



Fairfield University Students “Set the World On Fire” With Service



Pictured above is the logo for Campus Ministry's "Fairfield On Fire" Event that took place this past weekend on Saturday, Oct. 23. Students participated in service events in and around the Fairfield County area.

By Madison Gallo
News Editor

The annual fall service event hosted by Campus Ministry, Fairfield on Fire, happened over the weekend on Saturday Oct. 23.

This year, students participating in the event helped out at events at Sturges Ridge of Fairfield — an Assisted Living and Memory Care facility, Green Village Initiative's Harvest Festival and community clean ups throughout Bridgeport sponsored by the YMCA.

Students volunteered doing a variety of activities to give back to neighboring communities.

Some volunteers participated in a corn hole tournament and worked on puzzles with the community at Sturges Ridge, students helped work the GVI Harvest Festival and other students participated in the YMCA's clean up at nine different sites across Bridgeport including parks and outside apartment buildings.

Campus Minister for Social Justice and Community Engagement Katie Byrnes helped to start Fairfield on Fire six years ago.

"When I came here six years ago, we didn't have a ton of service on campus," Byrnes said.

In response to this, Byrnes helped launch the

annual Fairfield on Fire event.

She mentioned that it takes place in the fall as a way to introduce students to service early on in the academic year in a way that many people can get involved.

She emphasized the importance of service and giving back to the neighboring communities while at Fairfield.

"Here at Fairfield it's really important to understand the chasm of poverty," Byrnes said. "Instead of saying we're from Fairfield, here's all the answers, we say, 'we're from Fairfield, we have two hands. What can we do to help?'"

On top of giving back to the community, Byrnes describes service as a "great stress reliever" and a way to "work with your hands and not your heads for a little while."

Byrnes says that she hopes the service events are enjoyable for the students who attend and participate in them.

Sophomore Rylie Murphy volunteered this year and described the event as a way for her "to appreciate human connection."

"It wasn't necessarily about the volunteer work, but the stories I heard," she said. "You get to value the people you are with because they are willing to sacrifice a bit of their time to help a stranger."

Last year, due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, Byrnes said she was not allowed to take students off campus to do any type of ser-

"Here at Fairfield it's really important to understand the chasm of poverty. Instead of saying we're from Fairfield, here's all the answers, we say 'we're from Fairfield, we have two hands. What can we do to help?'"

- Campus Minister
Katie Byrnes

vice. In place of the usual in-person, off-campus service events, Byrnes adapted to the situation and found students ways to give back remotely.

"We had folks translating documents, working to identify wifi dead spots in Bridgeport for kids doing school from home and participating in different virtual read-aloud events," Byrnes said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

University Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Peyton Perry
Opinion Editor

Domestic Violence Awareness Month, commemorated throughout the month of October, shines a spotlight on the ongoing presence of domestic violence and the resources available to victims.

This year to bring awareness to domestic violence, Pamela C. Paulmann, project coordinator for the Violence Against Women Campus Grant, has been spreading awareness to the University community.

One of the ways she plans to spread this awareness is through the newly launched Stags Wear Purple initiative which was part of the larger, national purple Thursday movement to raise awareness about Dating/Domestic Violence.

Paulmann shares that t-shirts were provided to students, faculty, and staff as a visual representation of our University's "commitment" to ending violence and emphasizing that "everyone deserves a healthy relationship."

These purple T-shirts were worn this past week by Fairfield's Fitness and Recreation Center (RecPlex) employees, StagBus drivers and students working for a variety of campus departments.

In addition, baskets of purple ribbons are displayed at the front desk of the RecPlex for Fairfield members to take and wear as a sign of support for domestic violence victims. A sign shown behind the basket suggests the ribbon be placed on a water bottle or bag, but any location will do.

Aside from these projects, the

Center for Family Justice and Fairfield University Counseling and Psychological Services work to increase awareness of domestic violence by students, faculty and staff, as well as among local communities.

Debra Greenwood, president and chief executive officer of CFJ, defines domestic violence as "a pattern of coercive control."

She continues saying, "It is less about physical abuse, although that's often part of it, and more about someone abusively attempting to control someone's physical and emotional life."



Photo contributed by Beth Fitzpatrick

Pictured above is Debra Greenwood, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Family Justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Julia Lanzilotta/The Mirror



Molly Lamendola/The Mirror

Tuesday, Oct. 26, a nor'easter hit Fairfield University's campus bringing excessive rain and powerful winds with some classes cancelled. (Top: Garbage bins placed below accessibility ramp in the Lower Level of the Barone Campus Center to collect leak, Bottom: Student walks with rainbow umbrella toward Barone Campus Center)

INSIDE

News

A panel on media literacy will be held on Thursday.

Page 3

Opinion

Increasing student population might not be all bad.

Page 5

Vine

A five step guide to throwing a Halloween party!

Page 9

Sports

Canisus College Breaks Volleyball's 13 game win streak.

Page 16

Fairfield University

**MASTER
YOUR FUTURE**

**GRADUATE
STUDIES**

Over 45 master's programs to jumpstart your career, including our newest degrees in:

- Business/
Data Analytics
- Healthcare
Administration
- Interior Design
- Management
- Nutrition
- Social Work



fairfield.edu/gradstudies



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

10/23

12:14 a.m.

There was a marijuana smoking incident that caused a fire alarm to go off in Meditz Hall. The student responsible was referred to the student conduct.

10/24

4:05 a.m.

There was a student's room in Jogues Hall that was found ransacked. Nothing was reported missing, but the Department of Public Safety reminds students to please lock their doors even if they are away for a short period of time.

10/24

4:34 a.m.

The ladies restroom in McCormick Hall was found vandalized with paper towel dispensers ripped off the wall. DPS is currently investigating.

10/25

2:56 p.m.

DPS is currently Investigating a report of a racial slur used towards a student near the area of Faber Hall. The investigation is ongoing.



THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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

Editors

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

Staff Photographer

Kyler Erezuma

Business Department

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

Advisor

Tommy Xie

Contact Information

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

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

Library to Host Media Literacy Panel

By Madison Gallo
Head News Editor

The DiMenna-Nyselius Library of Fairfield University will host "Information Anarchy: A Discussion of Media Consumption and Misinformation" on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

This event will coincide with other Media Literacy events hosted across campus during the National Association for Media Literacy Education's U.S. Media Literacy Week.

In a newsletter sent to faculty by the University regarding the event, the panel is going to bring "... faculty and librarians together to discuss the ways that media literacy is relevant to their respective disciplines."

They continue to state that the intention is to "... emphasize the importance of media literacy by demonstrating that it is not narrow in its scope or impact on our communities, but rather has wide-ranging ramifications."

The faculty and librarian participating in the panel will be: Gayle Alberda Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Politics, Michael Andreychik Ph.D, Professor of Psychology, Adam Rugg Ph.D, Associate Professor Communication, Jennifer Schindler-Ruwisch Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Public Health, Matthew

Schirano, Senior Research Librarian & Instruction Coordinator and Matthew Tullis, Assistant Professor of the Practice.

The panel will be moderated by Molly Lamendola '22, Editor-in-Chief of Fairfield University's student newspaper The Mirror.

Scirano stated that the objective of the event is, "... a panel discussion focused on media literacy with participants from a variety of academic disciplines across campus."

He continues that they want to discuss "...the various ways that media literacy (or a lack thereof) impacts our communities and on an individual level."

"All of us are inundated with media and interact with it several times a day" and thus as Scirano says, "Media literacy is as important a set of skills as ever."

He's looking forward to the "great group of panelists" and "Above all else, we want to raise awareness so that students can recognize situations where they should exercise some skepticism and critical thinking."

Lamendola states that she believes students should absolutely attend the event and understand the importance of a free press and misinformation.

She adds, "They're two topics that will be pinnacle to our society rising above the current polarization that permeates politics between those who trust facts and those who want to create alternative realities."

The event will be held on Zoom, and a recording will be made available after the event. If students are interested in other upcoming Media Literacy events they can visit: bit.ly/dnlevents

Thornell mentioned that there will be several upcoming library events as part of the Media Literacy event including a documentary screening, a faculty research share for faculty and staff and two Spot the Bot workshops, with one for alumni "which has great registration so far." Apart from this, the sixth annual Human Library will take place on Nov. 10.

There will be opportunities for in person or online participation.

Editor in Chief Molly Lamendola is the moderator of the Media Literacy panel and thus did not read, edit or have any part of this article before publication.

Pandemic Brings Increased Need for Shelter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Greenwood acknowledges that in some cases it involves repeated physical harm brought upon by an “intimate partner or family member.”

She adds, however, that oftentimes it takes the form of emotional abuse, which is more likely to go unnoticed, but equally devastating to victims. Such emotional abuse can be executed through means of stalking or excessive control over one’s finances.

CFJ’s Safe House is not located in their main headquarters on Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport, Conn. as the exact location of the shelter is kept private for the safety of the victims residing there.

This safe house currently serves as a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Although more than 80 percent of their clients are women and children, Greenwood says that all gender non-binary, male and disabled victims, as well as those who identify as LGBTQ+ are welcomed and have also been supported through their services.

“Our clients are really quite diverse and a reflection of the fact that abuse can and does happen to everyone,” says Greenwood.

According to Greenwood, CFJ’s Safe House provides safety, security and support to victims with the mission of providing clients with “lives free of trauma and abuse.” She acknowledges that none of this could be done without the help of the crisis housing team, who keep the safe house fully operational 24/7.

Some of the services offered include support groups where victims can discuss their trauma with others, legal services to clients in need of restraining orders, divorces and legal help, as well as self-sufficiency services to support clients in the beginning stages of taking on a new chapter of their life, free of their abuser.

Greenwood goes on to discuss the importance and relevance of raising awareness throughout the COVID-19 pandemic especially, as the number of victims has grown exponentially throughout the past year.

She is not surprised by this, saying that “during the pandemic so many people were forced to shelter in place with their abusers for extended periods of time. As a result, the floodgates opened in terms of demand for shelter.”

Just last year alone at CFJ’s Safe House, there was an 18 percent increase in domestic violence cases, 692

domestic hotline calls received, 4,385 clients served, a 25 percent increase in overall demand for services and 263 clients provided with legal services. In addition, more than 50 children were sent to the Elizabeth M. Pfriem Camp Hope America-Bridgeport, which is their summer camp and mentoring program for child victims impacted.

Rather than turn victims away when at full capacity, she says that “overflow shelter in hotels” are provided.

As a result of the stark increase in domestic violence victims seeking their services, a 1,400 percent increase has been seen throughout the past year for such hotel shelters.

Greenwood is excited to share that the response to this increase is a new safe house. The new safe house will be called “The Empower House” and is planned to be built and opened sometime in 2022, with \$2.1 million dollars already raised out of their \$3.0 million dollar goal.

“This expanded safe house has been conceived as a state-of-the-art safe house which will provide our clients with the many supportive services they need,” says Greenwood.

The new safe house will include play spaces for the children inside and outside the building, as

well as a safe kennel for client’s pets.

Generally domestic violence is associated with families and marriage, however this form of abuse also takes place on college campuses, further signifying the importance of awareness by students, faculty and staff of higher education.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men will fall victim to domestic violence over the course of their life.

Greenwood says that domestic violence is seen in younger couples frequently and it is further shown through research that patterns set early on in such abusive relationships often serve as detrimental to the victim in their future romantic endeavors.

“If your early romances are marked by a pattern of abuse, it can normalize the experience,” she says. “Someone can start to think, ‘This is what love looks like,’ when the reality is that love should never, ever hurt.”

Resources for domestic violence victims are continually being offered to college campuses for students, faculty and staff. CFJ’s Campus Advocacy Team alone provides services to students at Fairfield University, as well as those at Sacred Heart University,

the University of Bridgeport and at Housatonic Community College.

Salaha Kabir and Geanella Suarez are the two campus advocates provided by CFJ for Fairfield students, located in the Health and Wellness Center in Jogues Hall.

Students can come to seek support with or without appointments on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-11:30 p.m., according to Beth Fitzpatrick, Community Relations Coordinator for CFJ.

If these hours do not work for students, students can contact the advocates through their emails:

SKabir@CenterforFamilyJustice.org or GSuarez@CenterforFamilyJustice.org. Students can also call the CFJ main line at (203) 334-6154 and ask the receptionist to connect them with a campus advocate.

Kabir encourages Fairfield University clubs, organizations, departments and student leaders to reach out to either her or Suarez “for collaborations to create awareness and education through programs and events.”

“The more we can get engaged with students to create relationships and trust, then students will recognize us as a safe space,” Kabir says.



Photo contributed by Beth Fitzpatrick

CFJ Staff pose on Oct. 21 for Purple Thursday event. Purple Thursday is a national event that shows support for victims of domestic violence. Fairfield University hosted a Purple Thursday event on campus.



Photo contributed by Beth Fitzpatrick

The front of The Center for Family Justice which is located in Bridgeport. Students in need can call the CFJ hotline at (203) 334-6254.

Service Opportunities Continue Through Campus Ministry During Pandemic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I am very excited to be returning to in-person service this year — a little piece of normal is back.”

Byrnes wants students to know that “service is a lot of fun and it’s a great way to get to know other people and give back.”

She also says that

students have access to University vehicles for free to take them to off-campus service opportunities.

Interested students can also reach out to her to be matched with a service opportunity that interests them.

In terms of service at Fairfield, Byrnes wants students

“It is so generous with the abundance of what service is offered here at Fairfield for students to get involved in.”

- Campus Minister
Katie Byrnes

to know that the “sky’s the limit.”

“It is so generous with the abundance of what service is offered here at Fairfield for students to get involved in,” Byrnes said.

On a typical basis, there are about 200 University students a week engaged in regular service, Byrnes shared. Some of the most popular sites involve animals such as the students who work at a bunny rescue.

Other regular service include “tons of stuff focused around local kids” like the Pencil Pals Program where Fairfield U students are matched with a student in Bridgeport and they are pen pals for the year.

There is also Habitat for



Photo contributed by Katie Byrnes

Juniors Connor Reardon and Andrew Melville in Bridgeport, Conn. participating in the Fairfield on Fire Service Event.



Photo contributed by Katie Byrnes

From Left to Right: Rylie Murphy '24, Grace Sultaria '25, Megan Rourke '24 and Elizabeth Kirchoff '24. These students participated in clean-up for the Fairfield On Fire Service Event.

Humanity, Best Buddies, a Soup Kitchen program — “pretty much everything, with all the information able to be found on Life@Fairfield.

In the near future, Campus Ministry will be putting together 400 Thanksgiving baskets.

Interested students can reach out to Byrnes to learn more about this service opportunity and others. Her email is kbyrnes@fairfield.edu.

For more information about Campus Ministry, visit their Life@Fairfield page.

Opinion

Increasing Student Population Isn't Always A Bad Thing

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

By Anne Tomosivitch
Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield University Flickr

Anyone with a pair of ears and a Facebook profile can tell you about this summer's raging conflict: "forced triples" and an overwhelming air of panic. The Office of Admissions will tell you that this new population crisis emerged out of an underestimated first-year yield rate. Regardless, packed residence halls, complaints and a sheer headcount reveals a record number of first-year students on campus this fall.

With Fairfield's undergraduate population already on the rise, this 150 student increase to the first-year yield rate stretches our population curve steeply upwards, a statistic given by Marissa Lischinsky, Associate Director of Student Engagement for Transition and Retention, in conversation. This growing number of undergraduates, however, may reveal a bigger change in the University's culture and standings.

While the increase may seem marginal, with a school our size, even a minor increase in class size is noticeable. Senior admissions fellow Christina Cardona discusses this change, saying "I definitely feel like I notice more students on campus this year than I did freshman year." She attributes this to the fact that "over the past few years, the class sizes have grown."

Facing the brunt of the situation, first-year Meghan Panzer describes her experience living in a newly converted triple. Optimistically, she says, "I like having a triple because I like my roommates." On the issue of space, however, she concedes that it does get cramped: "I wish I had more space in the room, my bed is kind of close to the ceiling."

Pushing the logistics of the situation aside,

these questions remain: why is our population growing? Is this a good thing?

Data from the Office of Institutional Research reveals that both the Dolan School of Business and the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies are gaining considerable traction among entering students, as the number of undergraduates within each of the schools rapidly increases. This population trend has occurred as the DSB and the School of Nursing and Health Studies have soared the ranks.

The DSB has gained national recognition over the past few years, ranking within the top 25 business schools in the United States. Further, the 2020 Nursing Schools Almanac placed Fairfield's Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies as the 46th best nursing program in the country, and 5th in the New England Region.

Notably as well, the class of 2025 has the highest academic qualifications of any class in Fairfield's history. Perhaps then, this high yield rate of particularly qualified students, coupled with the University's augmenting rankings, is a sign that Fairfield is becoming more competitive. Our growing standards suggest that Fairfield is beginning to shed its dreaded "safety school" reputation.

I believe our developing competitive status offers an incredible opportunity for the University to claim the standing it deserves. Having been raised by Stag-mates and their many Stag friends, I have seen firsthand how Fairfield's academics and general experience forms successful, well-rounded and happy adults. I think it is about time we come to better value all that Fairfield

University has to offer. In the words of my mother, Jennifer Tomosivitch '91, "Fairfield changes lives," and it ought to be rightfully recognized.

Having a few years' experience working in admissions, Christina Cardona also alludes to this academic theory behind our growth. She attributes Fairfield's population growth to several factors, also citing improvements in the DSB as a potential catalyst. She says: "I think that Fairfield's popularity has grown as a result of the variety of new developments such as the 2019 new and improved Dolan School of Business." Even judging from word of mouth, the DSB's rising status certainly seems to be a leading factor in new students' decision to come to Fairfield.

Beyond this, however, she notes that this growth may be related to "the caliber of Fairfield's academic rigor and tight-knit community, and growing diversity." Despite all of her experience and thoughtful reasoning, however, Cardona admits that this growth is an "admissions puzzle."

As a data-driven "finance guy" and a proud Fairfield alumnus from the Class of '91, my father, Christopher Tomosivitch says that the increasing yield rate is "a statistical anomaly." With an applicant pool as big as Fairfield's, a 2-3 percent increase in the yield rate could be completely random, he notes. This seems to be a probable scenario as well.

tional notoriety is our goal, our efforts to ameliorate our academic standings is certainly a step in the right direction.

But what is Fairfield, if not a school introduced to strangers as "a small Catholic school in Southern Connecticut"? Some students will say that Fairfield's cozy size is what makes it so loveable. This statement holds true for myself and many other Stags, making this ever-increasing class growth difficult to reconcile.

Junior Lily Carnicelli, says Fairfield "is the perfect size".

Having transferred from Penn State largely because of its population size, she "loves walking around campus and being able to see friendly faces." Further, she appreciates the dynamic at Fairfield that allows students to "create personal connections with staff and peers," and the simple fact that "professors know your name."

In my experience, Fairfield's smaller size makes life on campus much more enjoyable. The fact that people know your name makes Fairfield feel like home.

I'd argue also, however, that Fairfield gets its charm from the way it educates- the way that it forms students as men and women for others. An increase of 150 students cannot take that away.

No matter where we fall on the population spectrum, so long as faculty and staff continue

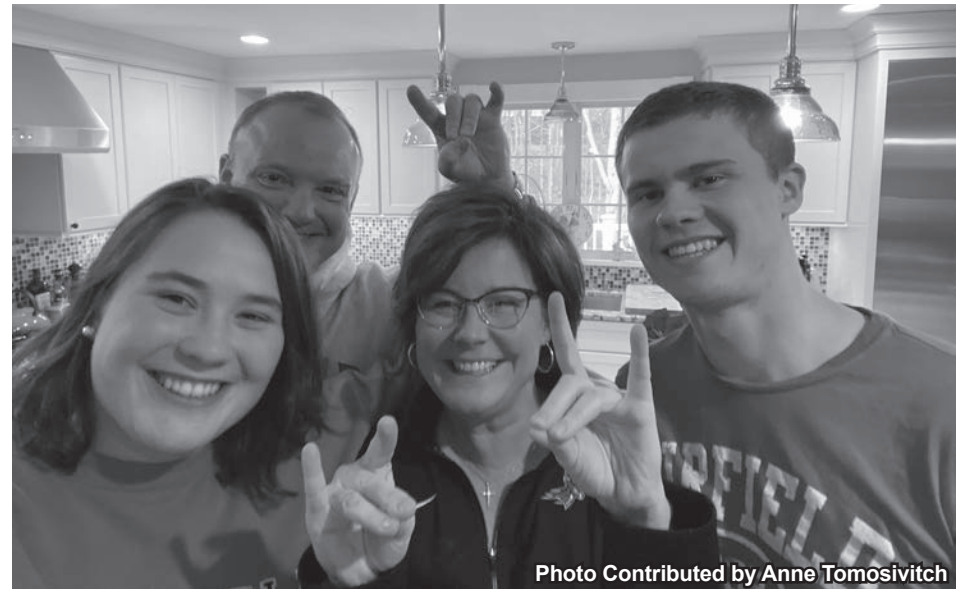


Photo Contributed by Anne Tomosivitch

From Left to Right: Anne Tomosivitch '24, Christopher Tomosivitch '91, Jennifer Tomosivitch '91 and Ted Tomosivitch '22

Rumor has it, however, that Fairfield's growing population is intentional. Perhaps we're trying to become "the next Villanova", as many students have argued. If that is the case, and na-

to engage and care for students in our uniquely Ignatian way, Fairfield University cannot and will not let you get lost in the crowd.

EDITORIAL BOARD

"SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT: TIK TOK!"

SHEILA MCCOMBS
MANAGING EDITOR

I am not proud to admit that I was one of those people who refused to get a Tik Tok account when the app first began to get popular at the end of 2019. All of my friends were talking about the platform and sending me videos from it, but I refused to get involved. I couldn't imagine what could be so amazing about another social media platform that to me seemed to just be a different version of Vine. I also didn't want the pressure of having to post on another platform, because I already felt overwhelmed with the trials of having any social media presence. To me, the last thing that the world needed was another social media platform and I didn't want to even consider that this could be different.

But I did end up downloading the app in January of 2021, and now, in a shocking turn of events, it has become my favorite form of social media. I love so many things about it. I feel like it allows me to be more creative in the content that I share because there are so many different tools for creating already within the app. I also think that, unlike whatever algorithm Instagram uses to make my feed, the Tik Tok "for you page"

was really great at showing me content that I liked. The other thing that made me enjoy it was the fact that you didn't have to be as curated about the posts you made on the app, the way that apps like Snapchat and Instagram always seemed to be focused on. However, this wasn't the thing that really made me commit to making the app a mainstay in my recently used apps.

What struck me the most when I first began using the app, was the way that it allowed for small creators to share within their communities. From things like small businesses gaining a large audience for their merchandise to people being able to share personal things like recipes; small content creators were able to gain a large following for the things that they felt they could share with the world. So many small businesses have gotten a huge following on the app just from one of their videos going viral.

One great example of this is the t-shirt brand, "Nice Shirt. Thanks!" This brand has buyers send in a couple of words of what they might want on a t-shirt. Then, artists hired by the company create a design based on those words and the company mails the

finished product to the customer. However, the client has no idea what it is going to look like when it comes and the artists can combine the words in whatever way they choose. This idea is practically made to go viral with customers making videos with their finished product, which are usually hilarious. As of July 23, 2021, the company's Tik Tok account had 230,000 followers, and as of this week the number has grown to 266,500 followers.

All of this to say, Tik Tok allows unique opportunities for creators and viewers alike to interact and connect on the things that they care about. Whether this is a business or just someone looking to share a great hack, Tik Tok allows for an amazing level of content collaboration.

Now, one of my main roles here at The Mirror is to be in charge of our social media channels, and I think it would be hypocritical of us to print this article without having an account for the paper! So, go follow @fairfieldmirror on Tik Tok, and get ready to see some amazing new content on your feed!

Kanye West's "Donda" Is the Best Album of 2021

By Thomas Coppola
Sports Editor

I remember it like it was practically yesterday. I was on vacation with my family in late July of this year, at the beach with fairly poor cell service, when I caught wind of some interesting news: Kanye West would be hosting a live listening party for his year-long delayed album, titled "Donda" after his late mother.

As a massive fan of West and an avid fan of music as a whole, I felt as though missing this event would be off-brand for myself. Multiple reports led to the album dropping immediately after that listening party in Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, which put me over the moon with excitement. After the first listening party on July 24 wrapped up, I waited until midnight for the album to drop.

Nothing. I accepted my first defeat and went to sleep.

Rumors circled about a second listening party, and two weeks later on August 6, that rumor became a reality. This time, me and my friends got together to watch it, as it seemed like more of an event; there was more marketing and buildup, so naturally, I could not miss this one. Surely the album would drop after this one, right?

Wrong. Defeat number two was even more disappointing than the last. While I began packing up my things to move back onto campus for the new school year, rumors began to circulate about a third and final listening party in Chicago as opposed to Atlanta. After the album did not come out after the third listening party, I had given up all hope.

In the early morning of Sunday, Aug. 29, the album finally came out; it felt like a whole nightmare of getting let down again and again was over. It was everything I had hoped it would be and more, but the majority of people were left feeling extremely upset at the final

product that hit streaming services.

I am part of the small group that feels extremely satisfied with what we have, and here's why.

To begin, the album is one of the most introspective pieces of art that I have ever had the chance to hear. In the earlier songs like "Jail" and "Hurricane," West sings about his feelings about his recent split with his wife Kim Kardashian. Calling himself a "genius gone clueless" on "Hurricane" was one of the deepest moments on the whole album, where he feels as though he let his work consume him which took away from his time with family.

Another great example of the depth of the subject matter on this album is where he paints the dark picture of his grief over his mother, with lyrics like "And if I talk to Christ, can I bring my mother back to life? And if I die tonight, will I see her in the afterlife?"

It is clear that West's method of dealing with this pain is rapping about it,

so that it can help others going through similar trauma.

Next, I feel as though this album has a new, interesting and completely inventive sound.

This unique-sounding project is created by West's use of the organ, which is an instrument commonly employed in religious services. Through this creative spin on the classic nature of the organ, West effectively creates an album that not only feels faithful, but fun.

This is an idea that feels especially present on the song "Junya," which features fellow hip-hop artist Playboi Carti. By mixing in elements like claps and extremely heavy bass around a fast paced organ beat, the song feels almost reminiscent of a song you would hear at church that was also a hit on the Billboard charts, if that makes any sense.

It is always important to be experimenting with new styles and themes in the music world, which now more than ever is beginning to run dry in

terms of unique and differentiated content. Rarely any hip-hop artist has gone this far in terms of experimentation with new instruments, and for West, I believe that it truly pays off on this album.

Another massive aspect to this album that puts it above the competition is the artists that are featured on the album. Whatever West does in his recording studio seems to be working for him and his fellow collaborators, as he brought out the very best of every artist featured.

With standout guest performances from Jay-Z, The Weeknd and Travis Scott (just to name a few), the quality of each song is greatly improved, even though most songs are nearly perfect anyways.

The final reason that I believe Kanye West gifted fans with the best album of 2021 is due to the fact that there is an unreal amount of variety.

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

Battle of the Holidays: Which Has Better Music? Halloween or Christmas

By Pedro Garcia
Contributing Writer

As the leaves begin to fall and temperature (more or less) drops into cool breezy sweater weather, it is safe to say that autumn is finally kicking into gear. There is just something about late October that feels distinctively different from the rest of the year — the excitement of being in the home stretch towards the holiday season, the day-to-day rush of the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, and the National Hockey League all running concurrently, and most importantly: Halloween Fever.

While it's true every season has its charm, when it comes to all-out presentation, the only true competitor to Halloween is its less scary, gift-giving big brother in the form of Christmas. Now I will not argue that the Christmas season as a whole is a superior time of the year to the frights of October, but there is one hill that I will die on like my name was Jack Skellington: that Halloween music triumphs over Christmas music in every way.

Yes. Crazy, right? Let me explain.

The first thought that any usual Christmas lover would say in response to such a heinous claim would probably be something like "How could you say that? What does Halloween possibly have that can triumph over hits from Michael Buble? Mariah Car-

ey? WHAM? The soundtrack to Elf, Rudolph and Polar Express?"

Well, it's actually quite simple. Let's start with the heavy hitters. Take a holiday anthem such as "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey. Most would consider this to be THE modern day Christmas song, right? Well now let's take a modern-day Halloween anthem, like say Thriller by Michael Jackson. When you put the two up against each other, it's hard not to see how it's not at least a draw. Two iconic tunes that both perfectly encapsulate the season — songs that on their own merit can be seen as some of the catchiest, most explosive pop songs of their times.

But wait, here's the kicker. Maybe it might just be me... but have you ever heard Mariah's Christmas songs anytime outside November and December? Well, maybe some particularly passionate Christmas crazies might, but for most, Mariah's reign of power ends the moment that tree comes down every single year. MJ, on the other hand, is the king of pop himself. Now that's an artist whose music transcends the holiday itself. You can hear Thriller on classic pop playlists, nighttime radio throwbacks and of course Michael Jackson: The Experience on the Wii.

Answer me this, Christmas music stans: Can you boogie down to Sleigh Ride in July? Would you even want to do that? I think not.

Furthermore, literally anything can qualify as a Halloween song as long as it has a dark sound to it. "What's a 'dark sound?'" someone might ask — well take a song such as Katy Perry's hit 2013 song Dark Horse. That's a Halloween song! Mention of tombs and spooky stuff? Check. Piano keys straight out of a John Carpenter movie? Check. It's a banger any day of the year, but come Halloween season, things just click better.

The same process goes for almost any dark song. Coolio's Gangster's Paradise? Halloween song. Taylor Swift's Look What You Made Me Do? Spooky seasonal sonata. Anything from rapper 21 Savage with producer Metro Boomin? Hauntingly great.

In conclusion, with an unmatched variety and diverse catalog, as well as replayability that extends across the whole seasonal spectrum, Halloween takes the cake in the music department against Christmas. Sorry, Santa.

By Sheila McCombs
Managing Editor

Picture this; you are sitting on your couch in your matching holiday pajama set, trying to figure out which Christmas movie to watch. There are cookies in the oven and it is snowing outside, all while the soothing voice of Michael Buble plays in the background. Now, tell me that what I just described doesn't sound like the perfect night? There are so many things that make the holidays special but there is something about the music of the Christmas season that brings it all together like nothing else.

Now, before we get too deep into this article it is important to make it clear that I am a total Christmas fanatic. I love the holiday season, and everything about it. I will begin celebrating on Nov. 1, having no problem skipping right over Thanksgiving and Halloween, and I won't stop listening to Christmas music until early February. However, even though I know that I may be a little Christmas crazy, there is still no denying that one of the great unifiers of the world is that everyone likes holiday music. There is no other form of music that compares, and no other holiday like Halloween has the same kind of magical tunes!

Christmas music also represents a large genre of music, that while remaining based in the classics, grows and changes every year. When you talk about other seasonal music, things remain pretty stagnant and there is not nearly the same amount of broad options available. Even just last year, I was able to find so many new songs to love and listen to along with my favorites. There are so many amazing Christmas songs in every style and by so many different artists that there is always something for each listener to love. Christmas music as a genre allows for so much enjoyment from so many different kinds of people!

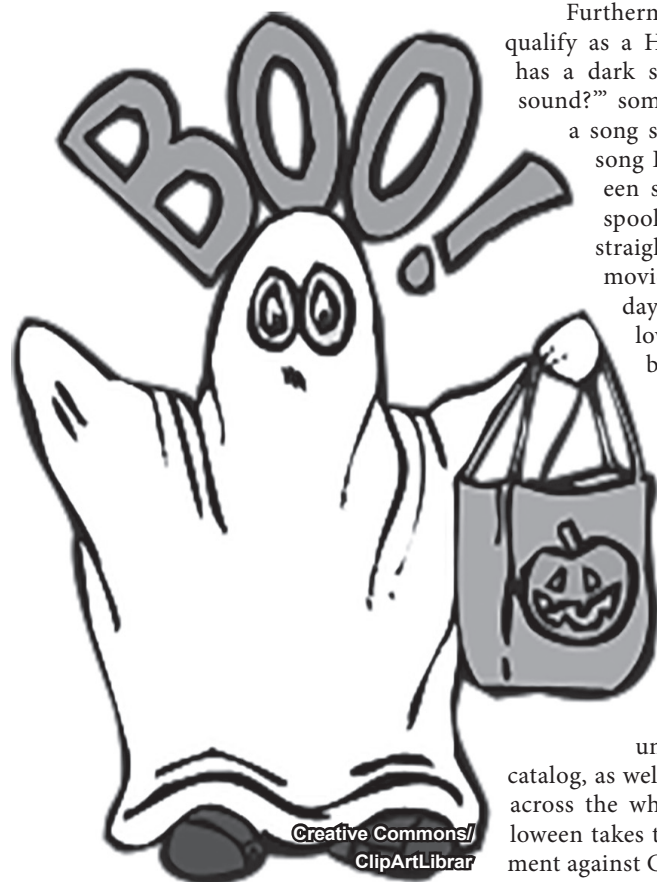
Christmas music also has the leg up of having an entire genre based around that kind of music, not just songs that can maybe be argued to be in that genre. There are only a handful of songs that can be said to be written with the sole purpose of being Halloween songs. When you talk about something like Halloween music, there is nothing like the many many songs of Christmas music to compare it to.

Every year when the holi-

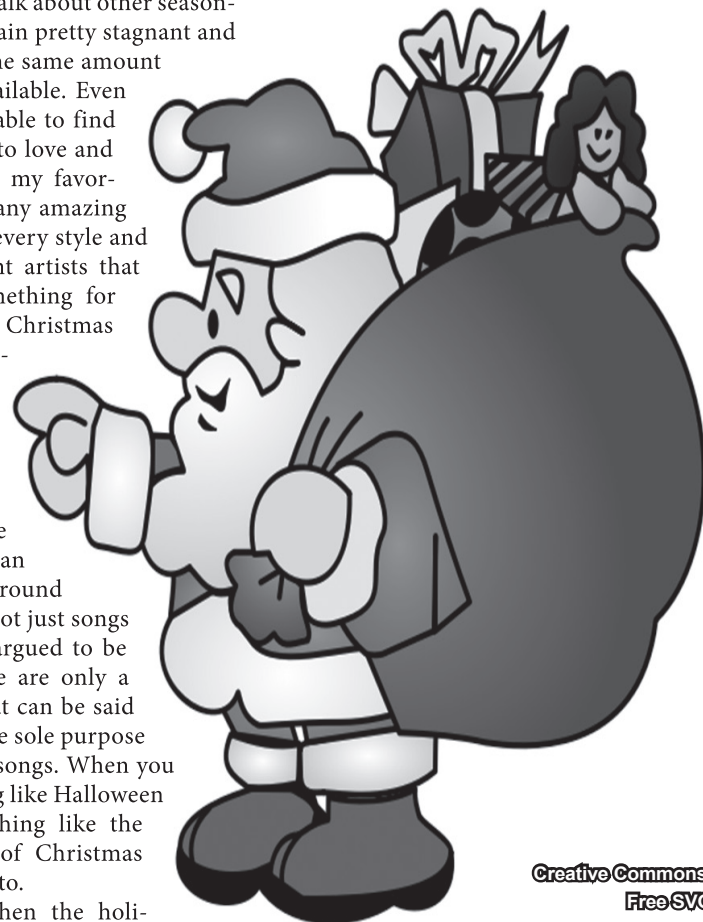
days roll around, listeners are drawn to both Christmas classics and all the new songs that come out each year. There are so many reasons that make Christmas music so great but one that stands out the most is the idea of the nostalgia created by listening to these songs. These songs are focused on things like being reunited with family, or childlike joy and that allows people a level of peaceful escape from everyday life. Halloween music doesn't allow for the same feeling of nostalgia because there are not nearly as many memories around these songs. Most music that we listen to doesn't have the same effect on us, because it doesn't have that same feeling of safety and comfort.

In addition to this, so many people have memories associated with Christmas songs that make them even more special. When you hear a song that makes you remember a particular Christmas eve party or decorating your tree, of course it is going to make you happy and enjoy reliving that moment. This is a part of what makes Christmas music so unique and special in comparison to all other kinds of music, especially Halloween themed music.

So, I don't know about you, but I will be counting down the days until I can blast holiday tunes on my way to do some holiday shopping!



Creative Commons/
ClipArtLibrar



Creative Commons/
FreeSVG

THE VINE

OCTOBER 27, 2021

ARTS & CULTURE

EDITOR: BROOKE LATHE



ALL HALLOWS EVE - SPOOKY PLAYLIST - THROWING A
HALLOWEEN PARTY





The Terrifying Tale Behind All Hallow's Eve

By Liana Giacobbe
Contributing Writer

Halloween has become one of the most popular and commercialized holidays in the Western world. From choosing costumes to carving pumpkins to going trick-or-treating, there are endless ways to celebrate the spooky day. Despite its popularity, the roots of October's most haunted holiday often remain dismissed. Where did Halloween originate from, and how has it evolved into the candy-filled day that we all know and love? Let us unwrap this mystery together, dear reader!

Halloween, celebrated on Oct. 31 every year, originated from the Celtic festival of Samhain, which served as a sort of new year celebration according to the Celtic calendar. Samhain itself, falling on Oct. 31, was the day in which the Celts believed the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred, as Nov. 1 served as

the transition from the harvest period to the cold, darkness of winter. This festival, involving bonfires and costumes to ward off evil spirits, became

Hallows Eve was born, eventually evolving into the celebration of Halloween that is practiced today.

translated into the activities found in modern times around late October. The Celts used bonfires to ward off evil spirits that might attempt to destroy crops, sacrificing animals to Celtic deities in order to appease them and prevent the destruction of their livelihoods. When the sacrifice was over, the bonfire was re-lit in an attempt to use the sacred space to elicit protection for the coming season.

One of modern-day Halloween's most famous traditions, bobbing for apples, is another practice that originated at the very start of the holiday. When the Roman empire eventually conquered most of the Celtic territory, they forced their own religious practices onto the Celts, combining two of their holidays with Samhain. These holidays were closely associated with fruit, specifically the apple, and thus the tradition of bobbing for apples was born. Talk about a bushel of fun!

As Halloween traveled across the Atlantic and found its way to America, it adapted in accordance with the various groups living there at the time. Certain areas of the country were not quick to adopt the holiday into their society because of religious practices, but Halloween soon became popular in southern colonies.

The children within colonial society were the primary reason that the more mischievous side of Halloween emerged, as the children would often tell spooky stories by the fireside. Immigrants soon began to flood into America, with Irish immigrants, in particular, continuing to popularize the holiday.

People developed the practice that is known today as trick-or-treating, with young women believing that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings or mirrors. As time went on, Hal-

loween itself became increasingly more complex, straying away from its religious origins and into a day more closely related to practices of witchcraft.

Despite these strange origins, Halloween has become a staple holiday within American society, continuing to influence aspects of the media such as television and pop culture alike. Over time, it has become even more of a community event, with people gathering together at parties to celebrate a day of haunting and fright.

Though the initial origin of Halloween may not be widely discussed, the spookiness of the season has found a way to bleed into all aspects of life during the month of October.

With this new knowledge in mind, have a frightening Oct. 31, and take some time to consider why Halloween is celebrated in the way it is today!



Pixabay

combined with practices from All Saints Day, falling on Nov. 1. Thus, All

Some of the famed aspects of the festival have been loosely

LET'S TALK HALLOWEEN CANDY!

By Brooke Lathe
Vine Editor

Throughout my childhood, Halloween, mine was always trading that night's goodies with my brother. I distinctly remember both of us emptying our overflowing bags on our kitchen table, separating our candy into their own piles by brand, counting them (for bragging rights of who got the most), and finally exchanging my least favorite sweets for ones I'd much rather prefer.

Thankfully, it always worked out for the sibling who favored chocolate-incorporated candy while my brother was a bigger fan of treats like sour patch kids or skittles. And while I can no longer take part in trick-or-treating since I've grown out of the acceptable age range, it seems that my sweet tooth has still stuck with me since childhood, and my top rankings remain the same.

TAKE 5

It just so happens that my all-time favorite candy is one of the most underrated and unknown. However, in 2019, Take-5 was re-branded by Hershey's into "Reese's Take-5" launching their popularity in the more recent years. The only downfall about this crossover is the new orange packaging, much different from the original green and black wrapper that allowed me to easily spot my #1 pick.

This delicious bar is composed of five ingredients that come together in perfect harmony: chocolate, caramel, peanut butter, peanuts and pretzels. Talk about yum!

REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER CUPS

My heart truly goes out to those that are allergic to nuts, because there is just something so magical about a chocolate-peanut butter combo. Each time I indulge in a cup, I enjoy letting it melt on my tongue because I feel like I taste the flavors



Photo Courtesy of @beastmode_germany Instagram

so much more.

I also love when Reese's turns these treats into pumpkin shapes, as it compliments the season so perfectly and enhances the holiday spirit to another level.

MOUNDS/ALMOND JOY

To say that I am a huge fan of coconut is a complete understatement. So pairing it with my other guilty pleasure of chocolate only creates a clear path to heaven for me. Even further, I love all types of nuts so the addition of almonds in Almond Joy's puts it over Mounds (but only by a little). was the sib-

HEATH

I love toffee, so Heath is an obvious win for me. Just like the Reese's cups, I feel like Heath's melt perfectly in your mouth, but in a different way. The buttery feel runs smoothly over your tongue and creates an explosion of hazelnut and chocolate! What's better than that?

MILKY WAY

A Milky Way is like a 3 Musketeers 2.0. The nougat paired with caramel adds a very much-needed flair to the bar. And while it's simple, it's still "oh-so-good".

When I was younger, I would always bite the treat in half and watch the caramel stretch from the other side, creating a bridge. It was a nice distraction to the sugar crash I would soon fall victim to.

GOETZES CARAMEL CREAMS

These chewy desserts are basically a thicker, smaller version of cow tails. With a caramel based perimeter and cream center, it's an obvious solution to a big smile. Not too many people give these out on Halloween, but whenever I saw them, I would always be sure to grab a handful and gleefully trot away!

M AND MS

Following in my mom's footsteps, I love the basic and popular candy that is M&M's. As soon as you open the packet, you're greeted with the fresh and powerful aroma of Hershey's chocolate, awakening the growls deep within your stomach.

Though it took me a while to figure out that the different colors do not represent different flavors, I still like to separate them into color coordination and eat them from least amount found to greatest amount found. I guess that's just my childish heart!

In addition to an unchanged favorites list, my candy "hit-list" stayed identical as well. Even though I know they are usually fan favorites, I just can't seem to enjoy any of them.

TOOTSIE ROLL

Somehow there is always at least one house that hands out these waxy bites. A tootsie roll tastes like how a scratch and sniff chocolate patch would smell. It's flavorless, breaks my jaw and has the same feeling as when you swallow gum.

STARBURSTS

I know I'm not alone in thinking that the only good flavor of a Starburst is the strawberry, pink cube. Yet, it seems like it's the most rare kind to find. I'd always get stuck with yellow and orange. Even so, I'm not a huge fan of the pink Starburst anyways due to it's waxy, chewy feel.

LOLLIPOPS

I honestly never understood the appeal of lollipops, especially Dum Dum's. To me, they're totally overrated and the only decent flavor is the blue raspberry.

There is no fun sucking on these things for hours which in return just ends up cutting my tongue and turning it a different color. I also always get a headache from the chemical flavorings.

AIRHEADS

Most Halloween treats have an overwhelming amount of sugar in them, but Airheads especially are mainly just sugar. Maybe they can be fun to play around with and make it look like your tongue, but they just aren't the best tasting candy you can choose from.

LICORICE

Not to be confused with Twizzlers, this black jelly rope tastes boldly of medicine. Neither me or my brother would go near this hand-out, as it was only a treat that elderly people seem to like. Even the smell just reeks of something I would not want to go near.

DOTS

How and why are these still a candy option? I don't know anyone who enjoys eating Dots so it's a shock to me whenever I see it in someone's basket or on the store's shelves. Similar to licorice, most flavors just have a medicinal taste to it. I give it a major thumbs down.

Every single person has different likes and dislikes when it comes to candy. And while you may find yourself hating a good amount of it, I can guarantee you that you will find an even larger amount that you'll love during this holiday.

Happy trick-or-treating, Stags...or maybe just "treating"!

A HAUNTINGLY PERFECT GUIDE TO THROW THE BEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

By Molly Lamendola
Editor-In-Chief

You know that meme that pops up around now that Mariah Carey is slowly defrosting ready in time for Christmas? Th at's me with Halloween.

I'm ready for the leaves crunching, the pumpkin-flavored everything, the gaudy decorations with distasteful spider webs and the tacky 90s movies that I've been watching since early August.

Further than that, I love to host a good themed party: the more ridiculous the theme, the better. Meaning, if you need an expert on how to throw the perfect Halloween party, I'm just the person you need to talk to!

STEP ONE: PICK A THEME

Though it might seem like a silly way to start, I'm telling you the best Halloween parties are cohesive in theme and style. Let's say you want to do vintage, 1940s style decorations with the cute traditional jack-o-lanterns and whimsical witch hats.

Or maybe you want to go straight horror, with some dismembered hands floating in punch

bowls and fake blood painted on all the walls.

I'm always a big fan of the hyper-specific theme, so I might throw a "Muppets Haunted Mansion" or "Clue" themed Halloween party, allowing for the perfect balance of spookiness and class that makes my apartment the perfect Halloween spot.

If you really want to go all out and truly make something spectacular, Goodwill or local estate sales seem to always have cool vintage pieces to truly make a theme pop.

STEP TWO: UTILIZE PINTEREST

Pinterest is God's answer to party planning perfection. It's just simply perfect for inspiration and good ideas for decorations, games, food and so much more.

Once you get your theme all secured, type it into the Pinterest search bar and wait as thousands of photos and ideas fill the page.

If you had the idea, some mom in the midwest has probably tried it already and there will be sample pictures, a step by step guide and all the ingredients you need.

As stated above, Pinterest is good for nearly anything your party needs, but it truly shines in the craft department. I utilized it often when I was a babysitter, and since no one

ever outgrows cute craft activities, having a few prepped and ready for your guests is never a bad idea.

STEP THREE: FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Huge trick here in creating some spooky food and beverages, you can make nearly everything spooky or Halloween-related with very minimal effort. Do you have Oreo cookies? Dip them in white chocolate, throw some cut-up licorice pieces on it for legs and you have a spider.

My mom used to take those tootsie roll lollipops, rubberband a tissue around the top and say it was a ghost. I saw one spooky food hack on Instagram where you use hot dogs and crescent rolls to make little mummies.

It's super cute, super easy and super delicious... which is the theme of this section. You just don't want to be overworking yourself here for any reason! Those fall decorated sugar cookies, with some leaf sprinkles, in the bakery section of your local grocery store will do just fine.

This lack of effort can be seamlessly carried into the beverages. I'm of the legal drinking age, and thus when I stumbled upon a TikTok about making fall mimosas,

where you mix prosecco with apple cider, I knew I needed to give it a quick try.

I'm telling you, it's absolutely worth it. Grab a \$3 gallon of apple cider, a \$10 bottle of prosecco, some caramel for the mouth of the cup if you're feeling creative and you've got a tasty beverage.

I think anything red can look particularly spooky as well. So some vodka cranberry beverages or Shirley Temples make the whole thing a bit more spooky and fun. Orange is a painfully ugly color, even if it's for Halloween, so no orange juice or orange soda will ever have my blessing.

STEP FOUR: PARTY FAVORS

To me, what's more important than decorations, food, or even party games, it's how people remember the great time they've had, so party favors are key. Especially if we want our party to be the complete talk of the town. I have two suggestions here.

One is going to Goodwill, picking up a collection of assorted frames, spray painting them and decorating them with some spooky spiders or glitter. You then take pictures at the party, frame one with the person in it and place it in the frame with a thank you card. Per-

fect!

My second idea is mixtape related. I love and have loved giving people personalised CDs since I was in high school.

You go to CVS, buy a pack of 100 for \$20 and then just make personalised playlists for your friends. Burn that playlist onto the CD, decorate the CD and case with a sharpie and you're good to go.

Since this is a Halloween party, we're talking about the need for Halloween music obviously, but get creative otherwise.

STEP FIVE: HAVE A GOOD TIME AND DROP ALL JUDGMENT AT THE DOOR!

I love getting overdressed for Halloween, I've always loved it, but that doesn't mean everyone loves it.

Halloween can be an expensive holiday to celebrate, so if someone re-wears last year's Halloween costume or wears just their work costume, I'm a judgment-free zone.

As long as you try, and still show up to my house to drink and eat and have a good, safe, spooky time, you'll get no comment from me about your lack of creativity.

Just throw something on, get into the Halloween spirit and pop over to my house. You'll be more than welcome there.



Halloween On The Green

By Matthew Adamski
Contributing Writer

It was an overcast Sunday afternoon for the fifth annual Halloween on the Green at the Fairfield Historical Society, but the weather did not dampen the lively atmosphere of the event. As I walked towards the event I could hear loud music, chatter and children laughing.

On turning the corner, it was like a scene from a movie. Kids were dressed in a multitude of costumes, running between parents, playing tag and comparing the loot of candy they acquired. There were little pirates, fairies, Buzz Lightyears and even a girl dressed as a box of donuts.

There was a bouncy line that can only be compared to that of the parents waiting for their turn in the beer garden during Parents Weekend. Booths were set up around the perimeter, with face painting, trick-or-treat stations, advertisements and a hut with a fortune teller inside.

A DJ was spinning some fan favorite tracks and there was even a station with witches, who were gracious enough to take a picture with me! It felt enchanting to stand with them, especially when one of them said, "we should be on all the newspapers!" after I introduced myself as a writer for The Mirror.

The picturesque scene was made thanks

to the mighty oak trees that stood around the square. The leaves were just in that transitory stage between a light green to a zesty orange and deep red.

The crunch of the dry leaves below me paired well with the warm breeze mingling



Photo Contributed by Matthew Adamski

A line of children wait to grab Halloween candy at the fifth annual Halloween on the

Green!

through all the attendees. And yet, during a Halloween event, my history nerd sensors were ringing at the opportunity to go to a colonial house that was open to walk through. People shuffled

through the creaking house, and keeping with the Halloween theme, there was a display of the witch trials that were local to Fairfield, Conn. Infographics lined the wall that told the story of those condemned to death for witchcraft. One such case study

was the trial of Goodwife Knapp who was hanged for witchcraft in 1653. She was a resident of Fairfield, where at her trial she refused to implicate others. In 2019 she was honored with a ceremony of

remembrance, and she was acquitted posthumously, which was also on display in the house. There was even a replica of the cloak she wore tucked away in the corner, which was an eerie, but appropriate touch for this time of year.

Upstairs I found myself looking through the paned window from the 18th century and I felt like I was transported to colonial Fairfield. Seeing the crowd outside, the kids running and the leaves changing would be a tranquil moment for any viewer. I loved it: pure and simple.

The staff was most gracious and was happy to tell me about the museum and the other upcoming events it will host, one being "Legends and Hauntings," through the centuries-old cemetery at Fairfield on Oct. 29 and 30. It sounds like a great, local experience and one that I will definitely be attending.

It was clear to me that there is a great sense of community here at Fairfield. At the Halloween on the Green event a sense of family reigned above all else and it made me even happier that I chose to study in this town and attend Fairfield University.

As I left, there was a chalk board with the header: "What would you change in history?" and one answer stuck out the most saying "to make all candy free!" and going into this "Halloweekend", I couldn't agree more.

THE HAYRIDE OF HORROR!

By Peyton Perry
Opinion Editor

I, for one, absolutely love Halloween and always have. But I especially love being scared. Ever since I was a little girl I loved going to haunted houses and hayrides with my family and friends.

As you get older, though, it becomes harder and harder to get scared. You start to realize that the monsters that used to have you on the verge of peeing your pants really aren't that terrifying. Or you end up spend-

ing \$30 to \$50 dollars on a haunted attraction that really doesn't have you on the edge of your seat at all.

Being a college student and without a car on campus adds an extra obstacle too. Last year, my friends and I didn't go to any haunted houses or hayrides at all; they all seemed too far away being a thirty to forty-minute drive, which is a very expensive uber ride or more geared towards little kids than our age group.

This year, I came across an ad for "Harvest After Dark" offered by Pilot House, a

haunted hayride and castle walkthrough located at 1230 Merwins Lane, right in Fairfield, Conn.! Tickets are only \$15 for the two attractions together, which I consider being a very good price. Also, it is close to our university so an uber ride is not nearly as expensive as it would be for alternative options.

Taking a risk, I convinced my friends to go with me this past Saturday night. We weren't really sure if it was for little kids or not and we couldn't find too much information online. We really wanted to go to a haunted attraction though, so we decided to give it a shot.

Arriving there at around 7:00 p.m. when it opened, we saw a huge cardboard Buzz Lightyear Cutout and sparkly lights. The parking lot was not that full and Disney cutouts along the walkway made me a little nervous that this was going to be for little kids. We bought our tickets, got our wristbands, and got in line for the haunted hayride, nonetheless.

As we were waiting in line, we walked by miniature horses and saw a mother kitten with her babies; it was so cute! There was also one drink stand selling hot apple cider, hot chocolate, beer, and fall cocktails; A couple of my friends tried the apple cider, which they both found to be absolutely delicious!

We waited in line for about thirty minutes, which was a long time for being as close to the front as we were. We soon re-

alized that this wait was because each individual group or family was taken on their own hayride. Some of us grew a little impatient and became worried that we were waiting too long for something that most likely would not scare us, but having each other's company made it not too bad. Eventually, the time came soon enough for us to hop on our hayride.

The hayride was very tiny, which I had never seen before, but I actually really enjoyed it; It made the whole experience a lot more intimate with our group. The hayride took us through several different stops with monsters ranging from clowns to chainsaw guys, dolls, werewolves, butchers, and more. Some hopped on the ride with us and they were allowed to touch you.

All of us were scared at one point, with a couple of my friends actually sitting on the ground in between the bushels of hay hiding! Even my most doubtful friends going in ended with smiles on their faces and we all agreed to get off the ride that it was actually really good. The castle walkthrough that followed impressed us just the same, with the actors being very good at jumpscares and scaring us. The scariest part for me was seeing one of the actors crawling at us in a bridge position as if she was possessed!

All in all, I was more than impressed; it completely exceeded my expectations. My friends and I will definitely be going back next year and are looking forward to being scared again!



Photo Contributed by Peyton Perry

Peyton Perry and her friends pose outside of Harvest Fair After Dark in Fairfield, Conn.

AN EVENTFUL ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND DAY

By Thomas Senesac
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 23, the Inter-Residential Housing Association hosted its annual celebration of "New England Day" in the center of Fairfield's campus, the quad.

As a part of Fairfield University's initiative to create a sense of community among the student body, New England Day aimed to bring all students from across campus together to enjoy one another's company with games, food, and conversation.

The event was constructed through the set-up of nine tables, one for each of the residential halls, each with their own unique autumnal themed game, and subsequent reward system: Jorges Hall hosted "Cornhole for Candy," Regis organized "Pumpkin Painting," McCormick had "DIY Caramel Apples," Southside set up "Lawn Games," Gonzaga set up a "Pumpkin Ring Toss," Langguth had "Fall Wreath Decorating," D-Town issued "Fall Arts and Crafts," Loyola was "Guess How Much Candy in a Jar" and Campion had a

"Potato Sack Race."

All nine tables were composed of the campus' nine RHAs, or Residential Housing Associations, which serves as a representative board for each particular residence hall or area within the IRHA. While each RHA hosts events for their own particular areas, "New England Day" was one of their collective activities.

During the event, on the north side of the quad, groups of friends walked along the stone paths from table to table, participating in what each RHA table had to offer.

However, the event did not consist solely of those directing themselves from game to game, but also of those who wandered for nothing but the joys of the moment: the crisp October air, relieving company, the trees that have turned.

One could not tell which, only one could see that it was there. And throughout the day, with the event tables bordering the continuous flow of students and the weather becoming more beautiful, the number of those who participated only grew.

While this event called

upon all students across all classes to join together, IRHA reached out to first-year students in particular as part of the university's effort to foster a community, particularly for that class. IRHA accomplished this effort through their use of first-year experience Inspire Credits.

FYE provides first-year students with a structured approach, to help support the incoming class in, not only being a collection of strangers, but rather a collective body.

Through FYE, first-year students are assigned to a small group, consisting of other first-year students, and they are led by one or two students in upper years, and one advisor.

One of the main functions of FYE is to give first-year students the opportunity to attend events and join activities happening around campus while also earning the credits necessary to pass the class.

These events are divided into the categories of Thrive, Inspire, and Connect. The designation is given to each event depending on the event's function and outcomes. Each first-year student has to at-

tend a certain number of those events, in each category, in order to pass and to properly fulfill the possibilities of a successful first year.

To make this event as fun as it is helpful for first-years, IRHA incorporated "fall passports" to each first-year that participated in New England Day. In order to fully receive their Inspire Credit, each student must visit each RHA table, take part in their activity and receive a stamp from those in charge.

Once all nine stamps have been placed on the student's passport, they are then given the credit needed for FYE.

Given that events are now finally able to be held safely on campus, New England Day had the subtext of being a revitalizing return to the classic college experience at Fairfield.

Surrounded by local fall weather, held in the mandala of campus, New England Day was a microcosm of the Fairfield experience that will hopefully serve as a precedent for the events to come, as it safely rebuilds the social environment on campus.



Brooke Lathe/The Mirror

Students poses with Lucas the Stag at IRHA's annual New England Day event.



A SPOOKY HALLOWEEN SOUNDTRACK

By Tatiana Ryan
Contributing Writer

Happy Halloween season everybody! As October reaches its near end, we celebrate the upcoming holiday in many ways. Whether you are waiting for your costume package at the mailroom, going apple picking with your roommates or simply waiting to consume the entire bag of Reese's next Sunday, the Halloween spirit is simply upon us as always.

Here is a list of songs that I have deemed appropriate for the spooky season. Featuring some old classic favorites to some new pop hits, add these songs to your playlist for the perfect Halloween!

"MONSTER MASH" BY BOBBY PICKETT

Beginning with the ultimate classic, this 1962 Bobby Pickett song is a must-have addition to any Halloween night. The novelty of "Monster Mash" has never and will never wear off.

"TIME WARP" FROM THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Any of the songs from "Rocky Horror" could be in this place, but "Time Warp" is just an undeniable good time. Between the nostalgia and the entire film itself, you can't go wrong.

"BAD HABITS" BY ED SHEERAN

Nobody writes a pop-hit like Ed Sheeran, and with a vampire-themed music video and staying in the Top 10 of the Billboard charts since its release,

"Bad Habits" is a 2021 smash. A track filled with 2:00 a.m.'s, neon lights and strange conversations concluded by the killer hook, "My bad habits lead to you."

"THRILLER" BY MICHAEL JACKSON

Undeniably renowned as one of the greatest songs and music videos of all time, and belonging to the second best-selling album of all time, "Thriller" is timeless in its horror movie-themed music video and a dance number that influenced generations.

"MONSTER" BY KANYE WEST FEAT. NICKI MINAJ, BON IVER, JAY-Z AND RICK ROSS

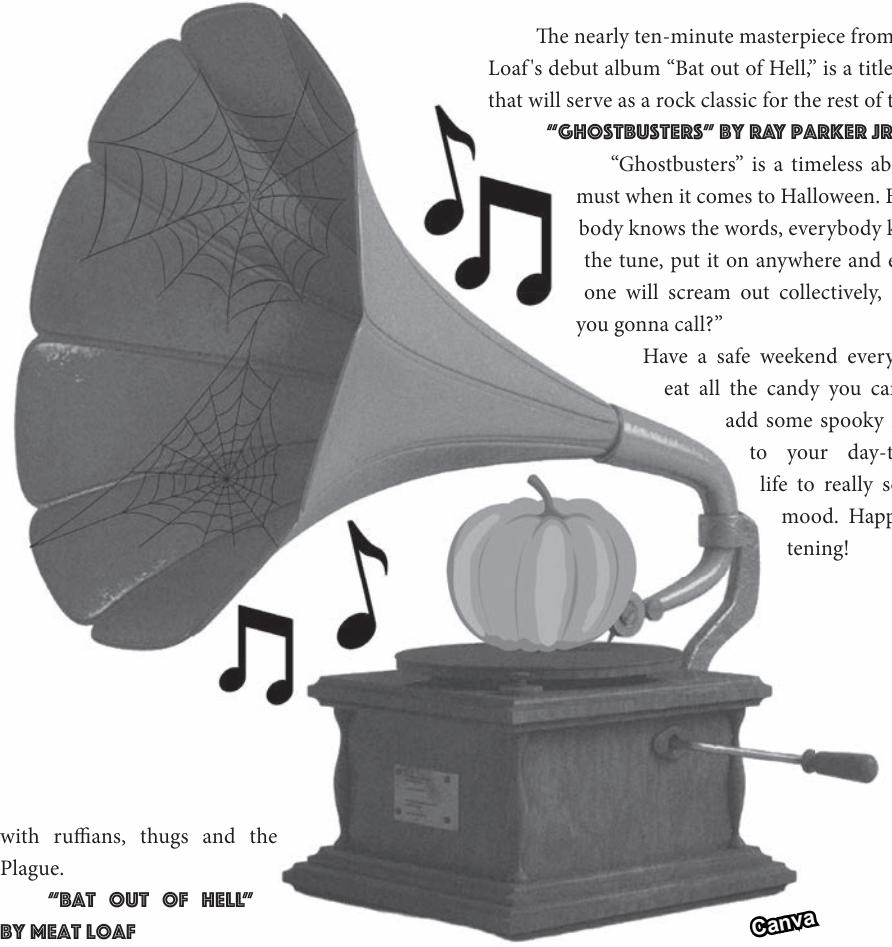
Nicki Minaj's verse on "Monster" is correctly believed to be one of the best rap verses of all time. As an amazing track from "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy", "Monster" is a must-add 2000s classic for Halloween.

"BURY A FRIEND" BY BILLIE EILISH

Eilish has said that "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" is influenced by her lifelong struggles with nightmares and sleep paralysis. "Bury a Friend" is all about the monster under your bed and the music video displays the terrifying, mind-bending depictions of a fearful night.

"MOTHER KNOWS BEST" FROM "TANGLED"

I know what you're thinking, "is this one of the best villain songs from any Disney movie?" Perfectly appropriate for Halloween time. It's truly an unmatched classic from 2010's "Tangled" filled



The nearly ten-minute masterpiece from Meat Loaf's debut album "Bat out of Hell," is a title track that will serve as a rock classic for the rest of time.

"GHOSTBUSTERS" BY RAY PARKER JR.

"Ghostbusters" is a timeless absolute must when it comes to Halloween. Everybody knows the words, everybody knows the tune, put it on anywhere and everyone will scream out collectively, "Who you gonna call?"

Have a safe weekend everybody, eat all the candy you can and add some spooky music to your day-to-day life to really set the mood. Happy listening!

with ruffians, thugs and the Plague.

"BAT OUT OF HELL" BY MEAT LOAF

THEATRE

FAIRFIELD'S

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

By Brooke Lathe
Vine Editor



Brooke Lathe/The Mirror

"The Thanksgiving Play" set was a present day high school classroom.

On Wed, Oct. 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 23 and 24 at 2:00 p.m., Theatre Fairfield performed its first live show since 2020: "The Thanksgiving Play" by Larissa FastHorse. This one-act satirical production is actually one of the ten most produced plays in the U.S. over the past four years.

Not only was I incredibly excited to see an in-person play again for the first time in a while, but I was also extremely thrilled to watch my first Fairfield theatre show!

Once I entered the Quick Center lobby, I was truly mesmerized by the beauty and cleanliness, as it was my first time stepping foot inside the building. Gorgeous paintings hung from the walls, slightly hidden by the statues placed in front and a large chandelier hung from the ceiling.

After receiving my ticket, which

was only \$5 for Fairfield students, I quickly found my way to the BlackBox area where small chair pods were set up for the audience. Once the spectator count reached 60 members, the doors were immediately closed in order to abide by social distancing guidelines. Additionally, in order to even enter the theatre, all audience members had to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination; otherwise, the audience was encouraged to watch the show via livestream.

This rule was to ensure the safety of all viewers, but also the student performers as they were maskless during the production. All actors were also fully vaccinated and tested weekly.

Lastly, throughout the 100-minute showing, there was no intermission. If you were to leave the theatre, you were not permitted back inside.

No food or drinks were allowed, as masks had to cover both the audience's nose and mouth for the entirety of the performance.

Waiting for the show to begin in my socially distant pod, I read the playbill which included a land acknowledgment stating: "We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke Golden Hill Paugussett, Niantic and the Quinnipiac and other Algonquian speaking peoples, have stewarded through generations that lands and waterways of what now make up the state of Connecticut. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land."

Additionally, there were two pages acknowledging the land and lo-

cal Native American history as well as a final page sharing notes on the first Thanksgiving

All while reading the show's playbill, the song "Indian Outlaw" by Tim McGraw played in the background. The repetitive and catchy chorus "Cause I'm an Indian outlaw; Half Cherokee and Choctaw; My baby, she's a Chippewa; She's a one of a kind," provided a good tone for what the audience was about to watch.

As the Director, Jacob Hofmann, states in his director's note located in the playbill, the play revolves around "four main characters [who] consider themselves to be 'enlightened' folks with the best intentions at heart. And like so many of us living in America today, these characters have blind spots."

The play takes place in a present-day high school theatre classroom, where a drama teacher, Logan (Emily Sheridan '24), tries to create a politically correct play about the first Thanksgiving for Native American Heritage Month. Her boyfriend, Jaxton (Jay Martins '22), alongside Alicia (Tracy Ferguson '22), a hired actress, tries to act in Logan's play. Caden (Carlin Fournier '22), a high school teacher and hopeful playwright, also jumps in to try and help make a good show.

While Logan hired Alicia to be a Native American "cultural compass" in the playwriting process, it is revealed that she is actually a white actress who roleplays as different ethnicities when needed. The four white, main characters frantically try to figure out a way to portray a historically accurate and politically correct representation of the first Thanksgiving without a Na-

tive American voice.

Sophomore Emily Sheridan, who played the role of Logan, shared that "This play made me look into issues that hadn't previously been on my mind. While preparing for the role, I read a lot of Larissa FastHorse's statements."

"This is something I wouldn't have done if not given the opportunity to learn about this show through Theatre Fairfield," Sheridan continues.

Overall, I thought all four students did a wonderful job in playing their roles. It could not have been cast more perfectly, as each character portrayed their character to a tee. Every line was projected enough so audience members could hear it and every line delivery was just right, invoking numerous laughs from all spectators.

An interesting addition to "The Thanksgiving Play" was the unique inclusion of four interludes: showing different videos in the format of "TurkTok," a satirical spin-off of the popular app, TikTok.

"According to the playwright, Larissa FastHorse, we 'are sadly inspired by the Internet, mostly current teachers' Pinterest boards,'" writes the theatre program director and show producer, Martha LoManco. She advises that we 'Play with the theatricality of these scenes' and to 'have fun.'

She continues, "As Producer, I thought it was an ingenious way of engaging college students who were probably quite familiar with the original TikToks that were being lampooned."

Keep reading at
fairfieldmirror.com!



COFFEE BREAK



SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

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

HALLOWEEN HOWLS AT FAIRFIELD

Nick Silvia, Contributing Writer

The leaves are falling, the light autumn breeze has that distinct smell and Fairfield students are busting out their Patagonia sweaters and Canada Goose jackets to remind you how much richer they are than you. Indeed, Halloween is just around the corner.

While most Fairfield residents are content to sip Starbucks pumpkin spice lattes on their parents' dime, others are celebrating in a different way: by dumping gallons of pumpkin spice directly into the Long Island Sound, which has taken on a distinct, neon orange color.

"It just looks so festive," said an unnamed beach senior through her tan infinity scarf. "And if we leave the windows open, the entire mansion smells like cinnamon."

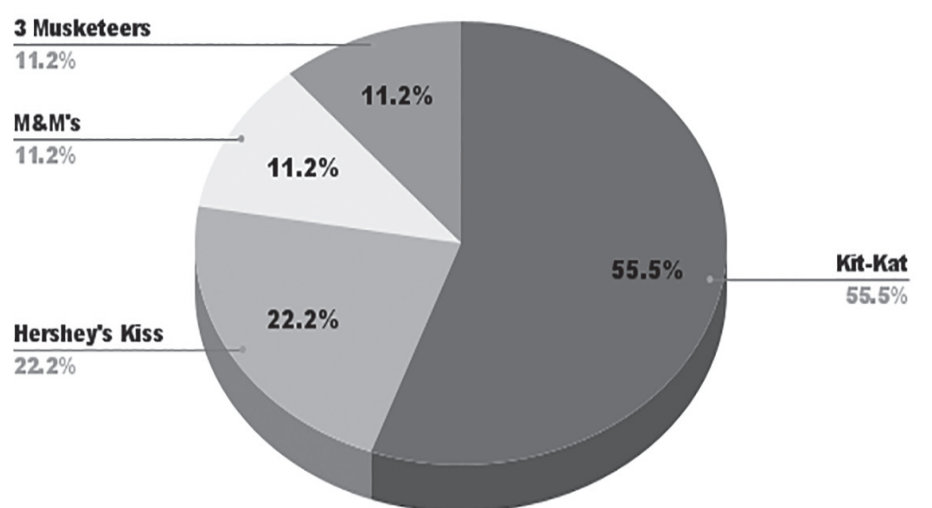
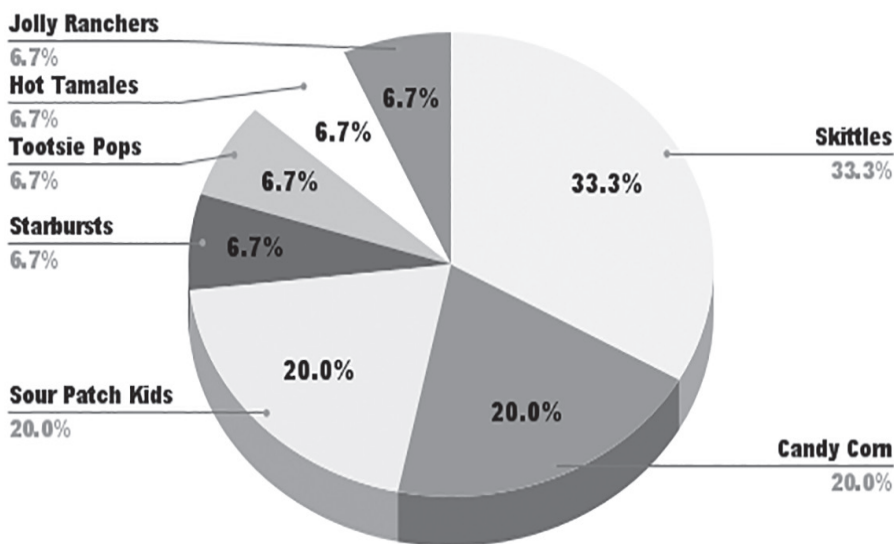
While the seniors carry out their noble mission, many first year students are adjusting to fall life at Fairfield, anticipating the final Friday before Halloween, when students traditionally dress in costume for all their classes (for legal reasons, this is a joke).

As Halloween night draws near, students are picking costumes that will ruin your childhood to prepare for the Townhouses, which are haunted only on Halloween by Fairfield's original mascot, Bambii. Those who he spares will be rewarded with apple cider, as well as eggs to throw at the Sacred Heart University library (for legal reasons, this is also a joke).

For those more concerned with treats than tricks, The Levee will be offering various candies, as opposed to The Tully, which will be trying to get rid of Super Bowl leftovers from February.

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

This week's poll was: **What is the best Halloween candy?**



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!




SPORTS

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



WE ARE STAGS



Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2
<p>Women's Soccer at Quinnipiac University Hamden, Conn. 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Soccer vs. Quinnipiac University Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.</p> 		<p>Field Hockey at Bryant University Smithfield, R.I. 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Swim and Dive at College of the Holy Cross Worcester, M.A. 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Swim and Dive at College of the Holy Cross Worcester, M.A. 4:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>Women's Rowing at Sacred Heart University Shelton, Conn. All Day</p> <p>Men's and Women's Cross Country MAAC Championship Lake Buena Vista, Fla. TBA</p> <p>Volleyball at Quinnipiac University Hamden, Conn. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Soccer at Canisius College Buffalo, N.Y. 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Women's Soccer MAAC Championship Quarterfinals TBD TBA</p> <p>Field Hockey at University of Vermont</p> 	<p>Men's Golf Metropolitan Intercollegiate Championship West Orange, N.J. All Day</p>	<p>Men's Golf Metropolitan Intercollegiate Championship West Orange, N.J. All Day</p> 

Arena 100: October Progress Report

By Thomas Coppola
Sports Editor

Since September, progress on "Arena 100" has rapidly taken shape through the weeks. In September, a steel framework was put into place after the rubble from Alumni Hall was cleared out; this framework only spanned around a quarter of the surface area of where the stadium will stand. Now, it spans around the entire surface area of the construction site.

Floors for the second and third levels have already been put in, and general foundations for seats seem to be already in place. Silver beams currently stand on top of the original steel foundation, which will likely serve as the support for the ceiling of the arena.

More cranes and other construction tools have popped up around the site, with the main crane still only slightly rotated in the center of the site. There also seems to be a gravel path adjacent to the side entrance of the Barone Campus Center, which allows for vehicles to enter and exit the construction area. As seen towards the left side of the picture, staircases have been installed, which will most likely be used for facilitation of movement around the site by the construction workers.

In an Instagram post by Fairfield University's official account, three overhead photos were taken of the arena's progress, with the caption reiterating the Fall 2022 completion time. In just a month, the construction crew has made an unbelievable amount of progress since The Mirror's last progress update in September.



Thomas Coppola/The Fairfield Mirror

In this week's issue...

- Opinion: Forecasting the NBA's Best Season-End Stars (Page 14)
- Beyond the Baskets of Fairfield's Disc Golf Course (Page 15)
- State of Connecticut Breaks Betting Boundaries (Page 15)
- Kress and Company Cap Off Impressive Win Streak (Page 16)

Opinion: Forecasting the NBA's Best Season-End Stars

By Lucas Themelis
Contributing Writer

National Basketball Association basketball is fully underway, with opening night putting on compelling games, like the defending champions Milwaukee Bucks taking on title favorites the Brooklyn Nets, as well as The Los Angeles Lakers taking on the Golden State Warriors.

Now that we have been able to see some of the NBA's biggest stars playing in their first games of the season, it is time to make some predictions for postseason honors.

Rookie of the Year: This year's rookie draft class is a hefty one. From the Detroit Pistons' number one overall pick in Cade Cunningham to sleeper picks like Miles McBride of the New York Knicks, this class has a plethora of talented players. Cunningham is probably the most highly touted prospect coming into the league but, with fellow Pistons Jerami Grant expected to take another step forward this season, Cunningham may not get the usage he needs to compete with some other rookies.

Cleveland Cavaliers center Evan Mobley is in a similar situation as Cunningham, being one of, if not the best, big man in the draft. What I see hurting Mobley this season is the Cavs' guard tandem of Collin Sexton and Darius Garland both taking a step in scoring. Mobley will be competing for rebounds with fellow starters Jarret Allen and Lauri Markkanen, all three of whom stand over seven feet tall.

One dark horse pick for rookie of the year that many people seem to be overlooking is Sacramento Kings pick Davion Mitchell. Mitchell is arguably the best on ball defender in this draft, and in the Kings season opener against the Portland Trailblazers, Mitchell was able to lock down star guard Damian Lillard, allowing only 20 points on 8/24 field goals. Keeping all

this in mind, the race for rookie of the year is really wide open, but the safest bet would be on Cade Cunningham.

Most Improved Player: This is arguably the hardest award to predict because, as fans, we don't see all the work that goes into the offseason. With that being said, there are still some educated guesses worth taking. Two possible candidates who had incredible games on opening night are Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics and Ja Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies. Jaylen Brown had a career high in points in his season opener which ended with a loss in double overtime to the New York Knicks. Although Brown wasn't able to secure the win, he was the clear scorer for the team while Jayson Tatum was having an off night shooting. Although it is unlikely that Brown becomes the number one option over Tatum, he should be receiving an uptick in offensive usage with the loss of players like Kemba Walker and Evan Fournier.

As for Ja Morant, in his third year in the league everyone is expecting big things, possibly even his first all star appearance. Morant is the clear future of the Grizzlies franchise, and it looks like it will be a bright future the way he has played since being in the league. Morant first seized the leagues gaze, by being the number two pick behind Zion Williamson, but then stole the show with his insane highlight plays.

Now, scoring 36 points on over 50 percent shooting in the season opener, the sky's the limit for this young star as he could take a step closer this season. Averaging just under 20 points per game last season it wouldn't be a far fetched idea for Morant to increase that to around 25. Now, considering that last season the Grizzlies were able to make playoffs while dealing with key injuries throughout the season, and Morant is set to turn up his play this season, Morant is absolutely poised to win the most improved player award.

One pick going under the radar is Ben Simmons of the Philadelphia 76ers. A lot of uncertainty surrounds Simmons this season with no one knowing where or if he will even play this season. If Simmons can get a trade to a weaker team, it is possible that he proves to the haters that he does not need a jump shot. With his size, vision, handling and defense he is already a very good player and it seems like many of his issues could have stemmed from being on this Philadelphia 76ers squad. If Simmons does fix his situation he could be a viable candidate for more than just the most improved player award.

Defensive Player of the Year: As stated earlier, Ben Simmons' award chances completely depend on if and where he plays this season. Regardless of where he plays, as long as Simmons is on the court, he will be a contender for defensive player of the year. His ability to guard the one-five is almost unmatched in the league.

Other candidates for the DPOY are familiar faces, such as Anthony Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers, Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks and Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz. Gobert already has three DPOY awards throughout his career and it's because of this that I don't believe he will win again. The politics in these awards can often outweigh the actual accomplishments of the players. Two players in history have earned four DPOY awards, Ben Wallace and Dikembe Mutumbo; I simply do not believe the NBA will put Gobert on their level accolade wise, and so he may be

snubbed this year.

Now, between Anthony Davis and Giannis Antetokounmpo, there is really no wrong answer which will ultimately narrow it down to preference. My pick would be Giannis.

Read the rest on our website!
fairfieldmirror.com

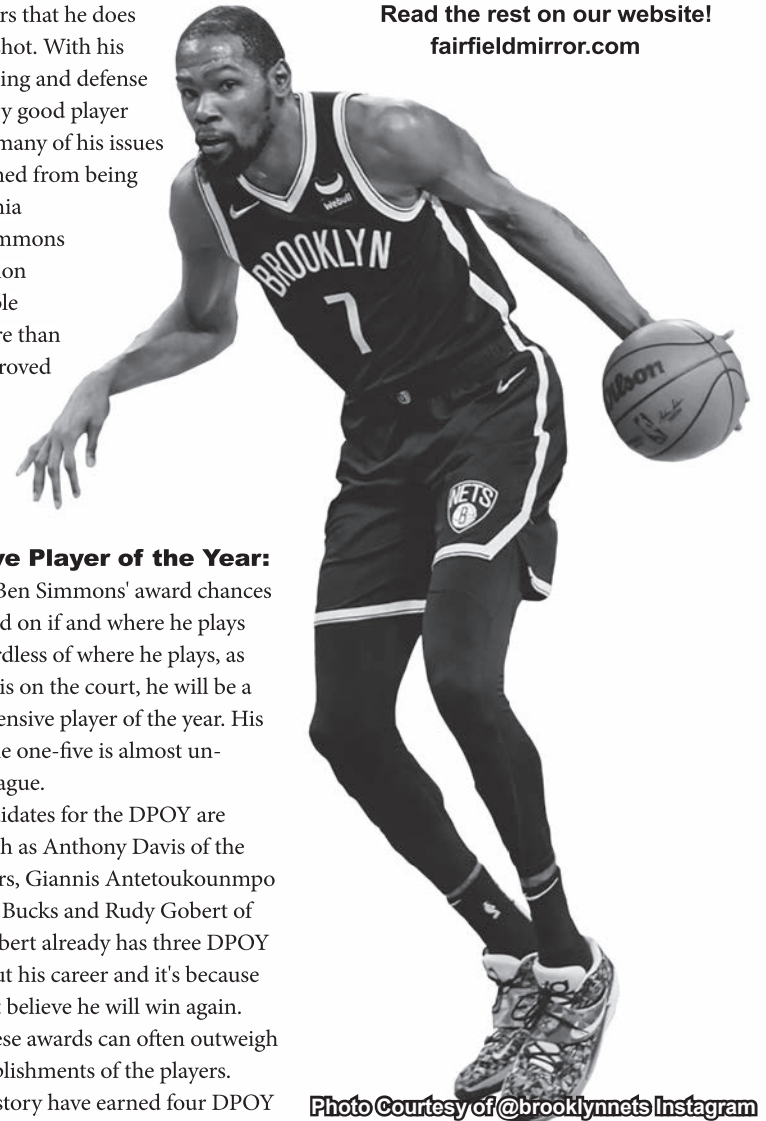


Photo Courtesy of @brooklynnets Instagram

Kevin Durant of the Brooklyn Nets will take on a much larger role this season.

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 is your Halloween costume this year?

I'm channeling my inner Dunkin' employee this year.

What is your favorite article that you have written for The Mirror?

"Opinion: Tom Wilson Should Face Stricter Punishment" is my magnum opus and probably the most strongly-worded article I've ever written.

What "side" of Tik-Tok are you currently on?

Italian food Tiktok. It's always the same guy from Staten Island that ends his food reviews with "take care, brush ya hair"... I hope he's doing well.

How did midterms week go for you?

It was quite the mental strain but no complaints.



Molly Lamendola
Editor-in-Chief

A modern-take on Robert Bellarmine.

My study abroad column was always fun, but my 4x5 responses are probably the best.

Drag, armadillos, snails and Dick Cheney.

I don't have them, so I've started memorizing all of the "Brat Pack" movies.



Julia Lanzillotta
Executive Editor

Thing 1 because I'm a twin and I'm unoriginal.

I really liked my first-ever news article about the firing of our basketball coach.

Noodle the pug-Tok. He either has "bones" days or "no bones" days, which decide my day entirely.

I've missed two so far... thanks, covid!



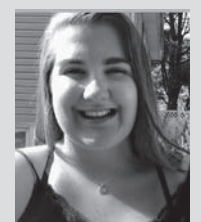
Tobenna Ugwu
Managing Editor

I don't really do costumes.

Mirror Collaboratives in coffee break for the win.

Definitely "bones/no bones" tok, music tok, food tok, and my favorite...w messy tok.

I'll get back to you on that.



Sheila McCombs
Managing Editor

I am going as Donna from "Mamma Mia" and living my dream.

I would have to say either my Met Gala piece this year or my March Madness piece from last year!

"Day in my life" vlogs and law school tik tok!

I wish I could say great, but honestly it has been a little overwhelming!

Beyond the Baskets of Fairfield's Disc Golf Course

By Thomas Coppola
Sports Editor

On any given day, a Fairfield University student can look out of the windows of the DiMenna-Nyselius Library and see a group of people throwing a disc into an unusual-looking chain basket.

Many have wondered to themselves, "What could they be doing?"

The answer: they are playing disc golf.

Disc golf is a sport entirely separate from ultimate frisbee, which some may know as more closely related to a sport like American football, where the goal is to complete a series of passes to get into the end zone.

Disc golf, on the other hand, is much more similar to the sport of golf. The disc that players use is best described as both a club and a ball, keeping with the golf analogy. With certain clubs designated for longer shots (drivers) and shorter distances (putters) and everywhere in between, the sport is very similar to the actual game of golf.

Although one of the fastest growing outdoor sports in the world today according to UDisc.com, disc golf at Fairfield University dates back to the 1990s, when Fairfield University associate professor of chemistry Kraig Steffen, Ph. D. helped design the course from scratch. In 1998, Steffen worked to install the first disc golf course, which featured 12 holes on the southern side of campus.

While creating the course, Steffen had a vision that it would be unique. "The course was designed to be a little bit of an anecdote to the normal New England course, which is a wooded pass," he stated. "Many of the courses in New England are of that type, so I wanted a more open course, but [which] still had the elevation changes."

As time passed, however, the University's plans eventually evolved, which saw some buildings spring up where holes previously stood. Steffen's goal while designing the course was to maintain the openness of the course, so that any player can see the next hole with relative ease.

"And so, it was designed to be reasonably, inherently safe, but also to blend in with the campus, in a way that if you didn't know we had a disc golf course, you wouldn't even notice it," Steffen said.

One key aspect of the course is that it is open to the public, even during the times of COVID-19. Disc golf is an entirely outdoor sport, just like regular golf, which allows for lots of social distancing.

Anyone is allowed to play the holes of the course on campus, with the expectation that they are following all COVID-19 rules in place at the time. Although vaccination is not mandated for students, Steffen's expectation is that all players on the course are vaccinated for the safety of students living on campus.

As Fairfield University's campus begins to open back up, there is one major idea on the mind of both Steffen and Ryan Peterson '22, who has assisted Steffen in his work to keep the course operating successfully. That idea is hosting tournaments, which would invite many professional players, like Peterson, to Fairfield's course for a day filled with disc golf.

Although tournaments became a reality eight years ago, they have ultimately paused due to COVID-19. Both Dr. Steffen and Peterson echoed that these are bound to return.

In order to expose more of Fairfield's students to the world of disc golf, they have stepped into the spotlight of demonstrations and clinics.

"Going forward, we're working with [program coordinator of competitive sports] Ethan Godfrey in trying to get more clinics running. That way, students can learn the basics and start playing," Dr. Steffen mentioned. As an added benefit, the RecPlex currently offers discs that students can use at the course.

A great site that is recommended to all students using the course's facilities is UDisc, which is a website that allows players to track their own scores. With the site, course maps are offered with

pictures and details on each hole that describes the amount of shots for par and other important information. On Fairfield's course, each hole is marked as a par three, except for two that are a par four.

With UDisc's site, there is an additional area where players can leave reviews on the course. This way, the community is able to come together and chat about their experiences, which also allows newcomers a chance to become accustomed with the course itself. "People come from out of town or far away, they'll play the course and they'll put up some comments like, 'I loved this hole,' 'I hated this hole' or 'My disc is in the lake if you want to fish it out,'" Steffen joked.

With any course, there exists a unique set of rules drafted by the Professional Disc Golf Association that helps with scoring. Since disc golf is a self-scored and self-officiated game just like golf, there are a bunch of elements that make the game unique.

Looking towards the future, Peterson mentioned that they are looking to make some improvements to the course to improve playability. "We're trying to upgrade to the newest model of baskets," Peterson mentioned. Another key idea for the two was improved tee pads, which would better highlight where each hole begins.

Although it may not be very noticeable to any one student walking around campus, the course is surely one of the most interesting and unique perks to campus life that offers outdoor recreation and simply a great time.



Senior Ryan Peterson has been playing disc golf for seven years, with success in various professional tournaments.

State of Connecticut Breaks Betting Boundaries

By Julia Lanzillotta
Executive Editor

By Thomas Coppola
Sports Editor

As of Oct. 19, the state of Connecticut completely legalized sports betting on all platforms. Those eligible to gamble are limited to individuals over the age of 21, or in the case of pari-mutuel wagering, which involves pooling money, this can be done by individuals 18 years or older.

In 2018, the United States Supreme Court came to a decision overturning the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, a 1992 federal law which banned commercial

sports betting, per the New York Times. Since then, many states have been rushing to legalize sports betting for economic reasons.

This was a long time coming, as this idea has piqued the interest of Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont since May 27 of this year, when he signed legislation which legalized online gaming and sports wagering in the state. The delay was caused by the federal government, who first had to "publish a memorandum of understanding in the Federal Registrar," as per Kaitlyn Krasselt of the Connecticut's Department of Consumer Protection, according to actionnetwork.com. Following federal approval, online sportsbooks had to seek state-level certification, which took several weeks.

According to a press release from the office of Governor Lamont, the venture is a joint collaboration between the Connecticut Lottery Corporation, the Mohegan Tribe and the Mashantucket Tribe, who will be offering their newly-legalized sports betting through their own respective mediums like FanDuel, Rush Street Interactive and DraftKings. As the same press release states, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection has approved over one hundred games and offerings through these sites.

CTInsider reports that the two aforementioned tribes have had separate agreements with CT since the '90s which outline the state's rights to gaming exclusivity within the state made possible by the percentage of revenue the tribes contribute. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation reported in 2019 that the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, Conn. and the tribe's other businesses draw in approximately 12.8 million visitors per year, with 77 percent of gambling expenditures coming from those visiting from out-of-state. This speaks volumes to the state's bustling gambling market, and the endless revenue possibilities for Connecticut as they expand the market to sports betting.

Both Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn., and Foxwoods Resort Casino are offering a unique set of kiosks and options to place sports bets right inside of the casino. In spirit of the new additions to the lucrative industry in Connecticut, governor Lamont placed the first legal bets in the state's history, symbolizing a monumental shift in the way that betting takes place in the state. "I am very proud to say that I placed the first legal, in-person sports wager in our state's history just two weeks ago, and I encourage those who want to participate in plac-

ing wagers to do so, responsibly," Lamont stated in the press release.

Boasting some of the largest and most popular casinos in the country, it is on-brand for the state of Connecticut to welcome a new and more digitized way of gambling, beyond retail betting.

The strategic move by the state allows for a new revenue stream, estimated at \$100 million a year going to the state according to an article by CBS New York. Connecticut follows suit with fellow northeast states like New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island in their efforts to make sports gambling more of a legitimate business as opposed to an underground market. ESPN's website shows a map of where sports betting is legalized, still being worked on, or not yet legalized.

A trade group called the American Game Association whose purpose is to represent casinos has praised the legalization of sports betting. President and CEO of the AGA, Geoff Freeman remarked that the new market of legal sports gambling "will protect consumers, preserve the integrity of the games we love, empower law enforcement to fight illegal gambling and generate new revenue for states, sporting bodies, broadcasters and many others."

This legislation gives the greenlight to not just domestic sportsbooks, but also offshore sportsbooks who can now legally provide their services to gamblers in Connecticut, thus expanding the opportunity for Connecticut residents to make wagers overseas. Furthermore, offshore betting is now available to 49 of 50 states, with Washington state as the outlier.

In order to keep legal betting profitable, tax rates must be low enough for legal bookmakers to compete with their illegal counterparts. As per the CT Mirror, the state of Connecticut will collect a 13.75 percent tax on all fantasy sports and sports betting.

As of right now, bets can be placed on college sports and esports (excluding those which involve Connecticut teams, and events that are part of intercollegiate tournaments), Olympic Games or other international sports and professional sporting events whose athletes' compensation is more than their expenses.

More information and details about the changes to betting laws in Connecticut can be found at ct.gov/gambling.



Photo Courtesy of @foxwoods Instagram

CT Governor Ned Lamont (Pictured above) makes the state's first legal sports bet.

Kress and Company Cap Off Impressive Win Streak



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

The Fairfield University volleyball team has finished off a 13-game win streak against a slate of MAAC competitors, finally falling to Canisius College in a hard-fought five set game on Oct. 24.

By Brooke Lathe
Vine Editor

Loud chants and squeaking shoes could be heard miles away from Fairfield University's RecPlex Field House on Oct. 24, as a tough five sets spanned out of the course of 142 minutes.

While the Fairfield Stags put up a strong, exhausting fight

against the Canisius College Grifins, their home court advantage wasn't enough to beat their overwhelmingly energetic and fierce opponents.

The final score came out to a 2-3 loss, the five sets' box scores were: 23-25, 25-20, 27-25, 23-25 and 14-16.

Besides set two, each round ended in only a two point difference every time, showing a perfect example of how touch-and-go each match played out.

This game marked the first conference match loss for our Fairfield Stags this season, their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference record moving to 12-1 and an overall record to 17-7.

Though a win was not guaranteed for our Stags today, six stand-out players helped contribute to the point successes during each set.

The sixth-year senior, Manuela Nicolini, dished out 55 beautiful assists to a powerful defensive line which included Laura Seeger '22 (15 kills), Mikayla Haut '24 (14 kills), fifth year senior Luci Albertson (11 kills) and Emily Schilinger '22 (10 kills). Additionally, Georgia Via '22 and Haut took charge of offense, both accounting for 22 digs each.

Earlier this season on

Sept. 25, the Stags won against Canisius in a 3-0 game: 25-21, 25-19, 25-20. When asked about what went differently in this

"You know that's a good sign of a good team is when you've got a lot of people contributing from different positions in different years as well."

- Todd Kress, Women's Volleyball Head Coach

match, Fairfield University volleyball head coach Todd Kress responded, "I didn't think we had a whole lot of grit [or] purposeful preparedness."

He further explained the team's struggle with the initial set of each game this season, sharing that he feels they "test the waters and see where we are at, opposed to coming out and putting out a product."

In an interview on Oct. 23, Kress mentioned how the team is in their "toughest stretch," as they finish off their sixth match in 11 days.

The constant travel and play is an incredibly tough strain on the body and mental health.

After the game against Canisius, the team is luckily given

a six day break until their next game. Within the final weeks of the season, the Stags have five more conference matches: three away and two on our home court.

Kress also shared that the key points regarding the team's previous successes, are the upperclassmen leadership, attributing this season's wins to players including Manuela Nicolini, Luci Albertson and junior transfer student, Kennedy Johnson.

An additional key player includes newcomers like Mikayla Haut.

"You know that's a sign of a good team is when you've got a lot of people contributing from different positions in different years as well," Kress states.

Another component that prepared the Stags for the 2021 season was their annual 10 week summer training sessions.

The strengthening coach, John Begley, aided in conditioning every athlete almost immediately following the Stags 2021 spring season, which was moved from the fall of 2020 due to COVID-19.

Within those practices, Kress says that the main focus was and still is "getting 1% better every day and that starts with our purposeful reps in practice."

Furthermore, an additional change for the volleyball team that is unrelated to the pandemic, is a change in location.

While each home game would normally be played in our Alumni Hall, the building is now under renovation and is not projected to be finished until late

fall of 2022.

This project forces the volleyball team to play in the field house located in the university's fitness facility.

"Alumni was a special place for our program with so much success there over the year," Kress shares. "I personally have a lot of memories here and I know our student athletes both past and present [do too]. But I think that the RecPlex has proven to be a nice spot considering the different alternatives we had."

A Teraflex court was installed by Rec Plex staff in the beginning of the season which provides a huge benefit to student athletes, as it prevents further harm on their body.

Additionally, with bleachers surrounding all sides of the court, the amount of people that used to be spread out in Alumni hall are now close together. This provides a more supportive feel which Kress thinks the athletes appreciate.

Todd Kress just recently notched his 250th win at Fairfield, and even though this is a huge accomplishment, he remains humble about future plans for the team.

"I'm not one that looks to the future by any aspect, we just focus on the next day and the tasks at hand and everything else will work itself out," Kress says.

The Fairfield University's Women's Volleyball team will play their next game away versus Quinnipiac University on Oct. 30 at 1:00 p.m.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Junior KJ Johnson has been a large factor to the Stags' offense this year.