



The College Reporter

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The stateless people: Thousands of Rohingyas flee religious persecution in Myanmar

BY BORIS ZYUMBYULEV
Staff Writer

In the region of Rakhine, in mostly-Buddhist Myanmar, the Rohingyas, a Muslim ethnicity, have become the “world’s most persecuted minority.” They are also a people unrecognized by nobody, living in fear, and welcome nowhere. Now the Myanmar government is cracking down on them following attacks on guard posts by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army; one in October of last year, and one on August 25, 2017. The organization claims to be posed against the oppressive Burmese regime and to act in defense of the Rohingya people, while the local government has branded them as a terrorist organization.

Using the attack as an excuse, the Myanmar government has responded with violence that the international community has called crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and even genocide. The surviving Rohingya



Photo courtesy of telesurtv.org

A family of Rohingyas flee from violence in Myanmar along a muddy path. They have been a predominantly Muslim stateless ethnic minority in Myanmar since the 1970s.

who have managed to pass the border speak of military troops unlawfully killing civilians, destroying and burning property and villages, raping, and torturing children and women. The accounts of separate refugees, even if from different villages, are strikingly consistent according to

human rights groups. Reports by the United Nations suggest that up to 400,000 Rohingya have fled the crackdown following the attack from this August. From Rakhine in Myanmar, they have trekked through the mud and rain of the region towards Bangladesh, seeking safety.

Christophe Boulierac, spokesman for UNICEF, fears the camps set up in Bangladesh are totally overcrowded. So far, more than half of the refugees are children and along with women make up more than two-thirds of all who have fled. Thirteen percent of the women are either pregnant or breastfeeding. The rapidly expanding camps and the muddy and rainy weather are straining the humanitarian aid offered. With the influx of people not seeing a decrease any time soon, a lot of the children are at an increased risk of human trafficking, sexual abuse, child labour and marriage according to Mr. Boulierac.

However, this is not the first time the Rohingya have faced persecution from the Myanmar government. They have been denied citizenship and basic national rights since the 1970’s, with restriction from even before that. Following the independence of Myanmar from British

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Caribbean islands grapple with recovery following the devastation of Hurricane Irma

BY SUNYA HASSAN
Contributing Writer

Hurricane Irma has left some of the most popular vacation destinations and tourism-dependent islands in ruin throughout the Caribbean. It is one of the most powerful Atlantic basin storms ever recorded.

Irma made its first landfall in Barbuda as category 5 storm on Wednesday, Sept. 6. It tore through the sixty-eight square mile island, destroying roughly ninety-five percent of the structures. The now-homeless residents of Barbuda were evacuated to the neighboring island of Antigua. According to the New York Daily News, Gaston Brown, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda stated,

“It is just a total devastation. Barbuda right now is literally a rubble.” He is now faced with the challenge of rebuilding what was destroyed, which is estimated to cost over one-hundred million dollars. Yet Barbuda and Antigua were still better off compared to other islands such as St. Martin, St. Thomas, and St. John, all of which are popular tourist destinations. These places are enduring an even slower and more arduous recovery, and the U.S. Virgin Islands stated that visits to those islands should be postponed until further notice. The British Virgin Islands, sixty small territories just east of Puerto Rico, have suffered extreme damage as well. Their government, as of Monday, said that it was working to restore

commercial flights, but timing as to when that would happen is still unclear.

Residents of these islands devastated by Irma still find themselves in the dark as the power remains out. There is also an increasing worry regarding the dwindling food and water supplies. Residents have been voicing feelings of abandonment, speaking up about widespread scarcity, the lack of generosity from neighbors, and even machete-armed volunteers standing guard over properties. One of the most populous British Virgin Isles, Tortola, not only fell victim to the storm but also to the looting that occurred in the aftermath.

The U.S. and European governments have supported their

territories and former colonies in the aftermath. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency said in a press statement that it had dispatched approximately 443,000 meals, 270,000 liters of water, and other supplies to St. Thomas and St. John. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also helping by shipping a 750-kilowatt generator to St. Thomas to restart the island’s power plant. Still, many of the islanders feel overlooked. St. Thomas resident Mike Simmonds said in an interview with CNN, “One thing I can say for the weather report... whenever there’s a storm in the area, they always seem to jump over the Virgin Islands before the storm hits. It’s

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Myanmar: Government comes under fire for alleged human rights violations

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rule in 1948, the Rohingya have been seen as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The Muslim minority, on the other hand, believes they have been around in the region of Rakhine (or Arakan) for generations. With the independence, the Rohingyas received identity cards, which were rescinded in 1982. Since then they have become a stateless minority within Myanmar. As such, they have been denied any citizenship, access to public goods, working in medicine, law, or government, access to formal education, or the right to visit the neighboring village. The result is that since 1970, an estimated 1.1 million Rohingya have fled

the nation. Up until the last three weeks most Rohingya resorted to human trafficking channels that promised passage to Thailand or Malaysia depending on where the price was the highest.

Kaene Shum explores the stories of several refugees and their experiences with fleeing Myanmar. Their accounts speak of horrible conditions, brutality, and indifferent smugglers who crammed hundreds of people in small boats. Depending on how attentive were the police and marine guard in Malaysia and Thailand, or whether the smugglers were payed or not, boats were abandoned or delivered.

If the Rohingya managed to reach their destination, they were transition from the ships to

refugee camps within jungles, where people could reconnect with relatives from abroad and leave. In later years of this trend, Shum notices that more women and children begin boarding the ships, some voluntarily, others involuntarily fulfilling smugglers' quotas, which points to the fact that either the men have already left or die under the Myanmar government.

Similarly, the past three-four weeks have seen mostly women and children attempt to leave the country. However, the difference with past practices is that this time they were on foot, trekking through the unfriendly muddy forests of Western Myanmar with nothing but clothes on their backs.

ty, in this number high officials from the U.N. and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates have condemned the violence, and challenged the leader of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to recognize the crimes against humanity that are happening in her country. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate as well, awarded for her campaign and actions against the Myanmar military government that ruled until she democratically became the country's de facto leader in April 2016. She has denied that the actions against the Rohingya constitute ethnic cleansing, and also suggested that the government still does not have complete power over the military. Her most recent decision is that she will not be present at the U.N. General Assembly in New York this week.

Regardless of her position, the world is seeing the "most persecuted minority" en route to its eradication in Myanmar. And even if the Rohingya leave the country forever, it is unlikely they will be welcome or safe anywhere else. The Stateless People have nowhere to go.

Sophomore Boris Zyumbyulev is a staff writer. His email is bzyumbyu@fandm.edu.



Up to 400,000 Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority, have fled Myanmar since August because of state-sponsored violence, including the burning of their villages. Photo courtesy of hrw.org

CRIME WATCH

- Thursday, Sept. 7, 10:11pm** - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a call at 526 N Charlotte over the odor of marijuana.
- Friday, Sept. 8, 7:42pm** - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 701 Harrisburg Ave.
- Friday, Sept. 8, 9:03pm** - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 602 N Pine St.
- Saturday, Sept. 9, 1:55am** - DPS received a loud noise complaint at 605 N Charlotte St.
- Saturday, Sept. 9, 1:37pm** - DPS received a report of harassment by communication at College Row.
- Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:53pm** - DPS cited an underage intoxicated student in Ware College House.
- Saturday, Sept. 9, 10:31pm** - DPS responded to Schnader Hall after a student pulled the fire alarm.
- Saturday, Sept. 9, 11:23pm** - DPS cited an underage intoxicated student at 437 College Ave.
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 12:31am** - DPS cited an underage intoxicated student in Schnader Hall.
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 1:16am** - DPS received a loud noise complaint from Buchanan Hall.
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 1:28am** - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 556 W James.
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 1:41am** - DPS received a report of sexual harassment in Ware College House.
- Tuesday, Sept. 12, 5:10pm** - DPS responded to a minor vehicle accident involving students at College Square.
- Wednesday, Sept. 13, 12:11am** - A student was found urinating outside of the Public Safety office and cited.
- Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:04pm** - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 526 N Charlotte St.
- Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:06pm** - DPS cited non-students for trespassing in Mayser.
- Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:57pm** - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 423 W James St.

Irma: Residents of Caribbean island nations worry for the future of their homes

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always, 'Is it going to hit Florida? Is it going to North Carolina?' I'm like, 'Hello. It didn't reach us yet. Tell us what to do.'

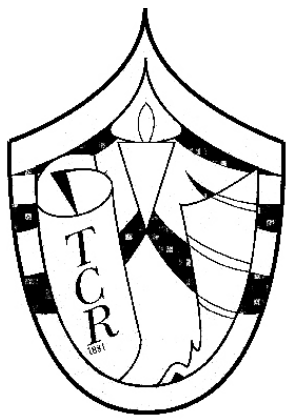
While the damage has been brutal, its full extent has yet to be determined. The situation varies from island to island and is constantly changing day by day. In some parts of the Caribbean, the storm has left thousands

to fend for themselves, while in others, the tourism business continues without fault. Whatever the case may be, there is no question that the Caribbean's recovery in the aftermath of Irma will be a long and grueling process.

First-year Sunya Hassan is a contributing writer. Her email is shassan@fandm.edu.



The island of St. Thomas was hit heavily by Hurricane Irma earlier this month and now faces a difficult rebuilding process that has left many of its residents uncertain. Photo courtesy of NBC News



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Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to *The Student Weekly*, which was formed in 1915 by the union of *The F&M Weekly*, founded 1891, and *The College Student*, founded 1881. The crest of *The College Reporter* was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.
The College Reporter is a weekly student-edited newspaper, published every Monday except during exam and vacation periods. The website was created by Tim Jackson '12, Christian Hartranft '12, Joshua Finkel '15, and Lauren Bejzak '13. The subscription rate is \$51 per year.
The Editorial Board, headed by the Editor-in-Chief, has sole authority and full responsibility for the content of the newspaper. *The College Reporter* and its subsidiaries are designated public forums. All content is selected and printed by a board of elected or appointed students. The Masthead Editorial is the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. No other parties are in any other way responsible for its content, and all inquiries concerning that content should be directed to the Editor in Chief. All opinions reflect those of the author and not that of *The College Reporter*, with the exception of the Masthead Editorial.

Full Staff Opinion

Franklin & Marshall College has always prided itself on being a liberal arts college. A place where people of all walks of life can come and share their opinions and beliefs with everyone. A place where you are not only exposed to topics related to your major, but also to other important disciplines. The college encourages discourse at all times, especially due to our diverse student population and many differing opinions. In fact, the curriculum that the college implements mandates that students participate in educational requirements unrelated to their major, and that they participate in seminar courses in which opinionated discussion is a vital component to the structure of the course.

Lately, however, the amount of political discourse on campus has been surprisingly lacking. Especially considering everything that has been going on in our country as of late.

One of the hallmarks of our beautiful campus has been the protest tree. A place where students, both anonymously and without fear of judgment, can put their opinions out for the campus to see. Recently, the tree has remained largely empty and is now simply a constant reminder of how little discourse has been occurring on this campus.

Not all people in this country have the platform to voice their opinions without fear of repercussion, and even more importantly, to have the opportunity to hear the opinions of their educated and civically minded peers. We have to remember how lucky we are to go to a great educational institution that both allows for freedom of expression and does not penalize its students for speaking their mind. We must take advantage of this great privilege and engage our peers in meaningful discourse. This kind of engagement can take many forms. We at The College Reporter invite you to express your thoughts in our weekly paper. However, a simple facebook post, a sign on the protest tree, or a simple conversation between classmates can be effective as well. Our message to you is simple: in whichever way you choose, simply start talking.



Photo courtesy of fandm.edu

The protest tree can be seen covered in flyers created by students who want their voices to be heard This tree was cut down in 2016, and another tree was assigned to be the designated protest tree in 2016.

Contributing Writer Commentary

First-year student shares experience transitioning from high school to college life

BY CAROLINE BECK
Contributing Writer

Starting your first year of college is an exciting yet overwhelming experience. There is a wide variety of emotions associated with the process. On the one hand, you get the opportunity to move to a new place and create a new chapter in your life. On the other hand, you have to leave your hometown, your family, your friends, your bed, and the routines you grew so accustomed to. When I arrived at Franklin & Marshall on August 23 to begin my freshman year, I was not sure how to react to this new transition. I looked around at the beautiful campus and slowly began to realize that this campus would become my home for the next four years. Having spent seven years at a small, tight-knit all-girls school, I didn't think I wanted to have a new home. I did not want to leave all of those memories or those people behind. Although I knew I was ready to go to college when the time came, I didn't have any expectations as to what it would be like. All I had was my dad telling me that col-

lege is the best four years of your life, which was something that seemed too good to be true. To my relief and somewhat surprise, the first few days of college were really enjoyable. I decided to sign up for the music pre-orientation program run by Dr. Norcross and some of the upperclassmen, which allowed incoming freshman who were interested in pursuing music at F&M to move in early, audition early for the band or chorus of their choice, meet other first-years, and have some fun. Although it takes me a while to adjust to a new place, I love meeting people and talking to people. This program allowed me to make some pretty amazing friends, and it allowed me to try to ease into college in a nice and relaxing way. It was also nice because I had forgotten what it was like going to school with boys. I was lucky that I had the chance to move in early because if I had chosen to go to another school, I'm not sure if I would have gotten this opportunity. Thankfully, I would not be on my own for the regular orientation and would have people I could hang out with while the rest of the

incoming first-years got settled into their dorms. The four days of regular orientation were long and exhausting, with lots of activities scheduled every day. I was getting more overwhelmed by college and especially the amount of people who were now on campus. I was feeling a mix of doubt and insecurity, asking myself if I had made the right choice in coming here to F&M. I ended up calling my dad almost every day of orientation. One day when I called him, I asked him why he told me that college will be the best four years of my life. He responded by saying he might have been wrong in telling me that and that there was another part to the statement. He told me that although college will include some of the best moments of your life, there will be instances that will prove to be some of the most difficult times in your life. You will be challenged academically and socially. You will meet people who you may never see again or who may end up being some of your best friends. There will be good days, frustrat-

ing days, and days where you feel completely alone. You will have amazing classes and boring classes. Above all else, college is a time of growth and self-discovery. You will learn more about yourself in the next four years than you could have possibly imagined. You will have so much freedom and responsibility. You will find happiness in the little things and become more appreciative of the relationships in your life. You will learn and laugh with the friends you make along the way. You will receive a top-notch education and use that education to make a difference in the world. And lastly, you will have the power to create your own path. This first year of college has been a huge transition for me. I'm still getting used to it a little bit, but I'm confident that I made the right decision in coming to Franklin & Marshall. I'm looking forward to seeing what lies ahead for the rest of the year as well as the next four years. First-year Caroline Beck is a contributing writer. Her email is cbeck@fandm.edu.

Contributing writer discusses the harsh realities of rescinding DACA

BY RILEY BROOK
Contributing Writer

I remember the first time I saw Anna's mom. She stood nervously in the corner of the gym where high school girls and their parents gathered for the official introduction to the high school girl's soccer meeting. After the meeting I walked up to introduce myself. As an upperclassman, I had always tried to introduce myself to the parents of the new soccer players. "Hi, my name is Riley. I'm a senior and I'm really excited to play with Anna." She hesitated before trying some broken English mixed in with a few Spanish words I recognized, before waving her hand in front of her face as if to apologize for not being able to respond. Feeling a bit insecure about my own Spanish, I gave the most polite smile I could before nodding and walking away. A month later, Anna and I were on the soccer field making small talk when I asked her about her family. My question made her uncomfortable and I immediately felt badly for asking. In time, and through a growing friendship, I learned that she lived off Federal Boulevard, an area in Denver well known as low income and high in

crime. Anna's dad worked for an auto company while her mom did jobs "here and there" in between caring for her three siblings. She eventually shared that both her parents were undocumented. She explained that although her parents had been trying for years to become legal United States citizens, they had not been able to fill out all the documents. They were waiting for Anna to turn eighteen so she could help them with the paperwork. At age fifteen, Anna was experiencing a reality that was completely foreign to me. She was scared her parents would be deported. She was scared she would

be left alone to care for her siblings, or be forced out of the only country she had ever known. All of these fears, shared on the soccer field of a prep school in Denver, where most of us were concerned only with beating our rival school. My world has been one surrounded by wealth and entitlement. I have studied in class and read snippets about the immigration crisis, the quest to build a wall, and the fear that illegal immigrants are depleting our resources and increasing our crime, but I could feel none of these things. That is, until I met Anna and compared her reality to my own. Now the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is in the headlines. DACA allows children of undocumented immigrants to live, study, and work legally in the United States, without fear of deportation. Today there are 800,000 people enrolled in the DACA program, some of which are our classmates here at Franklin and Marshall. With President Trump's rescission of DACA, the program is now in jeopardy and Congress has six months to figure out a solution. I have heard the arguments supporting the rescission of DACA. Those who break the law by coming here illegally should not be benefitted by giving their children a free pass to citizenship as it will only encourage further illegal immigration, so the argument goes. I don't buy it. It seems too simplistic an argument which ignores the complexity and the reality of the situation. Anna's reality. Rescission of DACA feels more like a betrayal of the foundation on which our country was built: hope, opportunity, empathy, freedom, and respect. There has to be a better way. I'm going to fight for Anna. First-year Riley Brook is a contributing writer. Her email is rbrook@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of telesur.com
As seen in Anna's story, many of those who would suffer most from ending the DACA would be innocent children, who face the possibility of their parents being deported.

Opinion & Editorial

Writer shares opinion regarding Sodexo, health, food options on campus

BY CHUN SCHLESINGER-FRIED
Contributing Writer

Franklin and Marshall College prides itself in providing students with an excellent education, in which students have the opportunity to explore their passions and have the ability to form close relationships with faculty. While the values of “community” and “hard work” are often emphasized on campus, the quality of food that is distributed to students is overlooked. The lack of attention to the food on campus has raised various problems, which must be taken care of and no longer left ignored.

Almost everyone knows about the infamous “freshman 15” that occurs to students who enter their first year

of college. If you were one of the few people who did not go through this unhealthy body transformation, then you were very lucky. But if you were like me, whose lifestyle changed from having a strict diet to consuming anything I wanted without parental control, then it was easy to fall victim to the freshman 15. While the freshman 15 is maddening, it is not the central problem about which students and parents should be concerned. The freshman 15 is simply a reflection of a major issue regarding the quality of food that the administration has allowed to be provided to students.

The struggle to maintain a strict diet is a constant problem that students must face on campus. Students who strive to eat healthy often

turn to a salad or fruit for their daily meals. However, how many times can you consume salad until you become tired of it? It isn’t just people who want to eat healthy that have limited food options. Students who are vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free face an even bigger challenge. Although the Dining Hall provides My Zone, Sustenance, and K.I.V.O. for people with dietary restrictions, there are not enough options. Additionally, anyone is allowed to consume the food, despite having those sections for people who actually need it. As a result of the limited selection of decent food, I went from being a pescatarian for over two years to stopping by sophomore year. I believe that says a lot about the school’s food, and honest-

ly it’s quite sad. While I was able to change my diet restrictions, people who cannot do so because of health reasons must continue to deal with the limited choices.

It is very clear that Sodexo does not have the capability or interest in providing students with decent, quality food. The fact that Franklin and Marshall is located in a county filled with a variety of healthy, organic food options, yet is still monopolized by Sodexo blows my mind. How can the administration demand students to maintain academic excellence while also allowing students to consume low quality food? If the school continues to work with Sodexo, there needs to be stricter health regulations. There were times when I could not finish a slice of pizza from D-Hall because the cheese was so rubbery. Luckily, I am living off campus and am able to make my own meals. However, students that are still on campus should be able to enjoy their meals.

I am not asking for Franklin and Marshall to provide students with sophisticated food. I just believe that we have the right to have access to a greater number of healthy food options. While installing Blue Line and removing SalsaRico were positive changes, they are just the first step to improving students’ eating styles on campus.

Junior Chun Schlesinger-Fried is a contributing writer. Her email is cschlesi@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of Burlington Free Press

Over the years, a common complaint amongst F&M students regards the food that they are being served. Sodexo is still showing an inability to provide students with a healthy, wholesome, and diverse diet. It’s certainly time to step up the F&M dining services.

First-year writer discusses importance of DACA, why it should be reestablished

BY JOSH FRIEDMAN
Contributing Writer

Last year, I wrote an article for my high school newspaper expressing my most genuine concern for the dangers of Donald J. Trump winning the presidential election. I continue to find that his unmatched arrogance and impulsivity continues to take a massive toll on both the foreign and domestic population. Trump’s most recent “did he really?” moment was his decision to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

It is unfortunate that prior to his decision, I was not very aware of what DACA was and why it is such an important program. DACA was established by executive action under the Obama administration. The primary purpose as stated on The Department of Homeland Security’s website is to allow individuals who immigrated to the United States as minors to receive, “consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal.” DACA could even help the qualifying individuals, or “Dreamers”, attain a work permit.

The Dreamers are hardworking, dedicated, individuals. Recipients of DACA protection have gone through extensive registration processes and the prerequisites to receive DACA are difficult to meet. While the great majority of applications received have met the requirements and have been approved, the protection granted is nearing its expiration date with an option to apply for renewal no later than October 5.

Now the argument can be made that DACA is indicative of the U.S. government condoning illegal immigration. While DACA is a program established for illegal immigrants, it is not a get out of jail free card. Individuals who were over the age of 16 when they arrived in the U.S. can not apply for DACA. It is not a program established for adults who came here. Children and individuals who came here as children are the sole applicants.

These Dreamers did not arrive in the U.S. with the intent to exploit the immigration system. The Dreamers were brought here for a better opportunity. The government should not deny them this opportunity.

I am a fourth generation american. A shutdown of DACA won’t lead to my deportation from this country, but I am still terribly concerned by the effect this decision will have on me. My concern is for the countless DACA recipients that came to the United States of America who now may have to be sent back to a country they can’t reside in safely; a country with a native tongue that is not their own; a country they don’t call home. The United States of America is my home, just as it is to the countless DACA recipients who arrived in this country as infants and toddlers. These people are teachers, construction workers, business owners, active duty service men and women amongst so many other things. The Dreamers are just as deserving of everything this country has to offer as I am.

DACA is an opportunity for rightful Americans to feel protected in their home. “Some 800,000 young people stepped forward, met rigorous requirements, and went through background checks. And America grew stronger as a result,” President Barack Obama said. To shutdown

DACA is to destroy any form of faith immigrants have in The United States as a place of refuge, of opportunity, of acceptance.

Congress now has six months to legalize DACA. I implore the population not to just keep up with the DACA decision as it progresses. Be a voice of change. It is too easy to watch people stand up for what they believe in. “...we can all extend our hands in friendship to Dreamers and their families, as well as to all newcomers, immigrants and refugees at Franklin & Marshall, in the City of Lancaster and in our home communities,” President Porterfield said in his statement to the F&M community. It is crucial that the F&M community expresses its support for Dreamers and DACA. “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Those words used to have meaning. Pursue the legalization of DACA and restore the value of this statement.

First-year Josh Friedman is a contributing writer. His email is jfriedm2@fandm.edu.

Campus Life

Naomi Klein speaks at Common Hour on Climate Change, Capitalism

BY RUBY VAN DYK
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, September 14, students gathered for Common Hour to listen Naomi Klein.

Klein is a Canadian author, journalist, and social activist who has become well known for her political analyses and criticism of corporate globalization and of capitalism. Klein has written multiple books including *The Shock Doctrine*, *This Changes Everything* and her most recent book, *No Is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need*, which was nominated for The National Book Award this past week.

In *No is Not Enough* Naomi Klein discusses the shock tactics of the Trump administration and the dangers that come along with them. She gives a warning of the incredible toxic potential of The Trump Administration, and what it may become. She calls for not only outrage, but resistance. On Thursday, Klein discussed both of her most recent books, and many of the issues we tackle today.

Klein began her talk by discussing the current state of the world and the United States. She pointed out that there is not just one single crisis that we currently face, but many, and they all compete for our attention simulta-

neously. She pointed out the difficulty of dealing with crisis, but also stated that crises are moments that we can learn from.

Klein said that there are no shortages of crisis and shocks within our country today, citing Hurricane Irma and Harvey, Forest Fires, White Supremacy, and violence, to name a few. What classifies a shock is that it doesn't have narrative and it shakes society. "If we are looking for a wake up call, we don't need to wait," said Klein. She emphasized that this is the time that we as Americans need to come together and respond.

Although Klein says that we are currently living in a time of tremendous political engagement, she says that for progressive people, "when it comes to claiming the world we want, things get more hazy." She went on to discuss the ideals and ideas that emerged after The Great Depression in The New Deal and said that "people have lost that optimistic ability to imagine a new future." Klein said that this is because of the neo-liberal war on imagination, and the attempt to constrict idea and thought. But she also argued that "this spell is starting to break" and that we are "starting to see a liberation of the imagination," especially in young people. She praised the mobilization of college students and young people, and their



Photo courtesy of villagevoice.com

Naomi Klein, Canadian journalist, social activist, and author spoke at this past Thursday's Common Hour on political issues prominent in her recent books.

new found willingness to call for and demand a better future.

Klein then went on to discuss a topic that she is very well known for: climate change. Klein is one of the best known organizers and authors of Canada's Leap Manifesto, which was a initiative written a few years ago by many prominent organizations and individuals in Canada in order to map out Climate Change initiatives.

"What we tried to map is less a list of policies - although there are 15 policies that came out of this - and more a shift in story," Klein said, "from a society based on endless taking to a society based on caring for one another and the environment."

Klein continued on to discuss the backlash and difficulty that pro-environment initiatives often combat. "What we propose does not fit within the box of what is politically possible, we want to expand that box."

What we need to do, Klein closed, is change what is politically possible. We need to resist shock. Because "Crises can transform us if we let them," and according to Klein, we need to let them.

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Author Emily St. John Mandel visits F&M, reads and discusses *Station Eleven*

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ
Campus Life Editor

This past Wednesday, September 13, F&M welcomed Emily St. John Mandel to campus. Her most recent novel, *Station Eleven*, is one of three other novels the author has published. She has received numerous awards for *Station Eleven* as well as for other works of fiction. She is also a staff writer for *The Millions*.

Peter Merani '18 advocated for her visit to campus after reading her most recent novel and feeling inspired. He worked with the Philadelphia Alumni Writer's House to make her visit a reality. St. John Mandel's visit consisted of a question and answer session at the Writer's House and a reading of excerpts from *Station Eleven* at Ware College House later that night. The events were co-sponsored by the English Department, the Program in Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Phillips Museum of Art, Ware College House, and the Public Health Program.

During St. John Mandel's Q&A session, attendees had the opportunity to ask her about her novel, her life, or craft in general. When asked about her use of multiple protagonists in her novel, she stated that she has "al-

ways been really interested in writing about group dynamics." This is something that became a point of interest for her from her life experiences. St. John Mandel revealed that, for *Station Eleven*, she had always wanted to use multiple characters, but ended up adding more as she went along. Among all the characters in her novel, the opening focuses on one particular character named Arthur who dies of a heart attack in the first couple of pages.

When asked about this narrative choice, she explained that she had always had Arthur as part of her book and always wanted him to die. The inspiration for the character came from reading an anecdote of an actor dying of a heart attack in the fourth act of *King Lear*.

When writing *Station Eleven*, St. John Mandel was interested in "the technology that surrounds us in the present," and the idea of the post-apocalyptic story came out of the idea to create contrast between the current world and one without technology. However, she was not interested in the horror and violence that would likely happen right after an apocalyptic event, but rather what happens 15-20 years after things have calmed down. This allowed her to focus on art in the

post-apocalypse timeline, which occurs after a flu pandemic. When asked about her decision to include a traveling orchestra and theater troupe that performs Shakespeare, she said, "the arts are what remind us that we're human."

In terms of craft, St. John Mandel said she personally does not usually start her creative works with an outline. Rather, the full first draft, as bad as it may end up, is written first before she goes back and constructs an outline.

She confessed, "my first rough drafts are always a complete train wreck." However, she noted that there is no "right" way to start a novel, and that people do it in different ways successfully.

It seems the greatest challenge in her writing process was the multiple timelines in *Station Eleven*. This was used to build tension as well as to juxtapose the present day with the post flu world. In using this stylistic choice with her timelines, she advised that even if the two timelines in a novel are separate stories, they still must have the same thematic end. She took her novel apart and put it back together again countless times over the span of three years to get to the finished product.

One attendee asked her advice for young writers starting out. "Finish what you start," she said. To St. John Mandel, it is easy to get bored with your writing and give up, but pushing through helps one become a better writer. For example, St. John Mandel wrote all four of her novels with a day job and was able to train herself to write under any condition to get her work finished. Going more specific into how she found the time to write, she described what she called "social ruthlessness." This is having the self discipline to tell people you have plans when you are invited to social gatherings, which would just be to write. She also advised that one does not need an MFA or specific qualifications to get published. She personally does not hold an MFA in creative writing. "Don't assume that the publishing world is closed to you," she said, as most agents and publishers care about are if you are a good writer or not.

With her visit to campus, Emily St. John Mandel provided further insight into her work as an author as well as advice to aspiring writers.

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Arts & Leisure

A reflection on Post Malone’s career, from “White Iverson” to new song “rockstar”

BY JESIKA ISLAM
Arts & Leisure Editor

Austin Richard Post, better known as Post Malone, began his musical career on SoundCloud with songs such as “Whats up,” “Tear\$,” and “Boy Bandz”. However, his true debut into the musical world was the release of “White Iverson,” and its accompanying music video. The song gained 400 million hits on YouTube and helped Post get his first record deal with Republic Records.

One year after dropping “White Iverson,” Post released his first mixtape “August 26” in May, suggesting that would be the date of his first album release. During this time, Post has done concerts from his SoundCloud hits, and opened for Justin Bieber on his Purpose World Tour, gaining fame and anticipation for his album. He became iconic for being a recently turned 21-year-old, with cornrows, a BudLight, and a cigarette. Despite his atypical appearance and his haters, Post never strayed from being himself. Every music video, performance, outfit screamed Post Malone. His fashion

choices include a Ferarri fan-pack, a Chanel candy necklace, and grills. Perhaps Post’s biggest claim to fame is performing at Kylie Jenner’s Sweet Sixteen and meeting Kanye. This performance connected him to Kanye West and he earned a feature on “Fade” off of Kanye’s controversial album “The Life of Pablo.” Post’s crooning voice can be heard in the background of the award winning music video with Teyana Taylor that was iconic because of the choreography and interesting story line.

Despite his mixtape being called “August 26,” Post did not drop his album until December. His first album “Stoney” released with eighteen songs, some of which were completely along the same genre as “White Iverson.” However, a lot of the album also spoke to Austin Post’s upbringing rather than Post Malone’s persona, and had a more folksy, acoustic guitar vibe. Seven of the eighteen songs had already been released as singles prior to the album that made the album seem more hip hop, but songs like “I

Fall Apart” and “Your Truly, Austin Post” added a deeper element to the album than money, girls and booze. He delves into how he felt touring and how tiring and lonely it can be.

His album released at the end of his Hollywood Dreams Tour, and he began his Stoney tour from Irving Place in New York City. From there he played at multiple music festivals and sold out medium-sized venues. While touring, he also found time to record in the studio and post two very short clips of unreleased music. In the videos he has a cigarette and BudLight in one hand, clearly very used to juggling both, his other hand holding the phone up in selfie video position and singing along to his own songs. “rockstar” was the first song to appear on Twitter, which was released before he cut his hair to have bangs and cornrows, and describes the party life of a superstar musician. The second song to appear, which was untitled, had the lyrics “got diamonds by the boatload” relating back to his consistent theme of gaining

wealth. During this tour he also tweeted the name of his next album “Beerbongs and Bentleys” which then was rumored to drop June of 2017. However, June came around and Post finally responded to the rumors saying that he never claimed a release date and people should not anticipate it anytime soon.

Post seems to be changing his persona again. He has stopped wearing basketball jerseys, sweatpants, and his hair in cornrows and has started dressing in pseudo-cowboy attire, and letting his long brown hair out. This change in appearance is accompanied by the release. “rockstar” features 21 Savage and has been very well received, even being reviewed as one of the best new tracks of the week from Highsnobiety.

Post Malone once claimed that he thought he would be a one hit wonder but clearly he has more in store for the world.

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Writer reviews Thomas Rhett’s “Life Changes”

BY ISABEL PARIS
Contributing Writer

Being from North Carolina, I have been a fan of country music all my life. I have always loved the traditional country music that goes along with roots, family, and love. I have been trying to make my friends who like it too. I had lost all hope, until I found Thomas Rhett. His third album, *Life Changes*, is Rhett’s slow transition from country to country pop, allowing a broader audience to love his catchy lyrics and easy-going vibe.

The 27-year-old has been changing the scene of country music with R&B tracks, EDM beats, and classic country lyrics that only a country artist could write. His third album, *Life Changes*, speaks to his current life. Only months after adopting an 18-month-old baby, Rhett’s wife Lauren announced she was pregnant. Rhett learned this in the middle of the tour for his second album, *Tangled Up*. His third album is filled with sentimental moments between Rhett and his family while also playing up his love for new and fresh sounds like “Leave Right Now” that add some EDM drops. Other songs reflect his new taste for dance music like in to with the “Craving You” which includes a powerhouse disco duet with Maren Morris. Rhett

also reveals the love story between him and his wife through songs such as “Unforgettable” and “Sweetheart” and the next new wedding song “Grave” that has lyrics that pull at the heartstrings. Even the life lessons in “Sixteen” and the harsh but relatable song “Gateway Love” prove to the audience that Rhett is not just a country music guy with a guitar but a talented artist that uses smart and lilting lyrics to bring the listener in closer. While he continues to grow his sound, Rhett still comes back to the bread and butter of country music in “Renegades” and “Life Changes.” As Thomas Rhett continues to mature when it comes to writing in the heart wrenching “Marry Me,” a song about a man whose love remains unrequited, ending with her wedding day.

Thomas Rhett continues to skyrocket through the charts with his many talented and brilliant songs that can only show his skill as an artist. Rhett was the artist that made my friends listen to more country music. This summer album will keep Rhett going up into country stardom and even bring in some more fans that were unwilling to hear a new sound.

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The Onion Dip:

The College Reporter’s new satirical column

Fraternity president denies accusations of sexism claiming he watches Comedy Central’s Broad City

BY KT THOMAS
Satirical Columnist

In response to the rumors circulating campus, Fraternity president, Westwood Vanderbilt III, called a press conference on Wednesday in the middle of Hartman Green to clear the air. Here, amongst a sea of pledges, Brothers, and some confused locals who wandered too far from the dog park, he bravely announced that he is *not*, in fact, sexist because he watches Broad City.

To prove his point, he then marched back to his room lined

with ripped out Maxim pages, turned on the show, and proceeded to laugh uproariously any time a male character spoke.

When asked his favorite part of the show, he responded, “I really dig the parts where they’re getting dressed to go to a party... wait, I’m no perv or anything. It just really gets me thinking about the s**t chicks go through to look hot for us when they get to the house. Now Workaholics... *that’s a show!*”

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Photo courtesy of <http://comedycentral.mtvnimages.com>

Arts & Leisure

Drake’s new playlist *More Life* finally drops after a year of anticipation

BY JESIKA ISLAM
Arts & Leisure Editor

Admittedly, I am one of the few that truly enjoyed Drake’s album *Views* when it dropped in 2016, with hits like “One Dance,” “Hotline Bling” and “Pop Style” featuring The Throne, comprised of Kanye West and Jay-Z. I thought that the album stayed true to Drake’s pop, R&B, rap roots that has made him so famous. So when “Fake Love” surfaced in October of 2016 I was really excited because the style was different and it felt more heartfelt while still retaining the catchiness that Drake brings to his music.

Fast-forward to March of 2017, after multiple false dates for release, Drake finally drops *More Life*. It was released by OVO Sound, Young Money Entertainment, Cash Money Records and Republic Records. The first thing to know about this collection of music is that it is not an album nor is it a mixtape. According to several reports, Drake did not want it to be as serious as an album, but wanted to satiate his fans between any major drops. So *More Life* is a playlist: a collection of new music that has a similar vibe. It is an interesting



Photo courtesy www.trendingallday.com

Drake performing in a concert before revealing debut date for the highly anticipated *More Life*, which came out March 2017

concept and regardless of technical term, *More Life* broke and surpassed all records. The playlist debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 charts. It also broke all streaming records on Apple Music and Spotify. Clearly, all of Drake’s fans were excited for his playlist.

More Life features Giggs, Black Coffee, Jorja Smith, Sampha, Quavo, Travis Scott, 2Chainz, Young Thug, PartyNextDoor, and Kanye West. Kanye’s feature on *Glow* was actually foreshadowed earlier with a tweet of a picture of North West in a bathtub with

glow sticks and the caption “Glow.” Needless to say, this was a highly anticipated drop. With all that preface I found the playlist to be highly disappointing. Drake made some bold artistic decisions that I was not happy with. The whole playlist was whiny and saddening, every song about a lost love and his anger or disappointment related to it. There were some good one-liners discussing his past relationships with Jennifer Lopez, an ill-fated rebound after his relationship with Rihanna, and other lines about his obvious

global fame. But overall, I only found two songs that made it to my own playlist, “Passionfruit” and “Glow.” Perhaps I am too hasty and harsh in my decision about *More Life*, but part of me also believes those who praised *More Life* praised it because it was a Drake creation. As of right now, *More Life* is not the best playlist to come out of the industry this year. Junior Jesika Islam is the Arts and Leisure Editor. Her email is jislam@fandm.edu.

M. Night Shyamalan directs movie *Split*, sparking discussion about mental health disorders

BY ALICE LU
Staff Writer

At the start of the year, renowned director M. Night Shyamalan released his thriller-horror film, *Split*. The film centers around a character with Dissociative Identity Disorder. This is not the first time DID has caught the interest of directors and screenwriters. *Primal Fear* and *Fight Club*, which both depict contentions with DID, helped Edward Norton gain countless awards and an immense amount of fame. *The Crowded Room*, a film that’s been “in development” for the past few years is said to revolve around the infamous Billy Milligan, a man who was acquitted on numerous criminal charges due to a successful insanity defense. Milligan and his 24 different personalities that granted him acquittal, will possibly be portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Crowded Room*.

The movie *Split* depicts a character with 24 different personalities on the big screen. The main plot is about a man named Kevin “Wendell” Crumb (James McAvoy), who had been abused



Photo courtesy www.wennermedia.com

James McAvoy acts as a man suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder in M. Night Shyamalan’s film *Split*.

by his mother throughout his childhood. Kevin shows evidence that he struggles with DID and has 23 different personalities to his therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher (Betty Buckley). One of his personalities kidnapped 3 teenage girls, led by Casey Cook (Anya Taylor-Joy), who had also been through the traumatizing experience of being tortured by her uncle. The Monster, Kevin’s not yet triggered 24th personality, starts to materialize throughout the film and becomes more dominant and controlling than any of

the other 23 personalities. While McAvoy’s performance achieved praises from audiences, it seems that M. Night Shyamalan’s reputation was not helped much by the success of *Split*. Shyamalan earned the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Director in 2011 and again in 2014. I personally still like this movie because it’s hard to not be captivated by the DID-disorder theme. In the film, the therapist, Dr. Fletcher, perfectly explains why the topic about DID is so

fascinating for both artists and the audience: “Have these individuals, through their suffering unlocked the potential of the brains? Is this the ultimate doorway to all things we called unknown? Is this where our sense of the supernatural comes from?” The film makes us ponder about the capabilities of the human being and the wiring of the human brain. Sophomore Alice Lu is a staff writer. Her email is xlu@fandm.edu.

First-years offer insight into the conflict between NCAA Division III sports and Greek life. Read more below...



photo courtesy of logos.wikia.com

Cowboys' Running Back Ezekiel Elliott faces domestic abuse accusations. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Issues arise from rules involving Division III athletics, Greek Life

BY RYAN KIGER & CAYLIE PRIVITERE
Contributing Writers

College offers an array of opportunities, both athletic and otherwise, to dabble in over the course of four years. Sports teams just scratch the surface of possibilities: there is a seemingly infinite number of organizations and clubs to be involved in to fully enrich one's college experience. However, despite efforts to cultivate a diversely engaged student body, some Division III sports teams are unfairly restricted from participating in a quintessential aspect of student life: Greek Life.

Several F&M sports teams, namely the track and football teams, have barred their athletes from participating in Greek Life for some period of time during a student's four years. However, this directly contrasts various other sports teams in which the majority of the team constitute a Fraternity. Athletes, particularly those who are restricted all four years of college, are forced to choose between their team and Greek Life, a decision athletes should never have to make if college is designed to produce multi-faceted individuals. Greek Life has much appeal to college students: being able to meet new people and expand one's social circle, the opportunity to become involved in philanthropy and even

joining the parliamentary style government individual to the fraternity or sorority. Due to the time-consuming nature of sports, meeting new people is a particularly important aspect for athletes who tend to exclusively socialize with other members of the team. Sophie Worthy, a Varsity Cross Country runner and member of ADPI elaborates: "Similar to the camaraderie found on sports teams, Greek Life can offer an incredibly rewarding way to connect with others. Greek Life allows athletes to form friendships outside of the team, bringing together our diverse campus community in a unique way."

While preventing student-athletes from joining Greek Life can be seen as a fair compromise with the best interests of athletes in mind, the prohibition of fraternities and sororities is a blow to the fundamental rights of students. College is a place to facilitate growth, where high schoolers acquire life experiences and mature by making their own choices about spending their time. Forbidding athletes from partaking in Greek Life on the basis that they are unable to make "good" decisions is preposterous and demonstrates the lack of trust confided in student athletes. Any student on campus, including student athletes, could find themselves in a fraternity basement

the night before a test, meeting, or big game. This is not dependent on their involvement in Greek Life, but rather on the lifestyle choices all students are free to make. The unjust subjugation of student athletes to this ridiculous stipulation has no effect on the performance of an athlete, considering anyone who wants to sacrifice their performance will still do so, even if they have no involvement in Greek Life.

Division III athletics is an ideal balance between sports and academics; student athletes have the opportunity to excel in both capacities with time left over to join clubs or other endeavors.

Barring student athletes from Greek Life violates the Renaissance Athlete Mantra, an ideology promoting well-rounded athletes at the Division III level. This blatant disregard for the interests of students devoting themselves to athletics should no longer be tolerated. It is our responsibility as student athletes to bring this unjust matter to the attention of F&M students to bring about change.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

First-years Ryan Kiger and Caylie Privitere offer insight into Division III athletics and Greek Life. Many coaches and Division III athletic programs frown upon athletes for being part of Greek Life despite the many benefits associated with the institution.

Stephens beats Keys to win final prestigious tennis major of year, US Open

BY ALEXANDRA D'ANGELO
Contributing Writer

On Friday, September 8 and Sunday, September 10 two new tennis players were crowned champions at the US Open in New York City. On the women's side Sloane Stephens won the singles title and Rafael Nadal won the singles title on the men's side. The US Open began in 1881 and this year marks the 136th year of the tournament which has always been held in New York City.

The US Open is a large spectacle in the area and around the world as it marks the fourth and final tennis major each year. At the beginning of the year, the first tennis major is the Australian Open, then the French Open, Wimbledon, and finally the US Open. The US Open, however, is the most memorable because it concludes the tennis season meaning that the winners will be remembered for several months before the next season begins.

If you don't know who Rafael Nadal is, just turn on any sports network and he will be the center of attention. Nadal, from Spain, turned pro in 2001 and ever since

then he has been winning majors non-stop. Since he turned pro, Nadal has won 74 titles and that number will only increase. At 31 years old, he is currently seated the number one male player in the world outshining Roger Federer, Andy Murray and many other excellent players.

In the finals of the US Open, Nadal was up against stiff competitor, Kevin Anderson from South Africa. However, Nadal brought out all of his strength in this match and was able to clench the victory in three short sets. The final score of this match was 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

Sloane Stephens is fairly new to the tennis pro's; acknowledging that, she won this tournament without even being seeded. Considering that all of the top players are seeded and Stephens still won is a major accomplishment. Stephens is only 24 years old and recognizing she was ranked 957th in the world last month and yet was still able to win the US Open, Sloane Stephens is the one that everyone should look out for.

Throughout the tournament Stephens had to beat highly

skilled players in order to make it to the top, including Venus Williams. However, Stephens was able to overcome these obstacles and make it to the finals where she played Madison Keys.

Keys was seeded 15th in this tournament but still had a heartbreaking loss when she got crushed by Stephens 6-3, 6-0. On the other hand, Stephens was completely blown away in shock that she was able to win the US Open.

"I always wanted to win a slam," Stephens said in an interview with ABC News' Robin

Roberts. "I always thought about it, but I never like ... pictured myself in that situation. Winning the last point ... when it happened I was like, 'Wait, what do I do now? Do I cry? Do I roll on the ground?' I was just so shocked."

This year the US Open was one to remember--it brought a veteran player back to the top and allowed a new player to experience all the glory that comes with winning a major.

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Photo courtesy of atpworldtour.com

First-year Alexandra D'Angelo offers insight into the final major of the year, the US open. Only 24 years old and ranked 957th in the world last month, Stephens blew away the competition and Madison Keys in the finals.

Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott faces accusations regarding domestic abuse

BY JOE YAMULLA

Opinion and Editorials Co-Editor

It shouldn't come as a surprise, but the Dallas Cowboys' star running back Ezekiel Elliott was suited up and played in the week one game against the New York Giants. For over a year, there has been an ongoing domestic violence investigation against the 22 year-old player. The situation is messy to say the least. Before he was even drafted, Elliott was facing numerous accusations of physical abuse and violence from a woman he had relations with named Tiffany Thompson. Elliott was never criminally charged during the case, but the Dallas Cowboys were aware of this well before they decided to pick him in the NFL Draft. In his first year with Dallas, Elliott hasn't exactly been gleaming with innocence. On Saint Patrick's Day, for example, he pulled down a woman's shirt in front of a massive crowd, exposing her to countless eyes, news screens, and twitter feeds. Finally, the NFL made the decision to suspend Elliott for the first six games of this season. However, his suspension was blocked by a federal judge due to his belief that Elliott was never provided a fair hearing in court. Sunday night Elliott had a monster game, the crowd was roaring and the Cowboys were patting him on

the back. I'm not sure how or why we become blinded to the horrible realities and seriousness of domestic abuse when someone wears an NFL uniform. Here's something I'm certain about, seeing Elliott out there on the field was nothing to cheer about.

Rumors have been swirling about the legitimacy of Thompson's claims against Elliott, putting her intentions with the running back into question. I really don't know what happened, and repeatedly examining it would only lead to the inevitable frustrations of heresy. But there has been a pattern of instances in which the victim has called police or made legitimate calls for help after claiming she was abused in some way by Elliott. She even posted instagram pictures of her bruises. Elliott has been denying these accusations, but we should never brush this off as meaningless. A victim could certainly lie and lose credibility. But, a victim also could be extending a legitimate call for help, and it would be an immense failure on our part to ignore it because someone is a big talent on the field.

Let's not forget there have been actions taken by Elliott that aren't up for any debate, like when he exposed a woman on Saint Patrick's Day. Plenty of people seem to forget that, or at least brush it aside.

Ezekiel Elliott is just one example of this, but there are plenty of other players in professional sports, not just the NFL, who get away with domestic violence. Our sports-centered culture loves to look the other way when it is most convenient. Domestic violence in sports needs to be taken as seriously as performance enhancing drugs and gambling. Each is extremely detrimental to the integrity of sports in its own unique manner.

Maybe the accusations against Elliott are completely bogus. However, the point is that it is extremely dangerous to continuously give the benefit of the doubt. Any account of domestic violence carries some major gravity. Twenty years ago, we brushed aside Nicole Brown Simpson's cries for help.

I really hope the truth comes out about Ezekiel Elliott, but this is a situation that is bigger than football. Seeing him play on Sunday, in spite of every accusation made against him and instances like Saint Patrick's Day, was extremely disappointing.

It's perplexing that we still haven't learned from our mistakes, and that we completely ignore possible cases of abuse.

Until this dispute has been settled, there is no place on the field for Ezekiel Elliott. However, there he was running all over the field, with thousands of fans cheering his name.

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Photo courtesy of sportingnews.com

Editor Joe Yamulla offers insight into Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott as he faces accusations for domestic abuse before the NFL season.

Champions League mid-season wrap up, new acquisitions, competition

BY ANNA GOOREVICH

Contributing Writer

Each year, soccer fans all over the world are entertained through mid-week competition where 32 of the biggest soccer clubs in Europe square off in the UEFA Champions League. This past week began this year's group stage games, beginning an almost year long tournament that will culminate in May where one team will be crowned Champions League winners, one of the most coveted prizes in soccer.

To start off the competition, the 32 teams are randomly sorted into eight four-team groups. In a round-robin style, each team will play the other clubs in their group twice. By December, the top two teams in each group will move on to the round of 16 and forward into the elimination stages of the tournament.

Since this week was the first opportunity for teams to earn points, it was essential for clubs to capitalize on their opportunities by winning early on. Some notable results from Tuesday's matches were Portugal's Sporting CP narrowly defeating Greek club Olympiacos 3-2, and Roma and Atletico Madrid being held at a 0-0 draw.

Additionally, Manchester United had a strong return to top-level European competition by gain-

ing the upper hand against Swiss club Basel FC in an exciting 3-0 match. The United squad was enhanced by their substitutes as two out of their three goals came from players who started on the bench: England's young star Marcus Rashford and Belgian Marouane Fellaini.

Paris Saint Germain (PSG) lived up to the expectation of being a favorite to win the tournament after demolishing Scotland's Celtic FC 5-0. PSG's star studded team was on full display as new signings Neymar and Kylian Mbappe both added goals along with a double from Edinson Cavani, setting the scene for a strong striking force throughout the season.

Lionel Messi led Barcelona by adding two goals to their 3-0 defeat of Italian powerhouse Juventus. Seemingly unfazed by the loss of Neymar to PSG this summer, Barcelona showed off their newest signing Ousmane Dembele as he impressed in his first start for the legendary club.

Group competition also heated up on Wednesday as many significant results were found throughout Europe. Last year's European Champions Real Madrid dominated in a 3-0 win against Cyprus club APOEL FC.

In one of the most anticipated fixtures of the group stages, North

London's Tottenham Hotspur got off to a winning start by defeating Germany's Borussia Dortmund in a thrilling 3-1 match. England striker Harry Kane proved his world-class status by notching two goals on the European stage, following up on the South Korean, Heung-Min Son's, opening goal in the third minute. Tottenham's win this week was crucial for Champions League success as they are placed in the infamous "Group of Death" made up of Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, and APOEL FC, all of whom present a strong competitive challenge.

Other notable results from Wednesday are Liverpool FC being held at a 2-2 tie by Sevilla, Besiktas defeating FC Porto 3-1, and Pep Guardiola's Manchester City team dominating Feyenoord 4-0.

Champions League group stage competition will be ongoing until December. As of this week's results, every team is still very much involved in fighting for a coveted spot in the elimination rounds beginning in early 2018.

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photo courtesy of irishmirror.ie

Recent acquisition Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior advances toward the ball as he is tripped up. Anna Goorevich covers both the events of his performance and others.