



The College Reporter

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Catalonia's separatist leaders facing criminal charges; Puigdemont flees to Belgium

BY SUNYA HASSAN

Staff Writer

On Thursday, November 2, a Spanish judge sentenced eight of Catalonia's separatist leaders to prison under accusations such as sedition, rebellion, and misuse of funds. These accusations may lead to thirty-year jail sentences for each of the leaders. Additionally, eleven lower tier officials have also been charged. Occurring merely a week after the Catalan Parliament's vote to secede, this situation has prolonged the brutal clampdown on separatist breakaway efforts.

By the prosecution's request, the former officials are to be remanded in custody until the trials are underway, denying their freedom on bail. This decision also means that high-profile Catalan separatist leaders will most likely not be able to run in the December 21st regional elections that Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy called after dismissing the government. Also by the prosecution's request, Judge Carmen Lamela is considering issuing an arrest warrant for former Catalan



photo courtesy of news.sky.com.

The former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont has fled to Brussels, Belgium to escape criminal charges filed by the Spanish federal government.

president, Carles Puigdemont, who—along with four of his ministers—fled to Belgium on Monday.

The extradition request is likely to set off diplomatic tensions between Spain and Belgium, since Belgium allows E.U. citizens to claim political asylum. It helps that the nation is partially controlled by Flemish national-

ists who are sympathetic to the Catalan separatist cause. On Tuesday, Belgian Prime Minister, Charles Michel offered words in Puigdemont's defense. He states, "The Belgian government did not take any steps to encourage Mr. Puigdemont to travel to Belgium. Mr. Puigdemont has the same rights and duties as any European citizen, no

more no less." As of now, the former president has not applied for political asylum.

In a televised address to Catalonia which appeared to be recorded from his hotel room in Brussels, Carles Puigdemont stated that he remains Catalonia's leader and demanded that members of his deposed government be released. Having refused to appear in Madrid court earlier that day, Puigdemont justified his absence by saying that the charges against him were politically motivated and that Prime Minister Rajoy's decision to use constitutional powers in order to strip the separatist of office was illegal.

Some activists have questioned Puigdemont's decision to flee to Belgium and set up a government in exile while his allies are forced to face charges back in Spain. But the former president claims that if he and his colleagues had remained in Catalonia, "I am convinced, according to the information I have, that there would have

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Current Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe wins re-election campaign

BY SUNYA HASSAN

Staff Writer

On September 25th, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced plans for a snap election. The results of said election were announced on October 22nd. They were unsurprising, but the aftermath may result in a change of Japanese military policies.

Initially, the country wasn't supposed to hold another parliamentary election until the end of 2018. So why did Prime Minister Shinzo Abe call for an early election? Purportedly, it had to do with addressing the country's economic policy. However, experts almost unanimously agree that it was a tactical decision on Abe's part. Earlier this year, two corruption scandals that implicated both his wife and several members of his parliament marred his historically high approval ratings. Accord-

ing to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, on August 1st, 60% of Japanese voters disapproved of Abe's performance, while 32% approved. His numbers had improved since then, but calling for an early parliamentary election served as an opportunity to crush any opposition towards him or his party. He argued that Japan needed a strong and stabilized government in order to address times of domestic and international uncertainty, referring to the looming threat of North Korea. It was a gamble.

The gamble paid off, as Shinzo Abe remains Japan's prime minister. The victory virtually assured him of retaining leadership of his party for another three years and also makes him the longest-serving prime min

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Trump's transgender military memorandum blocked by federal judge

BY NINA KEGELMAN

Staff Writer

In August President Trump issued a memorandum banning transgender people from military service. This proposal, which was announced via Twitter, would prohibit the admission of transgender individuals into the military and require the discharge of those transgender members currently serving by March 2018.

On Monday, October 30, federal Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly blocked the provisions of this memorandum, preemptively deeming it unconstitutional. Corresponding with plaintiffs and lawyers opposing this policy, Kollar-Kotelly denounced the memorandum and concluded that transgender service members would be harmed by discharge or rejection.

Kollar-Kotelly also criticized Trump's informal announcement

of the memorandum, which came through Twitter on July 26, noting its arrival as being under "unusual circumstances." In a string of tweets over the summer, Trump claimed transgender troops have caused "tremendous medical costs and disruption" to the military.

The Trump administration disregards Kollar-Kotelly's 76-page ruling as premature, stating that the Pentagon is still in the process of determining how the memorandum would be implemented. To rule on the policy now would be unfair. They also argue that the federal courts are not capable of judging military decisions in such a way.

Kollar-Kotelly holds her position, though, asserting that the Trump administration's reasoning is baseless.

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CRIME WATCH

Friday, October 27, 2:22am - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) performed a medical assist for alcohol abuse in Marshall Hall.

Friday, October 27, 2:27am - DPS performed a medical assist due to alcohol in Ware College House and confiscated a fake ID.

Friday, October 27, 10:07am - DPS received a report of criminal mischief at 520 N Charlotte St.

Friday, October 27, 10:29pm - DPS responded to a noise complaint at 546 W James St.

Saturday, October 28, 12:34 am - DPS received a report of underage drinking in College Row.

Saturday, October 28, 5:53pm - DPS responded to a noise complaint at 555 W Lemon St.

Saturday, October 28, 10:23pm - DPS received a noise complaint t 614 N Charlotte St.

Saturday, October 28, 11:34pm - DPS performed a medical assist for alcohol at College Hill.

Saturday, October 28, 11:42pm - DPS received a report of public drunkenness inside Thomas Hall.

Sunday, October 29, 12:32am - DPS performed a medical assist for alcohol at Steinman College Center.

Sunday, October 29, 1:42am - DPS performed a medical assist medical assist for alcohol at Bonchek College House.

Sunday, October 29, 2:34am - DPS performed a medical assist for alcohol at Bonchek College House.

Sunday, October 29, 3:54am - DPS performed a medical assist for alcohol at Bonchek College House.

Monday, October 31, 2:37pm - DPS reported a drug violation in Buchanan Hall after drug paraphernalia was found in the ceiling of a dorm room.

Tuesday, November 1, 12:29am - DPS performed an alcohol-related medical assist at College Row building #2.

Tuesday, November 1, 8:51am - DPS received a report of criminal mischief at the baseball field.

Wednesday, November 2, 12:34am - DPS responded to a report of disorderly conduct along College Ave.

Wednesday, November 2, 2:23am - DPS received a loud music noise complaint in Ware College House.

Trump: Controversial memorandum halted for violating Fifth Amendment

continued from page 1

She maintains that the President’s reasoning behind the memorandum is contradicted by research done by the military itself. There is no apparent support for the claim that the presence of transgender servicemembers has a negative effect on the military. In fact, research has found that the integration of transgender troops would actually “have minimal impact on readiness and health care costs” and would cause “little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness or readiness.”

Justice Department spokeswoman Lauren Ehrsam has expressed the administration’s disagreement with the ruling, saying they are still evaluating the requirements and that no apparent complaints from plaintiffs have been made.

According to Kollar-Kotelly, this decision would be found unconstitutional for violating the Fifth Amendment rights of transgender individu-

als. Several civil rights groups have sued the administration on behalf of transgender servicemembers, contending that the ban would not allow them their right to due process and equal protection under the law.

This ruling is significant in that it affirms the Constitutional protection from discriminatory government policies towards transgender individuals.

While it has frustrated social conservatives, who have been pushing for similar restrictive policies towards the transgender community in recent years, Kollar-Kotelly’s ruling is taken as a temporary victory for the protection of the transgender community’s equal rights.

However, the security of transgender persons’ right to serve will continue to be under question in the coming months.

First-year Nina Kegelma is a staff writer. Her email is nkegelma@fandm.edu.

Spain: Tensions continue in Spain as independence movement leaders are arrested

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been a violent reaction.” Other activist praise him for his retreat, viewing it as a strategic move that allows him to continue fighting for Catalonia in the center of the E.U. And Puigdemont aims to do just that. He said Tuesday that he plans to push Catalonia’s case inside the European Union and across the world in an effort to jumpstart the struggling independence movement.

Needless to say, the imprisonments in Spain earned immense backlash from independence advocates in Catalonia. Town squares were filled with protesters after the decision was publicly announced that same Thursday afternoon. In his televised address, Carles Puigdemont also called on Catalans to protest against the Spanish authorities. “A long and fierce repres-

sion lies ahead,” He states, “We must combat the situation as Catalans do, without violence, peacefully and with respect for everybody’s opinions.”

In the last seven years, the Catalan independence movement transformed from an almost irrelevant force into an undisputable threat towards Spain’s national integrity. And in the last month, that same alliance—due to the Spanish government’s harsh crackdown—has reverted back to a fragile and unwieldy state. Crestfallen but unyielding, pro-independence forces say they need to find a way to retake the initiative. They hope that the Catalan elections in December will help them do just that, and possibly offer them another chance at freedom.

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



photo courtesy of businessinsider.com.

Japanese prime minister Shinzō Abe is the leader of Japan’s Liberal Democratic party and is now the third-longest serving prime minister in post-war Japan.

Japan: Future of Japan’s foreign policy in question following snap election

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ister in Japanese history. According to exit polls, his hard line against North Korea’s missile and nuclear program helped him crush opposition parties. He has secured a strong mandate for it. Overall, his success in this recent election is mainly in regards to his uncompromising stance on the threat North Korea poses. Support for this rose after the regime’s launch of two ballistic missiles over the island of Hokkaido and the threat to “sink” Japan.

The snap election also opened the possibility of Japan’s post World War II commitment to pacifism eroding. Abe, a nationalist by Japanese standards, has long been urging for Japan to build up its military and prepare to use offensive force if necessary.

His success in this recent election allows him to keep pushing. Prior to the election, Daniel Smith, a political scientist at Harvard who studies Japanese politics stated, “Abe will try to push for a constitutional revision while he still can. If he does poorly [in the election], it’s probably back off the table.” As expected, Abe’s

victory succeeded in gaining room to push for a revision of Japan’s pacifist constitution, specifically the restriction on its military to a defensive role.

The impact of this would resonate beyond Japan. China, especially, has shown deep concern about the possibility of a fully militarized Japan. There are many in both China and South Korea that still harbor bitter memories of Japanese militarism during the World Wars. They’d see any move towards it as a threat to their security. Most Japanese voters are opposed to the revision anyhow. Liberals in Japan, especially, fear that normalizing the nation’s armed forces will lead to pressured involvement in US-lead wars. To make any changes to the constitution, Abe would require a supermajority. In other words, a two-thirds majority in both houses of the Japanese Diet and a simple majority in a national referendum. The outcome is unlikely, but not impossible.

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The College Reporter

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

This time last year, our campus was enthralled and fascinated by the 2016 Presidential Election. New signs appeared on the protest tree every day, students frequently debated politics inside and outside of class, college houses played the presidential debates in the great rooms, and organizations like F&M Votes came into classrooms to register students to vote. The push for civic engagement and awareness was very real on our campus.

Now, twelve months later, there is another election happening in Lancaster. On Tuesday, Lancaster residents will elect their new mayor and city council. This election is receiving much less attention from our student body. There is not a single sign on the protest tree related to it, and no televised debates for students to discuss. This trend is not exclusive to F&M, of course. According to the Knight Foundation, only one in five eligible voters participate in mayoral elections. Compare this to the 58% voter turnout for the 2016 presidential election according to CBS. These statistics mean



Voting is one of the most important actions a democratic citizen can take. F&M students should exercise their right to vote at the library of the seminary across the street from Shadek-Fackenthal Library on Tuesday, November 6.

that nearly 2 in 5 people vote in presidential elections but do not vote in their mayoral races.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Most of the students who registered to vote in Lancaster for the presidential elections are still registered in the city and thus can

still show up to the Seminary to cast their vote on Tuesday morning. All of us F&M students can show our support for our local community by voting. Although most of us do not live in Lancaster year-round, we are still Lancaster citizens for most of the

year, and it is important that we have a say in how our wonderful second home is run. As we learned last year, F&M students have opinions about politics. Now they should take advantage of the chance to share them on Tuesday.

Editor Commentary

Editor discusses stereotypes surrounding PTSD, not just a military issue

BY ALEX PINSK

Opinion & Editorials Editor

When people hear the acronym, PTSD, most think immediately of veterans and their mental health subsequent to fighting in war. And it's true—many veterans come back from the front having undergone traumatic experiences and seen disturbing sights that can cause varying degrees of mental illness. This is a huge issue in the military, and it is important that we all recognize that. However, PTSD is an issue that affects a huge number of people—and not exclusively veterans.

Post traumatic stress disorder is “a psychiatric disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of...life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or physical or sexual assault in adult or childhood” (ptsd.ne.gov). There are many instances after which PTSD can occur that include but are not limited to the examples given above. PTSD occurs when the prefrontal cortex, amygdala, and hippocampus do not work together properly. Normally, these three parts of the brain function together due to the nerve circuits that connect them. However, in an instance of PTSD, these circuits are often damaged (<http://dcoe.mil>). Thus, the brain is not able to cope with the issue at hand—an issue which can be an obstacle for days, months, or even years after the original event occurs.

PTSD is an issue which most people know a bit about but which is not a hot topic in the everyday life of a college student. Presumably, due to the stereotype that PTSD is solely a military issue, people do not acknowledge it as a disorder that affects many people around them. About 24.4 million Americans struggle with post traumatic stress disorder today, and chances are many of us know someone affected, if we are not one ourselves (ptsdunited.org).

It is unbelievable, in my opinion, how much air time we give to political and economic issues when social issues, such as mental health, are rarely topics of discussion. People withdraw from situations and discussions regarding mental health, particularly if they are unfamiliar with mental illness or are unaffected by it. We need to change this. On college campuses PTSD is more prevalent than many people know. In fact one in every nine women develops PTSD in her lifetime, and many of those women develop this disorder as a result of sexual assault (ptsdunited.org). Of course, it is indisputable that sexual assault is all too common on college campuses—with that in mind, also common is PTSD.

The conversation surrounding sexual assault and misconduct is limit-

ed. F&M has hosted events such as the “Forum on Sexual Misconduct” during which students have asked questions about the actions taken and policies surrounding sexual assault. The college has also made some effort to educate first-years during orientation about sexual abuse and healthy relationships. However, the conversations always seem to end there. Never do we talk about the mental state of those affected by sexual assault. We do not discuss coping mechanisms or have a solid support system in order—at least none that I know of, and I think just that says something. Sometimes it is about more than the incident, more than the outcome of the persecutor, more than the trial. Sometimes what is deserving of the most of our attention is the period after all of this is over—when the victim is often still affected more than anyone knows.

If you cannot think of someone affected by PTSD, you can at least think of someone affected by sexual violence. That person has, likely, undergone much mental stress and possibly has or has had some form of post traumatic stress disorder. But do we notice that? Not usually.

Many people are private about experiences that they have undergone and about mental illnesses in general, but these people need to know that there is some action being taken to improve communication on campus about these issues—whether that is done by hosting didactic forums, putting support groups in place, or holding a protest of some sort. We are better than this. What are we going to do?

The purpose of this article is not to explain why PTSD due to sexual assault is more significant than military related PTSD, or any other form of the illness for that matter. It is purely to explain that many of the people that we know and love on this campus are currently experiencing cases of PTSD—the majority of which, at our age, on our campus, are due to sexual assault. However, whatever the cause is, PTSD is a major issue and is, therefore, deserving of attention.

Victims of traumatic situations should not feel the need to hide or keep their experiences to themselves if they do not want to. We need to ensure that the community at F&M is a respectful and welcoming space for people to share problems that they have or situations that they have undergone. I think the only way to do that is to open up the conversation surrounding mental illness and eliminate the stigma that seems to therein lie.

After all, we are at college to learn and to grow. In order to do so, we all must feel as though we are heard.

Sophomore Alex Pinsk is the Opinion and Editorials Editor. Her email is mpinsk@fandm.edu.

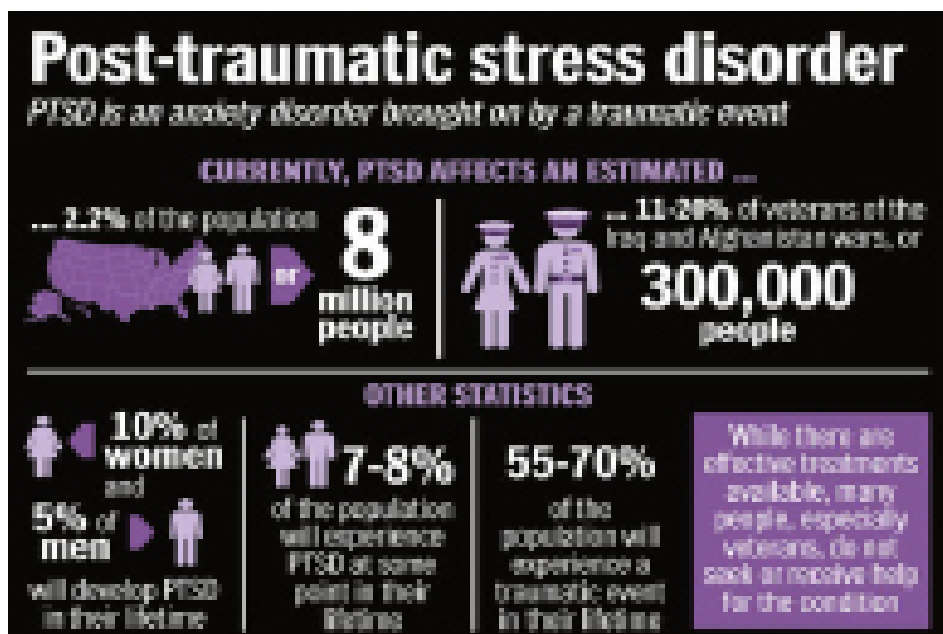


Photo courtesy of deseretnews.com.

PTSD is a huge issue in today's society. It affects a huge percentage of the population, yet it is not often a hot topic for discussion. We need to bring awareness to this issue.

Q&A with the Title IX Coordinator

Q. How does the police investigation work and intersect with the campus process.

Students may file a complaint with the College alone, with the police alone or with the College and the police. If a student files a complaint with the College but does also notify DPS, the city police are not notified unless the student would like there to be a notification. If the student files a complaint directly with Public Safety the city police will be notified and an officer may come to Public Safety to interview the complainant. The complainant may decline to speak with the city police officer. If there is a city police investigation, the College will defer its investigation briefly while the police gather evidence and interview witnesses, however the College will begin its investigation, typically within three to ten calendar days, and is obligated to do so by Title IX. The exception to this is if the perpetrator is not an F&M student. In that case the role of the College is to support the victim but there is no obligation nor ability for the College to prosecute the perpetrator. If a student would like to file a complaint with the city it is strongly advised that they meet with a Public Safety

officer who will usually accompany them to make the report. This is because the College's DPS officers are aware of the support and accommodations that the College can offer student victims while the LCPD's focus is on the investigation. It is important to note that if the victim does not file a complaint with the College but files directly with the city police and the College becomes aware of the allegation, the College will take steps to insure the safety of the victim and the College community which may

entail an investigation and hearing or administrative review.

Q. How can we make people better aware of the sexual misconduct process.

This is a frequently asked question. There are a multitude of efforts by students and administrators alike to inform the College community of the process as well as of bystander strategies and safety measures. There are frequent awareness and prevention efforts as well. There is a student and administrator committee to promote bystander intervention; the Bystander Intervention Committee or BIC. A student group, Sexual Assault Violence Eliminate (SAVE) which grew out of a merger of the former Women's Center Committee, also named SAVE, and Men United Against Sexual Assault (MUASA.) There is a Committee on Sexual Misconduct which includes members representing faculty, staff and students. The Committee is responsible for, among other things, the Sexual Assault Awareness website which is populated with information on awareness, prevention, response, the College Policies, safety, the adjudication process and help for survivors. There is an annual Sexual Misconduct Forum (from which this question arose) at which Dr. Porterfield, Dean Hazlett, the College General Counsel, Pierce Buller and the Title IX Coordinator, Jan Masland answer questions from students about all parts of our policy and process. It is very poorly attended. Part of my response to this question is to ask the questioner for suggestions. What would be most effective in getting this information to the student body and encouraging its attendance. Is there a better way?

Campus Life

F&M Dance Company performs, exhibits dance as knowledge at Common Hour

BY CHRISTA RODRIGUEZ
Campus Life Editor

This past week’s Common Hour featured the F&M Dance Company, incorporating both lecture and performance into the presentation, with a focus on dance as a way of knowing. Pam Vail, Associate Professor of Dance, and Jennifer Conley, Assistant Professor of Dance, both spoke on dancing knowledge and introduced the dances performed by the students.

Vail opened the Common Hour by presenting the dilemma of “talking about something that’s inherently nonverbal,” which is dance. She noted that intelligence does not reside solely within the brain. The rest of the body can hold wisdom and express knowledge, from social to sensual.

Vail said she has always been drawn to movement, and “moving as a way of knowing. It is knowing.” She brought up body-mind centering, or BMC, which is the notion that the body moves as the mind moves. Movement is crucial to knowing in this practice, and acknowledging that every body has wisdom. And through movement, one can access that intelligence.

Dance, Vail said, is not simply entertainment but also a way of interacting with the environment and knowing the world. Dancers can develop an understanding of themselves and their own bodies, which

helps them better understand others, which assists in empathy. In fact, Vail noted how some schools use movement to teach empathy, while some studies have also shown how dance improves test scores. Yet, dance is not taught in many public schools. When dancing, Vail stated, instead of turning off your mind, you instead use it differently through nonverbal knowledge. In turn, moving can help one understand different types of verbal knowing, such as science and history.

Jennifer Conley continued with the notion of dance as a way of knowing. She started by comparing choreography and dance. While choreography is a structured design that can be copyrighted, dance exists in the moment. While dance can be described by reviewers or captured by video and pictures, these do not “represent the complete phenomenon of dance.”

Given the ephemeral nature of dance, Conley discussed ways in which people can keep dance alive. Dance reconstruction is one way, as the people doing the reconstructing can go through videos, visuals and written accounts of the dance to reconstruct it. In this way, the dancers become “living archives.” F&M has a tradition of reconstructing and archiving dances by great artists. An example of this was the excerpt the F&M Dance Company performed that claimed not to be a reconstruction, but rather, a reimagining, of a



Photo by Christa Rodriguez

Members of F&M Dance Company performed excerpts from the upcoming Fall Dance Concert. Pam Vail and Jennifer Conley spoke on dance as a way of knowing.

dance originally by Isadora Duncan from 1904. F&M’s version was titled “Pandora and the Furies.” They also performed an excerpt of “Panorama,” a restaging of a work by Martha Graham.

Conley also discussed movement as cultural knowledge too. She said, “movement embodies cultural knowledge” through information such as when people within a culture dance, how they dance, who they dance with, and more. Cultural ideas become visible through the movements. This was exemplified by the Dance Company’s third performance, an excerpt of an Afro-Latin dance.

Vail talked about how people read movement during daily interactions as well as in dance. Dance “disrupts our habitual ways of knowing and seeing,” she said. As a choreographer, Vail says she starts by mov-

ing, as “the doing” becomes the research. Another excerpt performed was titled “The Traveling Tribe of the Wrinkled Skirts,” by Pam Vail herself. Lastly, Vail spoke on accessing attention and awareness through movement and “thinking in motion,” which was demonstrated by an improvisational dance performance. Emily Germani ’18, Dance and Anthropology major at F&M, also presented briefly about her research on why people dance on campus.

The performances at Common Hour were excerpts of larger works that will be performed in full at the Fall Dance Concert in Roschel Performing Arts Center November 30 – December 2, 7:30pm Thursday and Friday, and 7pm on Saturday.

Junior Christa Rodriguez is the Campus Life Editor. Her email is crodrigu@fandm.edu.

Colleges Against Cancer hosts acapella concert fundraiser in College Center

BY RUBY VAN DYK
Staff Writer

On Thursday, November 2nd, Colleges Against Cancer held an acapella concert with all four of F&M’s Acapella groups. The event was held in the College Center, where Colleges Against Cancer members were also selling baked goods that went to their cause: The American Cancer Society.

The event was hosted by members of the Rumspringas, who really got the crowd laughing, and even put on a sketch in the middle of the four groups’ performances. Up first was Sweet Ophelia, one of F&M’s all female groups. The group belted songs like “Paradise” by Coldplay and “Cry Me a River” by Justin Timberlake, captivating the audience with their gorgeous voices.

Next was Kite and Keys, F&M’s other all female group. The group started off with a somber and captivating edition of Adele’s “Water Under the Bridge” and continued

on with other beautiful songs like “Skin” by Rag’n’Bone man. The soloist’s voice soared through the College Center, as the audience listened intently to the beautiful rendition.

The Chessmen were up next. The Chessmen is F&M’s all male group, and they opened with “Come Together” by the Beatles, which really got the audience excited. They also sang Calvin Harris’s “Slide” (rap included) and finished off with an amazing rendition of Britney Spear’s “Toxic.”

Lastly, it was time for the Poor Richards. The Poor Richards is F&M’s only co-ed acapella group. They sang a beautiful rendition of Leon Bridge’s soulful ballad “River” along with an amazing version of Lady Gaga’s “You and I” that got the audience cheering. Each soloist was fantastic in their own right, and combined with the group, they gave a stunning performance.

Overall it was a wonderful



Photo by Christa Rodriguez

F&M acapella groups and the Rumspringas improvisational group performed for students as part of a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

night of beautiful music for a great cause and if you have not gotten the chance to come listen to F&M’s Acapella groups I highly recommend it, the talent is undeniable.

There are few opportunities coming up to see these wonderful groups, including on December 7th when all four acapella groups will be performing at Common Hour. Additionally, on December 9th, Sweet Ophelia and The Chessmen will be holding their

final concert at 5pm. Make sure to come support these wonderful groups, you won’t forget it.

By the end of the event, Colleges Against Cancer had raised \$353 in towards the American Cancer Society. Colleges Against Cancer meets every Tuesday at 7pm in Stager 215 for anyone interested in joining the club.

First-year Ruby Van Dyk is a staff writer. Her email is rvandyk@fandm.edu.

Arts & Leisure

Author Spotlight: Junot Diaz, a writer of the immigrant lifestyle

BY JESIKA ISLAM
Arts and Leisure Editor

Junot Diaz is a genius. There is no argument there, he is the recipient of the MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, PEN/ Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and the PEN/ O. Henry Award, according to junotdiaz.com. He is decorated, awarded and recognized as a talented writer. Now 48 years old, Diaz is a professor of Writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the fiction editor of the *Boston Review*.

Junot Diaz began his life in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. His family moved to New Jersey when he was six, stated in independent.co.uk. From here Diaz’s love of literature began. He began reading and walking four miles to borrow books from the public library. Reading allowed Diaz to feel the sense of belonging he lost when he left his home in Santo Domingo. From here Diaz went on to attend Rutgers University for Writing and then to Cornell University for an M.F.A. Diaz has published two books and a collection of short stories. According to npr.com, while *Drown* was first published in 1996, the recognition it received, created an unwelcoming environment for Diaz’s creativity, his next novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, was published ten years later, after a long struggle with writer’s



Photo courtesy www.extracrispy.com.

Junot Diaz, pictured, in an interview discussing his love for writing and food. He takes his food as seriously as he does his writing.

block.

Junot Diaz’s accomplishments do not stem from long superfluous sentences, or lengthy imagery of scenic views but from his distinct voice, his ability to portray the immigrant life, and raw, vivid emotional commitment that hooks the reader. Diaz clearly draws from his Dominican immigrant background that inspires the main characters in his novels, *Yunior* and *Oscar Wao*, and also the characters in his short stories. The characters tend to be of Dominican background and either grow up in immigrant communities, struggling with the dual identity that comes from relocating, or immigrants who are struggling to settle in a country that is vastly different and fairly unwelcoming.

Reading a Diaz book is a different experience. The narrators have their own voices, back stories, and motives. Each character is crafted and tailored to the situation, products of each of their own histories. The characters are well rounded and real. Diaz accomplishes with all his characters what most writers try to accomplish with just one, characters that the reader can sympathize with. The characters feel like his neighbors, best friends, and lovers.

Diaz depicts the stories of the immigrant trying to make it in the United States. He is willing to discuss how rare the story of rags to riches is, and how the world is unkind and unwilling. He is also willing to illustrate the nitty

gritty of the lifestyle. Diaz uses colloquial, deliberate language to describe the story, and the language is tailored specifically to the story, ensuring the reader is completely emerged in the story.

The capturing part of Diaz’s stories is in the simplicity of his stories and language. Diaz does not aim to write stories that are about extraordinary loves or extraordinary people, instead he chooses to write about the average immigrant, the one that no one would care to read about and makes him interesting. Diaz achieves making the mundane and boring, interesting and captivating.

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The Onion Dip:

The College Reporter’s new satirical column

Senior Bradley Herwood, of Chi Chi Chi fraternity, forgoes buying textbooks and puts saved money towards rehab he’ll eventually need

BY KT THOMAS
Satirical Columnist

If you’re wondering why every Brother of Chi Chi Chi fraternity’s back problems have disappeared, it’s because Senior Brother Bradley Herwood has started a paperless movement. This year, instead of wasting his father’s money on bulky textbooks, Herwood has decided to put the cash toward something far more important, his future, and his Brothers have adopted the trend.

He got the idea after noticing that rehab isn’t covered in his health plan when he accidentally read an article on healthcare leg-

islation while lining the walls with newspaper for the latest “fake news and tons of booze” themed mixer, and decided to be proactive and start saving now. “Of course we all set aside a few bucks for the slush fund first. We’re not animals. But, I figured, maybe dad will finally get off my back about the definition of ‘Alcoholism’ and mom will stop crying whenever she looks in the liquor cabinet after I visit home... GO TRI CHI!” said Herwood.

Senior Kt Thomas is a satirical columnist. Her email is kthomas2@fandm.edu.

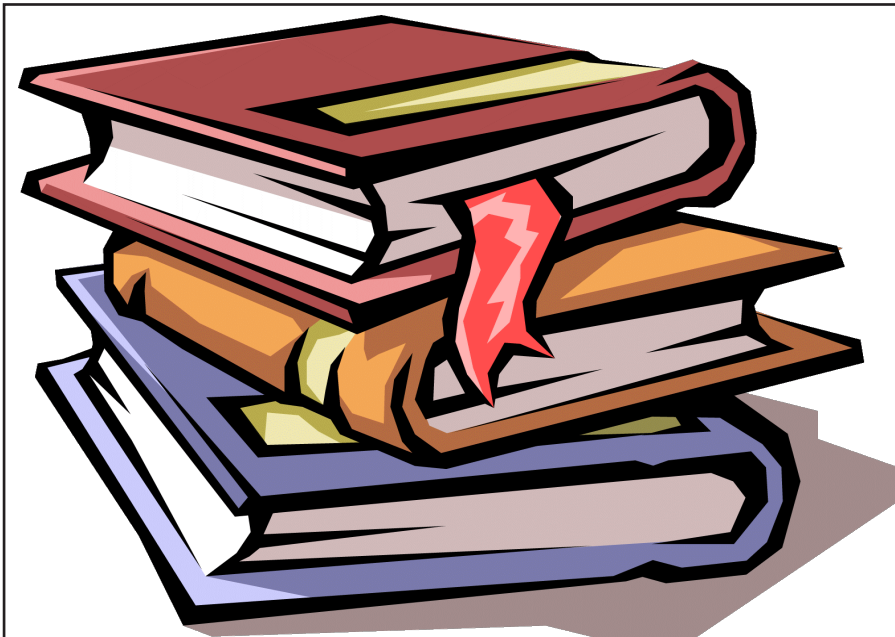


Photo courtesy of school <http://clipart-library.com>.

The U.S. Women’s National Team takes strides forward for women’s soccer worldwide. Read more below...



“Take a knee” protests cause issues within the NFL. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

The United States Women’s National Team’s plea for equal rights

BY ANNA GOOREVICH
Staff Writer

Throughout October, there have been many significant developments worldwide regarding the fight for equal pay among female national soccer teams.

The controversy surrounding the lack of equality between men’s and women’s national soccer teams gained traction in March 2016 when the US Women’s National Team (USWNT) filed a federal complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which charged the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) with wage discrimination and unequal treatment. The USWNT, at the time, was earning a fraction of what the men earned, despite having won three World Cups and multiple Olympic gold medals while the men’s team had very little success.

This ongoing battle was given a high amount of media attention, especially since many well-known US players, such as Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, and Megan Rapinoe, were heavily involved in the conflict.

The USWNT made strides last April when it was revealed that the team and the USSF negotiated a new collective bargaining agreement that would last until December 2021. The new agreement includes an increase

in compensation, improved travel and hotel benefits, greater support for players who are pregnant or adopting a child, and more. But despite the long battle, the US Women still did not achieve complete wage equality with the men.

While they did not completely achieve their goal, many international women’s teams have used the USWNT’s example to wage their own pay discrimination battles against their respective soccer federations. In early October, it was revealed that the Norwegian Women’s Soccer team reached an agreement with the Norwegian Football Association, the governing body of Norwegian soccer, to pay the men’s and women’s teams equally, making them the first nation to do so.

This is a significant step for women’s soccer as a whole, especially since the Norwegian FA nearly doubled the wages for the women’s team. Additionally, in order for equality to be possible, it is important to note that the men’s national team contributed a portion of their own salaries to the women’s team, revealing how fully committed the men’s team was to establishing equality between the men’s and women’s teams.

Norwegian player Caroline Graham Hansen expressed her gratitude

to the men’s team for helping them to take this monumental step in pay equality through an Instagram post that said, “Thank you for making this step for female athletes. For showing equality and for helping us all.”

Another important development recently regarding women’s pay equality in soccer comes from Denmark, where in September the women on the team forced a cancellation of an exhibition game with the Netherlands due to ongoing disputes with the Danish Football Association (DBU) over equal pay and treatment.

On October 18, the DBU announced that it had pulled its women’s team from their World Cup Qualifying match against Sweden that was originally scheduled for October 20th, due to the players’ refusal to gather after they were disappointed by the lackluster offer that the DBU proposed in their negotiations, which does not provide the players with pay equality.

Days later, it was revealed that the players and the DBU reached a partial agreement that allowed the players to participate in their World Cup qualifying game against Croatia on October 24th, which they won 4-0. The partial deal is only enough to grant the players the ability to participate in the qualifying games which ensures that

the team can have the chance to play in the World Cup in 2019. However, the players are pushing for a more formal collective bargaining agreement with the DBU that is more fair.

The DBU will most likely face sanctions from FIFA or UEFA due to the cancellation of the the qualifying game versus Sweden.

The bravery that the female Danish players had cannot be underestimated. By refusing to play in the qualifying match against Sweden, they risk their ability to play in the World Cup in 2019. However, it seems like the player’s refusal to gather for the game added the pressure necessary to force the DBU to negotiate a more fair deal with the women. It is evident that the Danish women are willing to put the success of the team on the line in order to gain wage equality, thereby setting an example for women’s soccer teams across the world.

Teams like the US who have yet to establish full wage equality evidently need to follow the examples and bravery set by Norway and Denmark in order to make greater strides in forcing soccer governing bodies to create more equitable agreements.

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“Take a knee” protests lead to a variety of issues within the NFL itself

BY ALEXANDRA D’ANGELO
Contributing Writer

In the last year, it has become commonplace for many professional athletes to take a knee during the country’s national anthem. It is said that these athletes, particularly football players, do this in a “display of protest and defiance” according to The Sun. In the last several years, perceived increases in police brutality and the desire to highlight social injustices have led to these athletes’ protests.

The “Take a Knee” movement was started by quarterback Colin Kaepernick when he knelt during the 49ers pre-season game in 2016. This started a huge uproar, as many took this as Kaepernick insulting the flag that our military members fought so hard to maintain. However, Kaepernick states, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and those of color.”

This initial movement by Kaepernick started a chain reaction leading other football players to take part in this form of protest as well. The protest has been seen at almost every NFL game since. Players have either knelt, sat, or

linked arms with one another as the anthem was playing. Some teams, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, took it as far to be in their locker rooms as the anthem played.

Donald Trump has become one of the main critics of this movement stating on Twitter, “If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU’RE FIRED. Find something else to do.”

President Trump takes issue with the fact that many of these players are bringing their personal beliefs in a place where the only thing that should be going on, in his opinion, is football. However, there are many that feel that the players’ protests give a voice to a movement that does not get much attention in this country.

In addition, many NFL team owners, officials, and players have criticized Trump’s comments. The critics even include those who were Trump supporters during his election and now tend to side with the players’ rights to protest. NFL

commissioner, Roger Goodell stated, “Divisive comments like these demonstrate an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL, our great game and all of our players, and a failure to understand the overwhelming force for good our clubs and players represent in our communities.”

However you may feel about the protests, they are having a direct impact on the NFL’s TV ratings. They are fluctuating now more than ever because of the different opinions on the movement. While the

players’ main goal is to bring attention to the issue of race inequality in our country and still want football to be a priority, it will be hard to convince those who oppose this idea otherwise. This will remain a hot topic in the world of sports as long as it continues and will continue to impact the NFL each and every week.

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Photo courtesy of theblaze.com.

As NFL players have continued to follow Kaepernick in the “Take a Knee” movement protesting the national anthem, the NFL itself has faced a variety of issues ranging from fan backlash to plummeting TV ratings.