out, I realized that Fairfield was my best option.

In some ways, I regret writing off Fairfield for not being as "respectable" as Boston College or Fordham University. Fairfield was founded in 1942, while BC was established in 1863 and Fordham in 1841. Relatively speaking, Fairfield is young, and is still very much growing.

Since I have started my education here in the fall of 2018, the University has changed tremendously.

According to [collegetuitioncompare.com](http://collegetuitioncompare.com), Fairfield's acceptance rate was 60.56 percent in the 2017-2018 admissions cycle. For the 2019-2020 admissions cycle, that number dipped to 57.13 percent, continuing the downward trend since 2014-2015. In line with its selectivity, the University has risen in the rankings of more academically competitive schools.

It is refreshing to see that there is room for growth in higher education. I've noticed that the "best" schools have had those reputations for years, like Georgetown, Harvard and Yale. Fairfield doesn't have nearly as much time or pedigree on their side, yet the University is making a name for itself now, and we get to be part of it. One could argue that experiencing the development of excellence is more special than immediately joining the ranks of it.

Fairfield was ranked in the top 5 percent in over 11 categories on [collegefactual.com](http://collegefactual.com) including best nursing schools (#55 overall, #2 in Connecticut), best communication and media schools (#50 overall, #1 in Connecticut) and best management informa-

tion systems bachelor's degree schools (#13 overall, #1 in Connecticut), to name a few.

As someone who is studying communications, these accolades are specifically important to me. Success in this field is generally more difficult to objectively quantify in comparison to students of other majors. In communication, answers are not always as black and white as mathematics, per se. I appreciate this recognition, and I feel as though it is a necessary stepping stone in validating my classmates' hard work inside the classroom. In an increasingly mediated society, I hope that this major can adapt to new trends, and evolve with new media.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)/Times Higher Education (THE) 2022 college ranking used methods such as considering student's engagement with their studies, their overall experience at school and their relationships with professors. In addition, the ranking is based on a myriad of different performance indicators such as graduation, student diversity and student inclusion. WSJ/THJ placed Fairfield in the ranks of the top 25 percent of colleges

and universities in the United States.

I prefer rankings that take a more holistic approach, such as the WSJ/THE rankings. It means more to me as a student and a member of this community that Fairfield is recognized not just as an academic institution, but also as a center for personal growth and development. The clubs and activities at the University are what make it what it is. Students' quality of life at Fairfield would be low if all the University had to offer was academics. Extracurriculars, in conjunction with strong interpersonal relationships between faculty members and students are essential to exceptional colleges and universities.

Fairfield now sits in spot number three on the northern region list of the U.S. News & World Report's best colleges in 2022. It's rewarding to watch our small Jesuit University be among the likes of big-time schools. All alumni can hope for is to watch their alma mater flourish. I am excited that by the time I graduate, I can look back and know that the University was a better place when I left it than when I entered it.

# The Most Underrated Dunkin' On Campus

By Matthew Adamski  
Contributing Writer



Peyton Perry/The Mirror

If there is one thing I have noticed living on campus, it's that students love Dunkin'. And why shouldn't they? It's the most convenient place to get coffee on campus. They take dining dollars and the student gets a coffee in return. That always sounds like a deal to me!

But what you may not have known, is that there are three different Dunkin' locations on campus. They have a monopoly on coffee here, no doubt about it. The most well known is the one in the John A. Barone Campus Center.

It reminds one most closely of a Dunkin' from the outside world: large TV menus, the whole coffee barista station in the back and a glowing display of mouth watering donuts for a cheat day, once in a while.

I am most happy to find the tables and chairs back. You can actually have a real coffee break with friends and take a seat in the middle of the day to talk about classes, or just to regroup over a coffee and take a moment to yourself.

You have to be strategic, however, about when you go. Most weekday mornings, the place is packed and the line snakes around the corner. You've got to be an early bird to miss that long line and get your order! One new thing that was introduced this year is the use of mobile ordering from the app. Now you can be running in between classes, order on your phone, and pick up your mid-day coffee from a "mobile pickup" shelf on the side of the Dunkin'.

Call me old fashioned, but I still prefer to interact with the person at the cash register, give them my name for the order and order right then and there.

You have to be aware, though, of when that name of yours is called. It's almost embarrassing the amount of times I've picked up a bagel, walked out of the building, only to find halfway to the Dolan School of Business that I'm holding a bagel with extra cream cheese,

when I ordered a bacon, egg and cheese on an everything bagel.

It's moments like these when you realize the importance of just slowing down once in a while. But then again, this is the New England mentality of 'go, go, go' and Dunkin' coffee helps us do just that.

The other locations include the library outlet, as I call it, and the little closet Dunkin' in the Dolan School of Business. Truthfully, I've never been to the one in the Dimenna-Nyselius Library, but I imagine it serves its desired purpose.

However, the one in the Dolan School of Business is the one I am most closely associated with. It's my favorite. It's tucked away in a little room, and it is completely self-serve.

I can pour my desired coffee to a precise oat milk ratio, and the exact amount of pumps of french-vanilla flavor shots to make my mornings go a little easier.

My favorite combo is a small hot coffee with oat milk, and two shots of french-vanilla, along with a french cruller donut, that I pick up between my 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. class.

The only awkward part of the Dolan School of Business Dunkin' is when there are more than three people inside. It gets crowded quickly.

It almost reminds me of the Presidential Ball mosh pit that was happening on the dance floor.

Not to mention that if you have the full backpacks swinging left and right, you've got an obstacle course on your hands.

But that's just part of the sacrifice us caffeine fiends must make in order to get our fix.

So if you're usually a Barone Campus Center goer, try out the Dolan School of Business for a change and help yourself, literally, to a cup of coffee for enjoying the walk back to the quad or village.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

"MAKING GOOD FRIENDS TAKES TIME AT FAIRFIELD!"

MOLLY LAMENDOLA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Though we're out of it slightly now, there was a moment on the popular app Tik Tok where it felt like every first-year student in the United States was dropping out of college. I'm talking about those videos where it's like "How my first week at college went" with six back-to-back videos of tears in a dorm room and then a car full of stuff after they move out.

The comments are usually filled with "This generation isn't ready for anything" and the creator of the content, typically, has something pinned like, "This was the best thing for my mental health, and I needed to move back home."

Maybe that's the case, and I'm happy for them that they did what was best... but... I'm always a big supporter of the "It doesn't happen overnight" idea, as it takes time - sometimes a lot of time - to truly find your group. Further than that, friends are not just dropped at your feet. It takes an often uncomfortable amount of "putting yourself out there" to find your little community.

Take me for example. I came to Fairfield University as the only one from my particular public high school in upstate New York. I did not meet a lot of friends in the Facebook group over the summer, as my first-year roommate did. I'm also not devoutly Catholic, I don't ooze school spirit and thus I had to find a particular group that accepted me for me, the old-fashioned way.

In the first weeks of school, I had to eat with an odd assortment of 30 people in the Tully just so I wasn't eating alone. I had to make the uncomfort-

able task of grabbing dinner with the random girl I sat next to in my 5:00 p.m. English class. I had to hang out in the lounge just to do homework, instead of under my nice heated blanket, with the hopes that on the off chance, I'd run into someone I kind of already knew and we'd study together. I signed up for any club at the Activities Fair that seemed friendly, half of which I only attended once and all of which I still receive emails from as I don't care enough to ask about taking me off their mailing lists.

For me, all of this worked. That girl from English is still one of my best friends and we lived together my Sophomore year. One of those "random" clubs was The Mirror, which I signed up for not really knowing journalism was a true career option and now am Editor-in-Chief.

Yet, with this, comes growing pains. I had friends the first few weeks of college that I was sure would last, and now we have each other blocked on Instagram. My first-year roommate and I were nothing more than respectful acquaintances until April of our first-year. We became close, talked a bit when I went abroad and decided to live together junior year.

I've now lived with her for three of my four college years and we've had future bridesmaid dress discussions.

But, before I end this piece with a simple, "You just have to give it time and put yourself out there" I'd be remiss if I didn't mention I had a few things in my favor. I'm incredibly outgoing, and I was a first-year student pre-covid. Yet, I pose the same solutions for

both and have two stories to share.

Firstly, spring of my sophomore year, I had a short conversation with a then first-year student who was having trouble finding friends even into the spring semester. She seemed to be doing everything right. She was in a lot of clubs and largely involved, but just couldn't seem to find her group.

I told her the truth, that I wouldn't worry, I only had one friend still from my first-year. If I were her, I'd just wait for the right group to come along. I know now she did find that group and seems to love her time at Fairfield.

Fall of my junior year, with Covid precautions at their height, I had multiple conversations with first-year students struggling to find people through Zoom screens and missing out on all the opportunities I had. No 30 person

Tully dinners, nor in-person club meetings, nor asking to hang out with a peer after class (asking to hang in a Zoom meeting is just not the same). Though it's gotten slightly better for these students, it did take a year to see some improvements and I can see friendships start to form right in front of my old senior eyes.

I do fully understand that sometimes nothing works and Fairfield just isn't a good fit for some. But, I didn't meet my true group of "I'd call you to bury a body" friends until my junior year. It took me many failed attempts, and many "almost there's" to find my little group and I'm telling you, the wait is absolutely worth it.





# Vine

10.6.21



## Fantastic food at the Fairfield Food Truck Festival!

Editor:  
Brooke Lathe



Cafe Piccolo cart  
I drank an iced latte



There were  
yummy hotdog



# DOUBLE THE FUN: FOOD AND FUNDRAISING!

By Sheila McCombs  
Managing Editor

Picture this. It is a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and you are standing on Jennings Beach at a food truck festival. Tell me that does not sound like a dream come true and I will 100 percent call you a liar. I was lucky enough to get to attend the Food Truck Festival on Sunday, Oct. 3 which was hosted in benefit of the Fairfield Public Library.

Since there were about 15 trucks there, I didn't get to try



Sheila McCombs/The Mirror

food from all of them. However, I tried to get to as many as I could and I was able to enlist my friends to sample some as well and hear their opinions on it.

Besides just the trucks, one of the things that we enjoyed the most at the festival was the sense of enthusiasm and great vibes, and the fun that people were having. There were a ton of people there and because it was outside on a nice day, it felt very festive!

Senior Nora Connery describes the feeling, "I loved the community feel and getting to be there with my friends."

The first thing we saw when we arrived was the adorable Cafe Piccolo cart. This is a full coffee shop with espresso machines and special drinks, all on the back of a little cart. We got an iced latte with almond milk and an iced mocha, and they were so good!

"I loved walking in and seeing the coffee truck! It was the perfect way to start my food truck experience! The latte I got rocked and I can't wait to book them at an event," said Ally Tremblay, '22.

They also had the cutest speaker playing old Italian music and it really made a great atmosphere all around the truck, while we all pretended we were waiting online for coffee in Italy. It is amazing to me that they can make such high quality coffee from anywhere and I would 100 percent go back to Cafe Piccolo next time I saw them!

One of the trucks that I enjoyed the most is actually one that will be in-

credibly familiar to Fairfield students, Fork in the Road. Ever since the introduction of having food trucks come to campus as a dining option last fall, Fork in the Road has been one of the most frequent visitors to campus. However, I have not been able to go on campus, so I was super excited for the chance to try it at the festival.

We tried the chicken pesto grilled cheese, the cuban sandwich and the loaded tater tots. Of course all of it was good for sure, but the loaded tater tots will live forever in my mind. They had pulled pork, cheese and bacon on them! It's definitely not a healthy choice but still absolutely delicious. This was the perfect kind of food for this event and I really enjoyed how they had a variety of options!

Another one of the options at the festival that was super popular was a truck called Weenie Lynn's. This truck had specialty hot dogs and the line was about 40 people long when we got there, the best indicator for it's high ratings.

We got a couple of different things at this truck as well including chili fries, a spicy hot dog and one of the more traditional ones. The food was great, and the more out there versions of something so traditional like a hot dog were super fun to try. This truck was great and it remained really popular at the fair the whole time that we were there!

There were so many trucks that we didn't have the chance to try but all of the ones that we got to try were amazing. This was such a great event and a perfect idea for a fundraiser for the library.

In terms of things to do with your friends on a Sunday afternoon, this was a top notch choice and we all had so much fun!

# FAIRFIELD'S PINK PLEDGE

By Thomas Senesac  
Contributing Writer

In Fairfield Conn. on Oct. 2, atop the Old Town Hall Green on Post Road, with circles of conversation and fl at stone pathways, the 'Pink Pledge and Jam' event held its first kickoff event for the month of October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"The Pink Pledge to Benefit the Norma Pfriem Breast Center" acts as a fundraising campaign during the month of October. It benefits the Norma Pfriem Breast Center of Bridgeport Hospital and Yale-New Haven Health.

The organization collects from individual charitable contributions, sponsorships from local companies or branches of corporations, etc. All proceeds are then able to provide funding for preventative measures including but not limited to mammograms, and they also are used to aid, support and treat women who are fighting breast cancer, regardless of their insurance status or financial situation.

According to pinkpledge.org, over 40,000 women having received "comprehensive services and programs from [the] Norma Pfriem Breast Center" since 1999, and over 10,000 having been taught about the prevention of breast cancer, through the center's outreach and educational programs.

The Norma Pfriem Breast Center functions as a necessary guiding hand and leads those without support along a brighter path forward, during some of their darkest times.

Lying beside St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

the 'Pink Pledge and Jam' event included guest speakers, multiple dining options (such as Proof Pizza Truck, Bigelow Tea, etc.), along with live entertainment. The featured band for this year's fundraiser was "Tangled Vine," who played until the end of the night.

Guest speakers of the event, including First

past seven years, spoke about the importance of the Norma Pfriem's Breast Centers' mission and also of the importance of community in such matters.

Specifically, she mentioned the exponential strength that can be bound by helping hands, using the analogy of a strand of hair which is insig-

have proven themselves to be successful as well. Kate Pigue, the directive manager of Pink Pledge, says that over the course of the month of October, events like this one raise thousands of dollars for women fighting breast cancer. And on Friday evening, Fairfield demonstrated its ability to come together as a defining virtue.

However, what was particularly striking of all, was the walk that kicked off the event. All those who attended lined up below a pink arch and were led down the road by the Fairfield Police Department and the Fairfield Fire Department, carrying banners and signs, until all eventually returned again to the same pink arch.

Not only was the walk beautiful because of the action within itself, but because it represented a positive visible shift with those who attended the event that night: all became a group.

The event began with late afternoon sunbeams streaming around church spires, with all little groups setting up their chairs and picnics, speaking to new strangers. However, after the walk, all those present truly connected with one another because of the embodied action they partook in which made clear their mutual values.

Once all reconvened on the Old Town Hall Greens, with only faint orange darkness over the horizon, all peoples at the event began to tie to one another, forging a community.

Good conversation and general well-being followed all at an event for such a charitable cause; and because of these interactions, I am hopeful that it will secure the success and perpetuity of this fundraiser for years to come.



Thomas Senesac/The Mirror

Event attendees participate in the annual Pink Pledge walk down South Benson Rd.

Selectwoman of Fairfield Brenda Kupchick, who has walked with Pink Pledge every year for the

nificant compared to the strength of a tied rope. The fundraising events for Pink Pledge



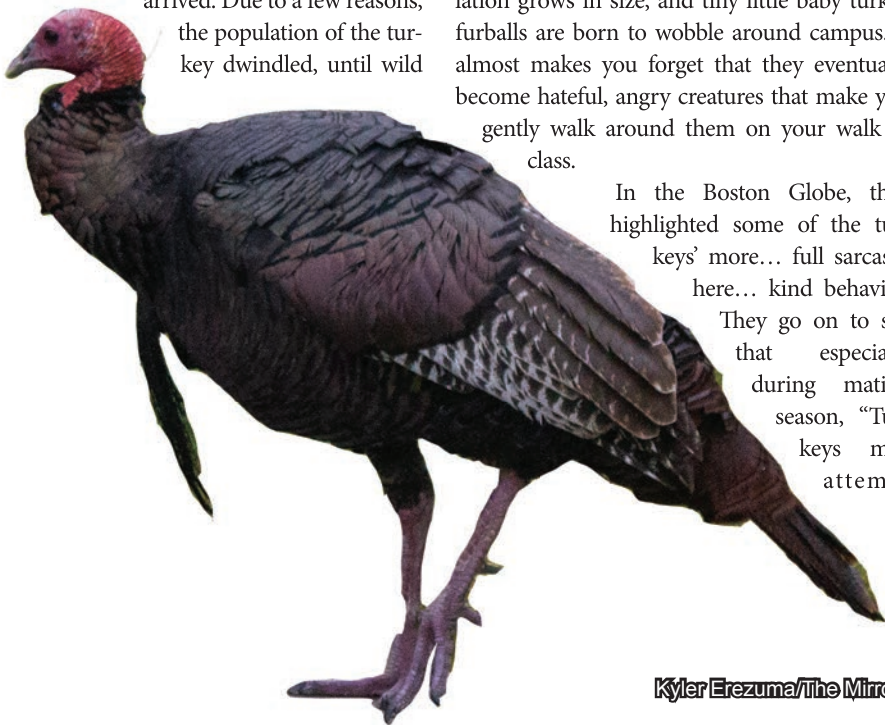


# A Tailored Report On The Local Turkeys

By Molly Lamendola  
Editor-In-Chief

There are only a few things in this world that juxtapose as greatly as the majestic look of a turkey, and their horrible personality. It might not be a scientific fact, but they are generally in practice, awful creatures. Many videos propagate local social media of Stag Bus drivers kicking them off the bus, and the ghastly brown creatures screaming back. Or, they capture poor First-Year students, already overwhelmed by the simple fact of no longer being in high school now being further traumatized by the desperate sprint of a bird chasing after them.

The question always remains: how did they end up here in the first place? that the turkeys were around even when the first settlers arrived. Due to a few reasons, the population of the turkey dwindled, until wild



Kyler Erezuma/The Mirror

turkeys were captured and “translocated using a rocket net” restoring the population in 169 Connecticut towns.

Now we have a population of “Meleagris gallopavo silvestris,” the specific subspecies of turkeys, all across campus.

If you want some more information on how to tell the male versus female turkeys apart, I’ve got a rundown for you!

The “toms” or male turkeys are dark with “iridescent” feathers. The top of their head is brightly colored in red, blue, or white. The “hens” or female turkeys are usually a lighter brown, and the top of their head is only a pale blue. A good indicator of their difference is that the females typically lack the beard.

You’d get really lucky if you could catch a look at some of the babies.

Around late April or May, the turkey population grows in size, and tiny little baby turkey furballs are born to wobble around campus. It almost makes you forget that they eventually become hateful, angry creatures that make you gently walk around them on your walk to class.

In the Boston Globe, they highlighted some of the turkeys’ more... full sarcasm here... kind behavior.

They go on to say that especially during mating season, “Turkeys may attempt



Kyler Erezuma/The Mirror

The campus turkey's make their way across the Daniel Grace Tully Dining Commons lawn.

to dominate or attack people that they view as subordinates.”

They continue to say that often they’ll chase something shiny because they think it’s another turkey.

In even more hilarious news, the town of Brookline, Mass. once wrote a warning on their website stating that “Wild turkeys have a ‘pecking order’ and people who act fearfully will be treated as subordinates.” They went on to ask residents to be “aggressive” towards the birds.

I’m worried about recommending this to anyone who’s reading this. I truly don’t want to

run into someone running at a turkey or growling at them in some way.

Although we might complain and film videos of their terrifying behavior, they’re truly a part of the campus community.

Life just wouldn’t be the same without a panicked walk through the grass with the turkeys taking up the whole sidewalk or watching the birds run into the glass walls of the Barone Campus Center.

Let’s just hope our tentative trust in each other stays the same and no “aggression” is ever needed.

# THE SIZZLING STAG SOUNDTRACK

By Claire DeMarco  
Contributing Writer

By Olivia Scott  
Contributing Writer

## “WALLS” BY THE LUMINEERS

Walking into the Dunkin’ Donuts in the John A. Barone Campus Center, I met Sarah Rufl ’22, who was listening to “Walls” by The Lumineers.

When I asked her why she liked it, she replied that it was “good for studying,” as you need something slow and acoustic to relax while pounding out all of your homework.

## “HEAT WAVES” BY GLASS ANIMALS

Later that night, while strolling through the quad, I came upon Tori Foust ’25. She shared that she was listening to “Heat Waves” by Glass Animals.

This song got more popular recently due to Tik Tok, and Tori said she likes it because of how “upbeat” it is when she is walking around campus.

## “PINK AND WHITE” BY FRANK OCEAN

The next day when I was cutting through the BCC, yet again, I met Emily who is a first-year student. I didn’t get her last name, but she was listening to “Pink and

White” by Frank Ocean. When I asked her why she liked it, she replied that her playlist was on shuffle and this was the song that came on. Frank Ocean plus homework? That’s a total win in my book.

## “IN MY LIFE” BY THE BEATLES

Leaving the Tully Dining Commons on a Tuesday night, I came across Wolfie Storz ’25, walking with his headphones in. When I asked him what song he was listening to, he said: “In My Life” by the Beatles. Describing why he liked it, he said it was just a “nice song to listen to.” No one can argue with the classic sound of the Beatles.

## “MR RIGHT NOW” BY 21 SAVAGE

Located in the BCC the next morning, I came across Megan Ragoz ’24, listening to her extensive playlist. She described her favorite songs at the moment, admitting she “can’t decide” but topping the list would be “Mr. Right Now” by 21 Savage, Metro Boomin and Drake.

For a chilly Wednesday morning, she went with what she described as a “hype up” song due to its optimistic sound.

## “RAINBOW” BY KACEY MUSGRAVES

In our dining hall, I met Alaina Tarollo ’23 and got a chance to hear about one of her favorite songs at the moment. “Rainbow” by Kacey Musgraves wasn’t just her favorite because of its “uplifting” sound, but because of the person who sings it.

She praised Musgraves for her humble nature, as well as the ability to make a song that applies to any situation someone may be going through.

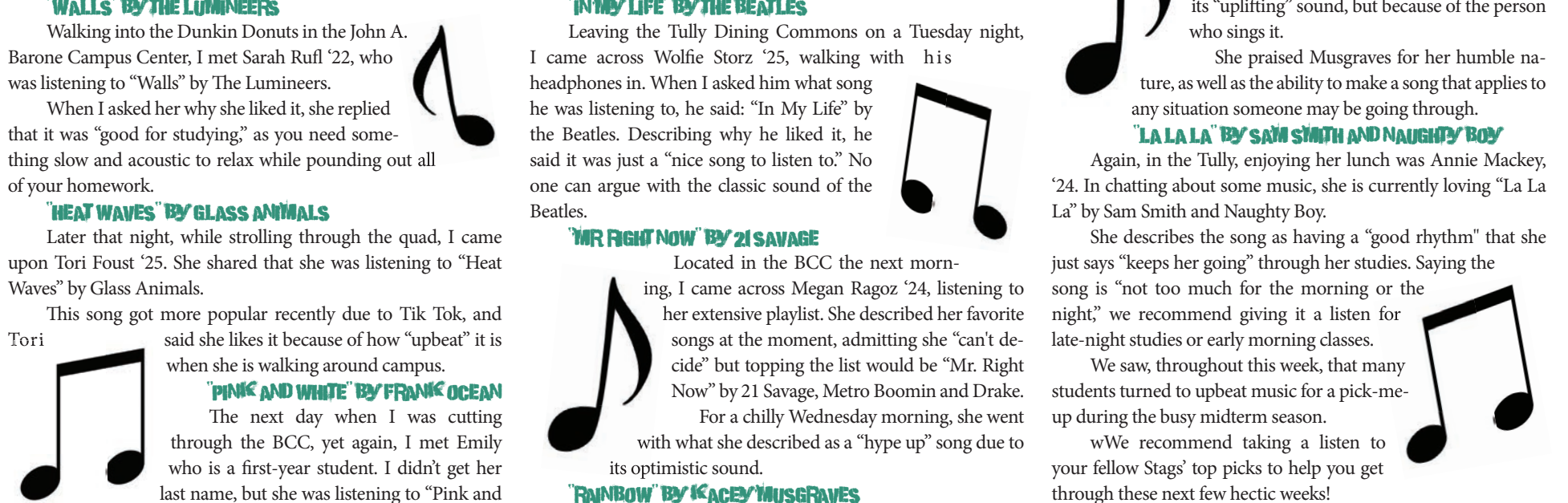
## “LA LA LA” BY SAM SMITH AND NAUGHTY BOY

Again, in the Tully, enjoying her lunch was Annie Mackey, ’24. In chatting about some music, she is currently loving “La La La” by Sam Smith and Naughty Boy.

She describes the song as having a “good rhythm” that she just says “keeps her going” through her studies. Saying the song is “not too much for the morning or the night,” we recommend giving it a listen for late-night studies or early morning classes.

We saw, throughout this week, that many students turned to upbeat music for a pick-me-up during the busy midterm season.

We recommend taking a listen to your fellow Stags’ top picks to help you get through these next few hectic weeks!





# FIVE BONE-CHILLING HORROR MOVIES TO WATCH THIS OCTOBER



By John Bizub  
Contributing Writer

If there is anything that people associate October with, it is Halloween. A holiday where scaring your friends, getting candy and wearing unique costumes is incredibly popular. Halloween is a rare day where people put aside their differences and have fun with one another. And if there is any medium that people associate Halloween with, it is horror movies. The horror genre is in a mixed bag right now; for every successful and well-made entry in the genre comes an onslaught of cheap films that makes me question my love for the genre. However, if you are looking for fun but also terrifying movies this holiday season, you have come to the right place.

**MALIGNANT** (2021), Directed by: James Wan

James Wan is one of the most celebrated filmmakers in the entertainment industry; starting out with his universal success with 2004's "Saw." Wan changes the game from experimenting in the horror and action genres. However, his latest film "Malignant," might be his best work yet.

In his first original horror outing since 2007's "Dead Silence," "Malignant" tells the story of a woman whose dreams become terrifying realities. What sets this film apart from other mainstream horror productions that have come out recently is its style. "Malignant" is a film that heavily borrows from the Italian horror subgenre known as a "Giallo". But instead, Wan does not copy from his influences, rather he places a spin on them. Both equally campy in their storytelling and filled with Wan's passion for the genre, "Malignant" gives me hope for the future of the horror genre, making it one of the best movies I've seen this year. The movie is both fun and haunting with its scares, but does not play itself too seriously. Sure, the twists and turns come from a mile away but "Malignant"

still manages to surprise me due to the sheer will that Warner Bros allowed James Wan to go in that direction. Well acted, briskly paced and executed perfectly, "Malignant" is a modern horror title you do not want to miss.

Where to watch: HBO Max and in theaters

**TETSUO: THE IRON MAN** (1989), Directed by: Shinya Tsukamoto

One of my favorite sub-genres in horror is the body-horror. Like the genre suggests, it is allowing make-up and effects artists to create something imaginary and real without the use of computer generated images or computer green screen. In my opinion, the film that represents the subgenre the best is this Japanese classic, "Tetsuo." The film tells the story of a man who has a weird craze for metal and after he runs into a couple, the boyfriend starts to feel the same fascinations.

To call this film "stomach-turning" is simply an understatement. Tsukamoto makes the audience feel a level of fear that many modern horror filmmakers fail to capture. Its effects still hold up by today's standards and make me squirm every time I watch. Tsukamoto does not waste the audience's time, as all 70-minutes only get crazier after the start.

Where to watch: YouTube (for free!)

**THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE** (1974), Directed by: Tobe Hooper

The '70s-'80s were the era where studios birthed horror icons that would become not only staples for the genre but also in film history. Characters such as Jason Voorhees, Michael Myers, Freddy Krueger and many more have become infamous, as they still manage to scare audiences to this day. However, my favorite of the bunch comes from Tobe Hooper's grindhouse masterpiece "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and the birth of Leatherface. The film follows a group of

teens on a road trip as they suddenly get lost. If you've seen any horror film, you could pretty much tell where it's going. Why "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" still manages to scare lies in how it's filmed. Gone is the use of traditional horror filmmaking techniques in replacement of raw and gross type filmmaking.

Hooper manages to capture things in the moment, making the audience feel uncomfortable. Think of "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" as the cinematic equivalent of not showering for three days and how one feels gross and greasy on the inside and out. Nobody could capture that feeling like Tobe Hooper. I would like to briefly shout out the film's sequel ("The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: Part 2") as they're both incredible but completely different in tone as the sequel is a horror comedy rather than a grindhouse slasher.

Where to watch: Tubi, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video

**OLD** (2021), Directed by: M. Night Shyamalan

2021 was a weird year for the theatrical movie-going experience. Every blockbuster scheduled to release in 2020 was either pushed aside to a streaming service or pushed back to be premiered in theaters once they opened. The summer blockbuster movie season was a mixed bag, with every great fast-paced action spectacle like "F9: The Fast Saga" came underwhelming at disappointing ones like "Black Widow". However, if there is one film that truly shook me to the core and also impressed me was the latest film by horror auteur M. Night Shyamalan.

To preface my thoughts on the film, I am a huge fan of Shyamalan. No filmmaker working today understands the ability to capture empathy and emotionally rich characters like he does and after concluding his trilogy with 2019's "Glass," I could not wait to see what he has in store for the future. "Old" is one of the rare studio genre films that allows a filmmaker to ex-

press themselves creatively. "Old" allows M. Night to operate at full force from a filmmaking standpoint and a storytelling perspective. It is a juggling act that combines many story elements at once and is told effectively and beautifully executed.

The scares are both gruesome and existentially haunting and are all executed perfectly. The acting provides some of the best I have seen in a Shyamalan project. I have seen "Old" at least four times over the summer and could happily see it again this October. It is easily in my top three films I have seen all year and one of Shyamalan's best works, he simply cannot miss.

Where to watch: VOD

**PULSE** (2001), Directed by: Kiyoshi Kurosawa

If someone were to ask me what is the scariest film I have ever seen, my answer will always be this Japanese horror classic. "Pulse" was released during a period when the Internet was foreign to most people. Nobody knew how to operate it, nor did they understand its limitations. Kiyoshi Kurosawa understands that and makes surfing the web a living existential nightmare. A film that combines themes of mental health, paranoia and the world at the time; "Pulse" is an emotionally driven slow-burn that becomes more haunting as it continues. Kurosawa knows how to blend genre tropes and flips a narrative on its head to create something unique and real. No film's haunting atmosphere could ever top what "Pulse" creates.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime

Horror will forever be my favorite genre, due to its action and how much filmmakers are willing to push the boundaries of the genre's limitations. And seeing modern filmmakers borrowing subgenres from other parts of the world only ignites my love for it. I hope these recommendations serve you well and have a happy October!



By Peyton Perry  
Opinion Editor

Fall is my absolute favorite season and I'm so happy it's finally that time again to pull out some of my best fall-weather clothing and accessories!

There's nothing more rewarding than feeling cozy, even when the weather starts to become a little bit brisk.

Here are some fall fashion must-haves that will keep you looking stylish and warm throughout the next couple of months!

### *Knit Sweater:*

A knit sweater is a must-have for the fall season! My personal favorites are the oversized ones with a droopy turtleneck. There are also more form-fitting ones however, that look just as cute but I find not to be as comfy.

I like my sweaters loose! I recommend getting a sweater with the colors tan, white or cranberry to match the fall aesthetic.

### *Duck Boots:*

I don't know how I would survive without these slip-on, easy-to-wear and cute footwear!

Duck boots are great for the fall weather, going almost with any outfit imaginable. Most are waterproof and look adorable when paired with patterned socks.

### *Cozy Boot Socks:*

These have to be my favorite of the fall fashion accessories! Boot socks rise higher than ankle socks and keep my toes nice and warm during the brisk fall months.

They also compliment outfits if you get really into it and color coordinate! There are so many patterns and colors sold, and different levels of insulation and fluff.

### *Fleece Leggings:*

Not just any leggings, but fleece leggings are a must-have to wear with your knitted sweater or plaid coat! Fleece leggings provided all the more warmth to keep you looking fashionable but warm in the fall weather! They come in all different colors, but I recommend black or grey to make it easier for you to put outfits together.

### *Plaid Coat:*

Plaid coats are in this year and you can find them in almost any store or boutique in down-town Fairfield!

I think the prettiest ones are the ones with light pink and brown tones, which can be worn over any outfit and keep you warm!

It's easy to throw on as you make your way to class and they can turn an ordinary outfit into a more stylish one.

### *Scarf:*

It may not be time for winter hats or gloves yet, but scarf season is definitely here! Scarfs go great with a sweater and leggings or jeans in the fall, keeping your neck warm and serving as a cute accessory.

You have to be careful though because some scarfs can be itchy; make sure to choose a scarf that is comfortable for you!

Well, that's pretty much all that sums up my favorite fall clothing and accessories, but there's definitely more out there!

This is just a good place to start if you're in need of some direction. Happy shopping!



# A NIGHT WITH HARRY STYLES

By Tatiana Ryan  
Contributing Writer

While taking the train from Fairfield to Grand Central, there was no doubt in anyone's mind where most of the people were going. At every stop more and more people would come on decorating the train cars in an array of colours. Girls with cowboy hats and bright pink pants, boys with open shirts and glitter in their hair, and mothers and fathers accompanying their children and dressing in matching outfits.

The fact that an artist's influence can be so apparent that every person who attends their show feels the desire to show up in their most outlandish, boldest uniform shows how unifying a night with Harry Styles is meant to be.

This December will be two years since the release of his sophomore album, "Fine Line" and Harry Styles made this rescheduled tour unforgettable for the fans who've been waiting for quite a while for his return to stage. Sunday night was the first of two sold-out shows Styles is playing at Madison Square Garden.

Some aspects of the night were different than if you attended his last tour—the presence of masks, showing vaccination status, etc. But besides these new realities of life, the night was a transportation back in time. Looking out at the entirety of Madison Square Garden with every seat being filled after the past 18 months of thinking it would never be possible again, was a feeling like no other.

Harry Styles performing live is as remarkable and captivating a human being can be. Coming out in black trousers, no shirt, and a suit jacket with feather boa arms began the evening on a mesmerizing note that continued throughout the entire show. Styles ascended center-stage with a single spotlight and launched into the album's first track, "Golden" with a renewed vigor that can only come after a year and a half without shows.

Harry Styles was ecstatic to say the least. He has never been brighter, never sounded better, and never seemed more in love with what he was doing than he did that night. There was no "phoning it in", no tiredness in his movements, no sense of it "getting old" even this many shows in. When you watch Harry Styles dance to his songs with an enthusiasm you have definitely never seen before, you can't help but have one of the best nights of your life.

With his last tour, Styles had only had one album with ten

songs out on his own which resulted in a full setlist of those tracks in addition to three songs from his One Direction days, a song entitled "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart" that he wrote and gave to Ariana Grande back in 2014, and a cover of Little Big Town's "Girl Crush". This time around, the night was filled with all of his own songs—excluding a remix version of "What Makes You Beautiful" which he had redone to the point where it sounds like it could perfectly belong on "Fine Line".

Styles performed every song from "Fine Line," including the feel-good anthem "Treat People With Kindness" and the ethereal heartbreak of "Cherry". He also performed his rock classic, "Kiwi," from his debut album which made the floors of Madison Square Garden legitimately shake. What Harry Styles possesses more than anything else is the ability to make you unable to look away from him at any point. He is as captivating as can be and it makes you not want to miss a moment of what he could do.

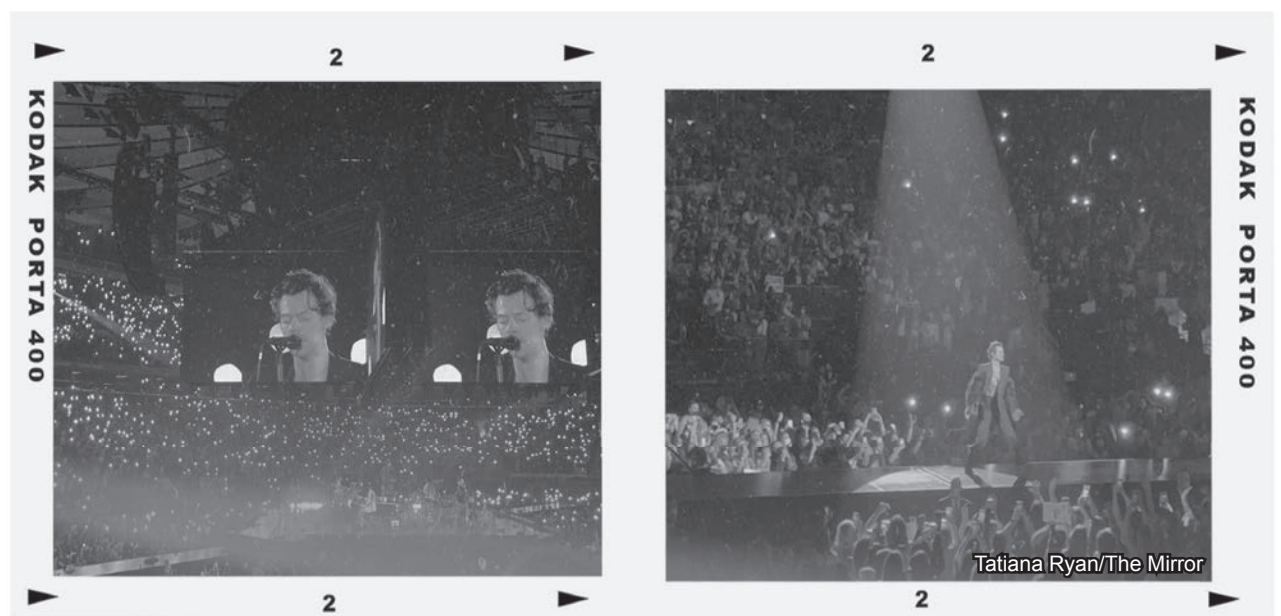
The album's title track and final track "Fine Line" closed out the show (before Styles came back out for an encore of three songs)

and it was without a doubt the best moment live. Every night, before he performs "Fine Line", Styles gives a speech always with the same theme: gratitude. He thanked every person who made these shows happen from the crew you don't see to every audience member who got vaccinated to be there, and ended by saying that doing these shows is the "honor of his life".

The song "Fine Line" transcends everything when you listen to it at any time, but hearing it live was a different feat altogether. The song slowly picks up as Styles details the whirlwind emotions that come with being alive until he switches from "We'll be a fine line" to "We'll be alright" and the night breaks into pure elation.

In a world where live music was an imperative part of life which then became an impossible part of life, Harry Styles' Love on Tour was the perfect encapsulation of the way that a night of music can bring people together.

From his impossible charm to his Mick Jagger strutting, Harry Styles continues to remind everyone who sees him that he is one of the best.



Harry Styles performs at Madison Square Garden in New York City, NY.

# The Levee: A Hidden Gem

By Liana Giacobbe  
Contributing Writer

One thing is certain about Fairfield University: in comparison to a lot of other colleges and universities, the dining options we have on campus are virtually unmatched!

Though everyone has witnessed the wonders of the Tully Dining Commons, from the omelet station in the mornings to Tex Mex station in the afternoons and evenings, few people have fully experienced the true gem of on-campus cuisine, that being The Levee.

While it may not appear like much from the outside, The Levee is an experience unlike any other on campus, with a very homey and comfortable atmosphere made possible with all the seating options and televisions strewn throughout.

Though you may not have unlimited access to a variety of dishes like you would in the Tully, the Levee provides a space meant for unwinding and relaxing, a place where you can spend time catching up with friends as opposed to rushing through dinner as quickly as possible.

As sophomore Alexa Romboli stated, "the Levee is great mainly because of how intimate it is compared to the Tully. It's a great place to break the

weekly cycle that everyone falls into and to just spend some time with the people you love!"

The Levee truly does serve as just that: the perfect place for memories to be made!

However, the Levee does not always serve as the calm, quiet spot that it becomes on weekdays.

Open until 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and as late as 12:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, the Levee is the

ideal spot after a long night to grab a bite with friends and recount some of the memories of the day.

It has made itself an intrinsic part of campus life, especially for upperclassmen, as it is tucked away right

off of Loyola Drive and before the first block of townhouses.

Apart from the environment within the doors of the Levee, the food is arguably even better than the options that the Tully provides. All for a meal swi-pe, you can receive a main meal, side salad or bag of chips, drink and ice cream for dessert – what a steal!

Despite the lack of buffet-style stations like there are throughout the Tully, there are still a multitude of options at the Levee, many of which you can not find anywhere else on campus.

The chicken parmesan sub and mozzarella sticks are just two of the many amazing options available.

Aside from all of the hot dishes that the Levee has, they also have plenty of frozen and refrigerated meals that can be purchased for an on-the-go meal.

They also carry a selection of snack foods and other smaller grocery items, just in case you can't make it to the Stag Spirit Shop and are in desperate need of something basic!

Though the variety of food options on campus can at times be overwhelming, the Levee is one not to be missed.

From the food itself to the general atmosphere of the space, one thing is for sure: all Stags need to give it a shot!



Kyler ErezumaThe Mirror

The Levee can be found on Lynch Road, located just across the parking garage.





# COFFEE BREAK



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

## The Tragedy of Triples

Maximus Berryman, Contributing Writer

In response to the recent situation regarding triples, Fairfield has brought in a new interior designer to give the rooms a more spacious and natural look. Each triple comes with two beds, two wardrobes, three desks, and two dressers.

Before coming on to campus, the designer planned out all the design details using a creative medium that was a 1:1 replica of the first year housing; a shoebox. He would first identify the things in the room that add to the clutter.

An underrated aspect of the room being utilized by the designer is the verticality of the space. By eliminating the wardrobes and dressers, more space is offered on the ground while all clothes and jackets stored can now be hung from the ceiling. Students under 5'2" may move through the room with ease while those taller will have to inherit a slight bend while walking through the space.

Another way to eliminate the clutter is building over the window. Natural light is a distraction and heats up the room during the summer time. The students will otherwise be provided with an oil lamp to light the room or can leave their door open to let light from the hall in. Because of this, two desks will be removed and one will remain for studying or homework to be completed.

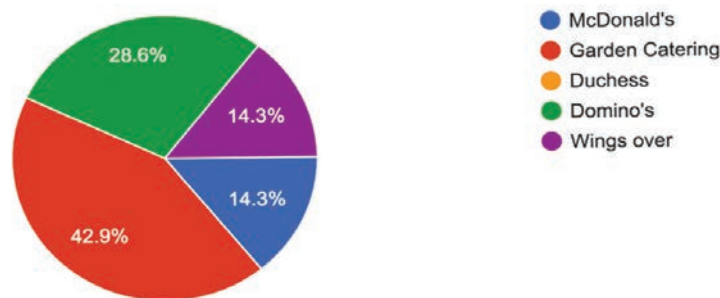
Lastly, the bed frames take up a large amount of space. To counteract this, all mattresses will be placed vertically against the wall and students will have straps to keep them from slipping at night.

The end goal will be to provide students with a spacious alternative to what they have experienced earlier in the year. The final rooms will end with 3 mattresses, one desk, and an oil lamp.

## The Mirror's Takes

**Coffee Break is proud to introduce a new segment called The Mirror's Takes! Every so often, we will put out The Mirror team's opinion on a new topic each week, and we encourage you to carry these debates and conversations on with your friends, roommates, and classmates!**

**This week's poll was: Pick your favorite quick / late night location to get some food!**



**Do you agree? Disagree? Let us know what you think, because this infamous topic can be debated on for hours!**

**If you have any interesting things you would like to hear The Mirror's take on, DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to let us know, and look for your poll in the Coffee Break section!**

## Famous Quotes Challenge

**Who said these famous quotes? See if you can guess correctly who said these famous quotes? DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to see if you got all 5 correct!**

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for"

\_\_\_\_\_

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that"

\_\_\_\_\_

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself"

\_\_\_\_\_

"Whatever you are, be a good one"

\_\_\_\_\_

"All that glitters is not gold"

\_\_\_\_\_



# SPORTS

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



WE ARE  
**STAGS**



## Coach Jay Young Strikes Deal With Fairfield



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

L-R: Mark R. Nemece, Jay Young and Paul Schlickmann. Head Coach Jay Young extended his contract with the Fairfield University Men's Basketball team till the 2025-2026 season.

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

Jay Young, the men's basketball coach, is here to stay at Fairfield University.

Athletic director Paul Schlickmann confirmed on Oct. 4 Young has signed a contract extension to lead the Fairfield University men's basketball organization through the 2025-2026 season. Coach Young, who began his time with the Stags

back in 2019, will continue to lead the team for another four years.

With experience in coaching at the University of New Haven, Rutgers University and even Stony Brook University, Young is no stranger to the game. After just one year as Fairfield's bench boss, he was able to lead them to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference finals.

Three newcomers will be joining Young's squad in this upcoming season, and 14 others are set to return to the team.

With much familiarity on the roster, the team is in a position to bounce back.

As construction of Fairfield University's Arena 100 continues on campus, home games will be played at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Conn. The Stags' home opener is slated for Nov. 16 against Medgar Evers College. They will start off their season on the road against Providence College on Nov. 9.

## Men's and Women's Soccer Trade Wins With Niagara

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

This past weekend, both the men's and women's soccer teams played against Niagara University, with the men's team hosting the Purple Eagles at Lessing Field and the women's team making the trip to Niagara as the visiting team.

On the home front, the Stags welcomed the return of

Matt Turner '17, who recently took home a championship win in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, by honoring him at half-time.

The men's team were able to edge out the Purple Eagles in a 2-1 win, whereas the women ultimately fell 2-3.

The women's team will continue to push forward in their conquest for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association playoffs,

as they take on Monmouth University at Lessing Field on October 6. This game will be a "Red Out", with an additional free scarf giveaway.

On the men's side, they will also be taking on Monmouth University, but this time taking on the role of the travelling team. This game will also be played at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, Oct. 6.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

The Fairfield University men's and women's soccer teams traded places this past week, with the men's team securing a home win and the women's team falling to Niagara as the visiting team.

### *In this week's issue...*

- Opinion: Are the Seattle Kraken the NHL's Next Catch? (Page 14)
- Women's Lacrosse Continues Winning Mentality (Page 15)
- Stags Back In Stands After COVID-19 Hattus (Page 15)
- Stag to Soccer Star: Matt Turner Returns to Fairfield (Page 16)



# Opinion: Are the Seattle Kraken the NHL's Next Catch?

By Lucas Themelis  
Contributing Writer

The National Hockey League approved its newest expansion team in December of 2018, the Seattle Kraken. So far throughout preseason the Kraken have three wins and two losses. The last expansion team to join the NHL was the Vegas Golden Knights, who were added to the league in 2016. Impressively, in their inaugural year, the Golden Knights made it all the way to the Stanley Cup Finals before being bested for the cup by the Washington Capitals. Fans in Seattle are hopeful that the Kraken will recreate the Golden Knights' magical season, however it is quite unlikely that the Kraken will be able to do so.

There are a lot of questions surrounding the Kraken's first season, but one thing we know for sure is the Kraken will have a great goalie partnership in Chris Driedger, who they revealed in the expansion draft, and Philipp Grubauer who they signed in free agency just a week later. Driedger saved 93.8 percent of shots, but played fewer games than Grubauer, who posed a save percentage of 92 percent. For a team with question marks surrounding their first season, the goalie position is not one to worry about as a Seattle fan.

The Kraken's overall team is built in such a way that allows them to be fierce competitors out of the gate, but also doesn't leave them stranded in the future. The Kraken front office was able to build their core of players in a wide array of ages, mixing in fresher faces on the team, with gritty veterans who know what is needed to win. One of these veterans is Mark Giordano, who recently turned 38 on Oct. 3. Giordano may not be in his prime anymore, but what he will bring to the team off the ice will more than make up for what he has lost on the ice. On the other side of the spectrum

is Luke Henman who is only 21, and has yet to play a regular season game but should be able to show what he is made of this season.

Other players to watch during the Kraken's inaugural season include veterans such as Jordan Eberle and Jaden Schwartz. Jordan Eberle is the older of the two at 31 years old. He is also arguably the best player on the team. Eberle was able to accumulate 33 points in his eleventh season last year, and shows no signs of slowing down. Although Eberle's points were not as high

as in his younger years, his plus/minus was nine, a career high for the player.

Another veteran player who will be aiming to boost the Kraken to a possible playoff berth is the 29 year old Jaden Schwartz. Coming into his tenth season, Schwartz will be looking to provide veteran leadership and hopefully pass his knowledge of the game onto the younger players of the team, as well as providing a wealth of points during the season. Last year was a down year for Schwartz, accumulating only 21 points, however he only played in

40 games. If we look at the season before, where he played 71 games, he was able to snag 57 points throughout the season.

The Kraken should be a really fun and interesting team to watch this season, as they really are just so unpredictable. Will they recreate the magic that the Golden Knights were able to? Will they crash and burn with a horrific losing season? Your guess is as good as mine on where this team will finish, but one thing for sure is that we should all be tuning in to watch.



Photo Courtesy of @seattlekraken Instagram

The National Hockey League's most recent expansion franchise, the Seattle Kraken, are slated to make their season debut on October 12.

## Weekly 5x4

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

Because we have witty things to say ...



Tommy Coppola  
Sports Editor

What are your plans for the upcoming fall break?

I'm going to head home for the weekend, go to the Rangers game with my siblings, and try to not think about classes for a few days.

What is one piece of Fairfield Mirror merch that our staff needs the most?

Hoodies 100 percent.

What are your thoughts about the turkeys on campus?

They're nightmare fuel, especially when you hear one of them while walking through the village at night.

If you had to pick an NHL MVP before the season starts, who would you pick?

Auston Matthews is a really fun player to watch, so I think I'd go with him.



Molly Lamendola  
Editor-in-Chief

Sewing my Halloween costume and thus praying for absolution.

Holy water from the unused Keurig in our office.

I wish they were a different colour.

I'm excited to see Anna Shcherbakova in the Russian Figure Skating Championship.



Julia Lanzillotta  
Executive Editor

Unfortunately, I will be taking the LSAT. Send prayers my way.

Definitely some sort of hoodie.

I really hate every single one of them.

In my completely unbiased opinion, I do think that Artemi Panarin is superior to just about everyone in the league.



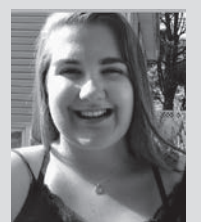
Tobenna Ugwu  
Managing Editor

I will be here on campus, holding down the fort.

Quarter zips!

I'm gonna say, I don't mind them. They give the campus character.

I'm just gonna say the Bruins.



Sheila McCombs  
Managing Editor

I will be heading home to enjoy my mom's cooking, thank god.

Crewnecks for sure!

I hate them because I am deeply terrified of birds.

Cole Caufield from Montreal is coming in as a rookie and I am expecting great things from him!



# Women's Lacrosse Continues Winning Mentality

By Sheila McCombs  
Managing Editor

The Fairfield University women's lacrosse team has won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship for the last four years in a row and they show absolutely no signs of slowing down. This year gets even more exciting with the reintroduction of a fall schedule or "fall ball" for the Stags, which is something that they were not able to have last year due to COVID restrictions. Ahead of their first game of the fall on Sunday Oct. 3rd, The Mirror spoke with head coach Laura Field, and captain Caroline Mangan '22 to get a preview of their season.

One of the things that we talked about in the interview was how they are going to take the lessons that they learned from their amazing season last spring and apply them to this new season.

"I think what everyone is taking away from last season is that you have to be ready for the unpredictable," said Field, "That has always been an asset of our team, and that is something we have had to lean on over the last four years." She went on to talk about the rapidly changing environment of last season, helped to build up the resilience of the team and taught all the players how to step up into different roles on the team. Of course a major part of the obstacles faced by last season came back to the effects that COVID had on their season.

Field elaborated, "Anything that had an in-person element that involved gathering in large groups had to face it [COVID] head on. I am so proud of how our girls rallied through it."

In terms of the team's plan to keep the positive momentum as they began this new season even after winning another championship title last season, Mangan focused on how

the team's compatibility as a group plays into their success as a team.

"I think our team chemistry is a huge part of that because we are such good friends," Mangan described. That team feeling of closeness allows for better success on the field through more cohesive teamwork.

Mangan also touched upon the importance of coming into the fall season with a positive attitude and goals set, "We always come into the fall season and we always think about how we want to come out on top each year," she said. "We try to take the mistakes we made last year and things that were hard for us last year and try to change them to achieve our goals."

Although lacrosse's competition season is in the spring, the fall season is an integral part of the training for the team and it allows for the team to work on a variety of skills that they might not be able to during the spring.

Mangan voiced this idea, "It is pretty similar to the spring season based on hours of practice..."

We are doing more conditioning and strength training in the fall to get us prepared, and to be in the best shape going into the spring." She went on to say that they focus more on things like strength training in the fall because they have more time between

games.

She also talks about how eager the team was to get started playing games this fall. She went on, "The fall is really fun. It's so exciting leading up to playing games on the weekends... It's great to have everybody eager to play and we all want to play with each other."

Coach Field talked about her excitement as well, about being able to start playing with this team in particular. She shared, "They [the team] need to buy into the teaching that we are doing, and they have. It is super useful to have a team that is willing to learn, and fail, and try new things. That is something that comes from all our games in fall ball."

In regard to what Mangan is looking for coming into her senior season as a captain, she said, "I am really excited about getting to be a captain with [graduate student] Kelly Horning because I have looked up to her throughout all my years as a player.

We are really excited to lead our team to the end goal, which is getting another ring. That is what

I have always said, I want to leave here with four rings on my hand...

We want to achieve that goal that we always aim for, which is winning the championship."

Field talked about how the team's driving themes are always changing. "Family is something that is

always our theme for them. Not the cliché version of family, but the meaning of family where they have to hold each other accountable. They can still love each other and then ask for a lot from each other. Even when they fight, like sisters, they still have to have each other's backs."

Field also said it is hard to define who a team is going to be before they have started playing games. She mentioned that is a plus of having a fall season, "We are going to have time to figure out who we are, which we didn't really have last year."

Coach Field can see trends in the team before the season starts, but relies on how the team looks from a competitive standpoint during actual games to tell her about what the team is going to need and excel at.

We also touched upon the challenges that the team is going to face this season. One of those challenges is being the reigning champion and what that means for them.

Field explained, "We have a target on our back going into this season. Not in a terrible way, but we are not going to sneak up on anybody this season, especially in our conference." Mangan then echoed that sentiment, "No game is going to be beneath us, and no game is going to be easy."

Both Field and Mangan made it clear that they are looking to see even more people in the stands than last season.

Field said, "I am so proud of our players and I was glad to see what great attendance we had last season because there wasn't a lot of athletic activity going on on campus. The unintended consequence of that is that a lot of people got to see us for the first time. I want people to see how great this team is both in the spring and the fall."

The Stags will continue working this fall, so that they can achieve their ultimate goal to win another MAAC Championship.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Caroline Mangan '23 was the 2021 MAAC Championship MVP.

# Stags Back In Stands After COVID-19 Hiatus

By Zachary Stevens  
Contributing Writer



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium is home to Fairfield University's lacrosse teams, which will play in the spring.

The 2020-21 athletic season was one filled with many trials and tribulations for Fairfield University, with the unfortunate spread of COVID-19, there were cancellations and abrupt schedule changes for many teams.

Like much of the nation, athletes and coaches had to manage playing or coaching college sports, while also dealing with a global pandemic. Rules and regulations

were put in place, lockdown and game cancellations occurred; to say this was an extraordinary year would be an understatement.

But, after a long and painful wait, Stags are finally back in action with fans allowed in the crowd.

This will be a terrific feeling for the players, as they have been playing in empty stadiums and fields for the past year, missing the

atmosphere the fans create.

Not only are the players excited for Stags to be back in the seats, but so is deputy director of athletics Zach Dayton.

He describes how important having fans back in the crowd is to him.

"Fairfield University is about community, to have fans back and games really compliments that idea of community," said Dayton.

"We want to do our best to make sure that everybody has a great time at our games."

To have a great time at the games, fans will have to follow the rules and policies when attending games both on campus and at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Conn.. This will ensure the safety of players and crowds at the games.

Dayton clarified these said rules and policies, which are quite simple and standard so far.

"For outdoor sports, there are no restrictions. For indoor sports, currently volleyball, you are required to wear a mask," said Dayton.

So far, this plan has been executed perfectly and the athletic department has received no problems or outbreaks from either fans or players.

Dayton and the rest of his staff are extremely excited for the upcoming season of sports, and you should be too.

Stags are back in the crowd and the teams need our support.

You can download the "Super Stag App" on your mobile phone, which allows students to earn points for attending Fairfield University athletic events.

Points can be redeemed for prizes throughout the school year,

including discount coupons and gift cards to local businesses and Fairfield Stags branded apparel. Fairfield students must present a valid StagCard at time of redemption.

Tickets themselves can be obtained through Fairfield's official ticketing website, where students can get free tickets for any game they choose.

"We want to do our best to make sure that everybody has a great time at our games."

- Zach Dayton, Deputy  
Director of Athletics

Games for fall sports are held at University Field, Lessing Field and the Rec Plex. There, students can watch entertaining field hockey games, soccer matches and volleyball games respectively, while also showing their school spirit.

It is going to be a great year for athletics here at Fairfield University. You don't want to miss out on the action, so go show support to your fellow Stags.



# Stag to Soccer Star: Matt Turner Returns to Fairfield

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

Back in August, waves began to ripple at the news of the next big soccer star out of the United States of America, who was the talented starting goalkeeper for the U.S. men's soccer national team.

The starting goalkeeper for this team was none other than Matthew Turner '17 - who represented the Stags at one of the highest levels of soccer in the world - and was able to lead his team to a Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football Gold Cup championship win in a 1-0 shutout against Mexico.

Associate head coach Javier Decima saw potential in a young Matt Turner, who extended to him a spot on the Division I soccer team at Fairfield. "I spent two years on the bench, and started two years," Turner said. "Six years later, it's pretty crazy how quickly it has all gone by."

The New Jersey native devotes his come-up to the coaching staff of Fairfield University's men's soccer program, and is thankful that they were able to give the younger version of himself a chance. Now, after departing from Fairfield in 2017, he is currently in his sixth season with the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer, adding some time in goal for the United States men's national team as well.

Turner's time at Fairfield not only helped to elevate his game, but was also able to help him grow familiar with new cultures and appreciate different backgrounds. "The best thing about it was that I got to be at school with guys that had played in England and played overseas in different places," Turner commented.

On the soccer field, however, Turner was able to turn around his game even further. "He [Javier Decima] challenged me a lot to learn things on my own to be self aware about my flaws and strengths and weaknesses and all that," Turner said.

In his first taste of international tournament play, the former Stag worked with his fellow MLS players to achieve success. Turner saw it beneficial that most of his United States Men's National Team teammates had MLS backgrounds, which helped create relationships among the squad through attending camps together and competing against each other in MLS games.

In addition to Fairfield soccer and the MLS, Turner has been highly involved in CONCACAF Gold Cup and World Cup qualifying events, both of which give him and his teammates the chance to represent their country on the global scale. Turner acknowledged that the pressure to do better and better each tournament is stressful, but takes the unique experience as it comes and turns it into good energy.

There is a lot of pressure that is involved with the goalkeeper's position; especially at the global soccer level. The stress of performing well for one's country is immense. As any goalkeeper would, Turner practices some unique mindfulness techniques that keep him in the right headspace before big games. Listening to the same playlist of songs and

taking pregame naps are just two of the ways the Revolution starting keeper stays in the zone.



Photo Courtesy of @headdturnerr Instagram

Matt Turner recently won the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

As a professional athlete, it is difficult to take a step back and let things settle in; going game-by-game and even minute-by-minute is good for keeping your head in the game. "During the Gold Cup, I was just taking things one game at a time," Turner mentioned.

Winning the Gold Cup at the age of 27, Turner is still hungry for more. "I still feel like I have so much to offer and so much left to do and so many goals," Turner said. "Winning the Gold Cup was the first thing I've ever won in my life...but it was a big, big special moment for me and this whole year has been truly just spectacular, from the Gold Cup to the All Star Game and how I've played with the national team..." Turner stated.

As the 2021 MLS All-Star Game MVP, Turner confirmed his status as one of the best in the entire league. In this year alone, the New England Revolution have been at the top of the Eastern Conference in the MLS with 20 wins on the season thus far: nine more than the next best team.

"I mean, we've just been smashing it and it's been so much fun to be a part of that," Turner mentioned about his current season with the Revolution. "It's just a really good vibe."

Since July, Turner has been bouncing from game to game every two or three days. To him, it is a grind, but according to Turner himself, "busy is good in soccer." His coaches, teammates, friends and family are all there to support him when he needs it, which Turner said helps him through the bustling nature of playing on a professional team.

For the future, there are a few different things on Turner's plate. First is the MLS Cup playoffs, which will kick off in late November. The most important topic on the docket, however, is the World Cup qualifying games.

Turner says that he is no longer a "big picture guy" anymore, meaning that he would rather not focus on the far future so that he doesn't lose sight of the present. This means that he is locked in on the World Cup, which will have qualifying rounds through next year and will officially begin in Qatar in November 2022.

Matt Turner Night was celebrated at the Fairfield University men's soccer game against Niagara University at Lessing Field on Oct. 2. The soccer team was able to take home the win with Turner in attendance, topping Niagara by a final score of 2-1.

Matt Turner has been one of the most prominent figures to come out of Fairfield University in the professional sports world, and with his successes in the global sphere of soccer, he has ultimately made the Fairfield community extremely proud.



Photo Courtesy of @headdturnerr Instagram

Matt Turner and his teammates were able to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup championship in a 1-0 match against Mexico, beating out other teams like Canada, Jamaica and Qatar earlier on.