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Great Britain still struggles to separate from the European Union via Brexit vote

BY JEREMY MAUSER

Staff Writer

Nearly three years ago, the people of Great Britain voted in a referendum to depart from the European Union, the trade bloc that consists of 27 European nations. Since then, British leaders—including current Prime Minister Theresa May—have been working to draft a deal for the departure.

This past Friday, May asked for a second delay in the departure date.

Originally, the British Parliament was supposed to pass the deal by March 29, 2019. However, after many failed attempts to pass deals that would determine the terms and means of Great Britain removing itself from the bloc, the date was then pushed back to April 12. Brussels, the European Union headquarters, denied May's original request to change it to June 30, but she is now more optimistic that they will accept it.

One complication behind the requested extension is that the European Parliament will be hosting elections from May 23-26. Britain could choose to remain in the European Union and elect

specific enough to stand behind.

After months of political deadlock, May reached out to Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour Party, in attempts to reach an agreement.

However, according to May, they did not reach any solid compromise in these talks and will instead set out different paths from which the British Parliament can choose the best option.

If Brussels does not grant an extension and Britain is unable to pass a departure deal by its current deadline, then a “no-deal Brexit” could occur. If this were the case, then Britain would have no legal trade arrangements with its neighboring countries and would be particularly vulnerable to financial market meltdowns and theft.

Many politicians have considered hosting a second referendum in which the British people could vote once more for remaining in or departing from the European Union. However, while Corbyn would consider getting behind a push for another referendum, May believes that it would diminish the country's faith in the government and democracy.



Photo courtesy of inews.co.uk

Prime Minister Theresa May has faced opposition against multiple Brexit proposals.

representatives, although the public would likely be opposed to such an action taking place three years after the referendum.

May and her proposals have faced opposition from numerous political parties. Certain members of her own Conservative Party oppose any deal that is anti-EU, the Labour Party wishes to maintain strong trading ties in order to add more jobs, and the Northern Irish party also disagrees with all of the now-existing proposals.

In an attempt to win support from all parties, May made her latest proposal vaguely-worded so that there were aspects that every legislator could support. However, this backfired, as a main criticism is that her outline of future relations between Britain and the European Union was not

Regardless, it is unknown whether a second referendum would yield different results. Recent polls indicate that more citizens oppose, rather than support, leaving the European Union. However, polls reached the same consensus before the initial referendum, which displayed results that contradicted the polls.

With the current deadline and European Parliament elections approaching quickly, it is only a matter of time before May and the rest of the British government must make a decision on the future of Great Britain and the European Union.

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Photo courtesy of capx.co

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn favors a second referendum regarding Brexit.

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Staff Writer Commentary

Staff Writer discusses fear of Uber predators amidst recent incidents

BY SAMANTHA MILOWITZ
Staff Writer

Every time I order an Uber, I check that the license plate matches the one on my phone. I run to the back of the car, holding my phone side by side with the trunk of the car, as I recite the license plate numbers and letters out loud to myself. When I get in the car, I peer at the iPhone, or tablet, placed to the side of the driver. I look for my name. I share my location with my mom. I track the driver with the GPS in my phone. I should not have to do these things.

When I see that my Uber driver is a woman, I breathe a sigh of relief -- and that is all.

If only: These are the words thought by everyone as they mourned the loss of Samantha Josephon, a 21 year-old senior at the University of South Carolina who was kidnapped and killed by a man she thought was her Uber driver. If only she had checked the license plate, if only she had not ordered an Uber that night, if only someone else was with her. If only.

According to the New York Times, there have been about two-dozen attacks like this one in the past few years. These attacks range from rape, to kidnappings, to murder. These kinds of attackers troll nightclubs and popular hangouts for young women, wait-

ing around in cars waving to girls until they are convinced that they are their driver. Some of have even been known to go to the lengths to attach fake company stickers and signs claiming that they are a part of a company like Uber or Lyft.

Car companies like Uber have been forced to take precautions in order to help ensure the safety of their clients. In 2018, Uber added a panic button that enabled riders to tap their screen and dial 911 immediately. Others have come up with steps to take when taking an Uber or a Lyft, to make sure you are safe and are getting in the right car. For instance, Lauren Fix, also known as "The Car Coach," shared eight steps to follow in PEOPLE when using an app with a car company. One step even includes not riding in the front seat, to avoid direct interaction with the driver. This has become a reality of our society since Uber and Lyft have become the new normal.

Unfortunately, car companies can only go to such lengths to make sure their clients are in safe hands. It has become the responsibility of the person to always be on alert, in case their driver ends up being someone trying to rape, kidnap, or murder them. It is not just worrying about if you get into the right car, but it is always a concern if the person driving has been properly vetted. According to the New York Times, a CNN

report from 2018 stated that 103 Uber drives and 18 Lyft drivers have been accused of sexual assault. Even when we can see that it is the right person, even when we have checked all of the information, we still don't know what they might be capable of.

When I first started walking to school by myself, I was taught by my mother what to do if I ever felt a man was following me: she told me to turn into the nearest building and act as if it was one of my own. Little did I know at the time when she gave me this advice, that she was actually taking it from her own experience. A man had followed my mother into her building and tried to sexually assault her. Every woman, I now know has a story, and therefore, teaches others how to have it not happen to them.

These steps are things women constantly have to think about, not just when they are getting into an Uber, but when they are walking from place to place. It is astounding how a mistake someone makes can turn into the end of their life. Hearing about Samantha Josephon's story, I was not surprised. That's crazy. I know that there are men out there that pretend to be drivers, to prey on women at their weakest moments. I have been taught to be constantly afraid of this. It is terrible to me that because Samantha wasn't afraid enough, she ended up dead.

Uber has become a part of our

society now. It is a part of a greater social and technological change that has become our new norm. I use Uber on a regular basis, mostly by myself, when I cannot get a ride to the train station or when none of my friends have their car. Uber and Lyft are excellent tools that have aided us in many ways, but they have also become a new form of social media that predators can hide behind, much like Facebook was when it first came on the scene, and even still now. There will always be people in the world who manipulate systems to their own, sick advantage.

I don't know the answer to this issue. I don't know how to make women stop being afraid. I also don't want to sound delusional and say that women should not be/act afraid if it will end up making them safe in the end. In the meantime, we need to be teaching others that we should not have to learn to take these precautions. I am not a man, but I know that my brother will not have to text his friends when he is older to make sure they got home safe. I know that I may always feel more safe with a stranger that's a male, than my best friend who is a girl. We can face these facts and also work to change the system so that women can feel safe constantly.

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Full Staff Opinion

With all the spring events happening as the semester starts to wrap up, it can be hard to keep track or prioritize which events to attend. However, the Emerging Writers Festival (EWF) is one annual event that should be at the top of your list. EWF is hosted by the English department and its planning involves collaboration between students and faculty. It is an opportunity for the campus community to attend readings, craft talks, and social events featuring newer writers at the start of their careers. Whether you are an English major or not, you can enjoy hearing the works of these emerging writers and learning from them! This year's events span from April 10-12 and include poet Derrick Austin, graphic novelist Tillie Walden, nonfiction writer Jeannie Vanasco, fiction writer Weike Wang, and F&M alumna Elizabeth Byrne '07, who has published her first YA fiction novel, *The Grave Keepers*. The week ends with a panel discussion featuring all the writers, followed by a BBQ at the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House. Be sure to check out the website for more descriptions of the writers and the official schedule of events: <https://www.fandm.edu/english/emerging-writers-festival>.



Photos courtesy of fandm.edu.

Campus Life

Kara Lavender Law talks effects of plastics in the ocean at Common Hour

BY SARAH FRAZER
Staff Writer

As part of F&M's Sustainability Week, at last Thursday's Common Hour, Dr. Kara Lavender Law, a Research Professor of Oceanography at the Sea Education Association, spoke on the harmful effects that plastics in our oceans can have on marine life.

First, Law explained that, while the popular understanding of plastic in the oceans is of huge islands of trash visible from space, that type of plastic debris is not the only problem facing marine animals. In reality, Law explained, scientists see small pieces of plastic floating hundreds of miles from land. After the March 2011 tsunami hit Japan, some of the things researchers have seen include a floating refrigerator, a tire, and a soccer ball.

Marine debris includes things like trash found on the beach. In the last thirty years that the Ocean Conservancy has done beach clean ups, the items on the top of the list of trash have remained the same. These include cigarette butts and food wrappers, among other products. Notably, every item at the top of the list is plastic. However, marine debris exists elsewhere too. There is trash and debris on the seafloor. Scientists have found debris in deep places, such as 25 meters down in the arctic. Law explained that "most recently microplastics have also been found in arctic sea ice." Typically, plastics in the open ocean are "microplastics," which are not easily seen, but still are contaminants in the ocean.

According to Law, though marine debris can be composed of anything, scientists focus on plastic because the most abundant materials typically collected are made of plastic. Microplastics are the most prevalent. They have been found in deep-sea sed-

iments. She said that most of the microplastics are formed from larger articles breaking down, but we can't tell where they came from.

Law said that, to our knowledge, plastic debris never biodegrades. And starting in 1950, plastic production has accelerated more so than any other material. Moreover, since 2000, production of plastic has nearly doubled. Thus, Law explained, "there's a lot of plastic on the planet and it's not going away."

"Trash doesn't belong in the environment, I think we all agree," Law continued, but what are the environmental impacts? Marine animals "encounter" marine debris by either ingesting it or getting entangled in it. According to Law, more than tons of marine species have had encounters with marine debris, and 90% of that debris is plastic. Entanglement is a clear threat to animals, Law said. Another issue is that, because plastics don't biodegrade, some animals live on plastic debris or follow it for protection. These marine animals are often displaced when the plastic moves. The organisms living on the plastic are often quite different from the surrounding marine life, and scientists are concerned that the plastics are transporting potentially invasive species.

Another impact, Law explained, is plastic debris being ingested by marine animals. We have evidence that over 200 marine species are ingesting plastics. Law contended, "I think we can all agree that animals shouldn't be eating plastic." Chemicals from those plastics are also a problem. This impact affects humans. In one study of seafood species at a fish market, every single species had plastic inside of it. Humans are possibly eating plastic; According to Law, if you are eating shellfish, you are prob-



Photos courtesy of fandm.edu.

Dr. Kara Lavender Law spoke at this past Thursday's Common Hour on the negative effects of marine debris, which has effects on the environment, wildlife, and humans.

ably ingesting some microplastic particles. Law said that scientists don't know if this impact actually matter though, if eating seafood is a risk.

There are a few ways plastic debris enters the ocean. Plastics products are either being used and lost to the environment or are discarded as waste. Law explained that the latter makes up the bigger proportion of plastic in the ocean. Scientists argue that the problem is waste that is improperly managed. The exception to this rule is cosmetic microbeads, which are properly managed and can still go in the ocean.

At any rate, improper management is a huge issue. According to a data set compiled by the World Bank, in 2010, 8 million metric tons of plastic were dumped into the ocean. This waste is very prevalent in Southeast Asia because it is less developed and therefore, has less of a capacity to manage the waste properly. However, Law emphasized that "this is not just an Asia problem. It's a US problem." The US is number 20 on the list of plastic polluters. Americans produce more plastic trash per person per day than any country in the world.

Law offered a few suggestions for lessening the amount of plastic waste entering the ocean. On a macro level, she explained, humanity needs to improve its waste management infrastructure, as the most pressing need is to stop the flow of plastic into the ocean. Further, Law argued that we need

to lessen our usage of plastic: "in terms of really making a difference in this problem... we have to innovate and redesign some of our uses for plastic," such as with packaging.

Fortunately, Law said that the topic of ocean plastics has risen quickly on international policy agendas. The UN has a variety of programs, and there are even scientists who argue we need an international agreement about plastics in the ocean. In the US, Congress passed a bipartisan ban on wash-off microbeads in cosmetics. Another bipartisan effort passed by Congress was the Save Our Seas Act.

Law emphasized that individual people can make a difference too. She said, "there's still work to do, but we don't need to wait for the feds or wait for the globe." People should ask themselves: where does my trash go? Even where do my recyclables and compost go? According to Law, "The less waste we produce, the less we have to deal with." She urged people to "ask yourself 'do I need this' before purchasing it." Importantly, Law said to please not put things in the recycling bin if you're not sure it goes there. Lastly, Law suggested citizens engage with your local government and public works department. There's no one-size-fits-all solution, but there are solutions.

Law explained the harmful items found on beaches, such as cigarette butts and food wrappers that are later found even on the seafloor during her Common Hour presentation.

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Arts & Leisure

Staff Writer highlights F&M's improvisational comedy group The Rumspringas

BY AMANDA LEONARD
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Jessica Rile's Facebook page.

Members of The Rumspringas pose in a photo indicative of the organization's fun energy.

The College Reporter recently sat down with president of The Rumspringas Jess Rile to gain insight into the group's creative process and hear about Rile's three-and-a-half years of experience performing in F&M's only improvisational comedy group.

Rile was first introduced to the 'springas through a high school friend that came to F&M the year before and was already part of the group. She had been involved in theater in high school and wanted to continue performing in college. After auditioning, she successfully became a member during the second semester of her freshman year.

All Rumspringa rehearsals start with a check-in to see how the group members have been feeling. As improv relies heavily on trust and connection between people, it's important to establish these things from the very beginning of the rehearsal, says Rile.

Next, the group moves on to warm-ups: improvisational games that intend to get everyone psyched up and ready to perform. Then, they move on to practicing the

actual improvisation that you'll see at a Rumspringas show. The group will typically do 30 minutes of long-form improv, or Harold, a more structured version of improv that involves a collage of scenes inspired by a single suggestion from the audience. In addition, they consistently work to improve their craft by doing exercises related to areas that they want to work on, whether it be physicality, character work, etc., and referring to books written about improvisation.

One key factor that defines The Rumspringas is the intimate nature of their performances. The group has historically performed in the Other Room Theater on North Pine Street, a black-box theater

with an "edgy and experimental feel," a vibe well-suited for improv. The performances cultivated in this space have thus served as casual social events for students, where it's perfectly acceptable to sit cross-legged on the floor and laugh at any time it feels organic.

The Rumspringas are also a close-knit group of people whose on-stage chemistry makes its way into everyday life. They try to spend as much time as possible with each other outside of rehearsals as a full group, but they end up naturally hanging out in smaller groups as well because of how close their friendships have become.

As a senior, Rile said that her being in The Rumspringas has been

"the number one best part of [her] college experience," and that her fellow performers have become her closest friends. She also noted that being involved with improv has not only made her a better performer, but it's improved her conversational and public speaking skills, helped her to be able to think on her feet, and served as a personal source of escape and relaxation.

"Every time I go to a rehearsal, even if I don't feel like going, I just feel a hundred times better. The best stress reliever," Rile said.

When asked about the key to understanding The Rumspringas' culture and dynamic, Rile explained that each Rumspringas member is very different from another, with eclectic personalities and several different interests and activities outside of improv. Yet, they are bound by this one common love and connect tremendously well despite these variations.

"The key thing to understand on why we are so unique, is that we are very different people. It's kind of shocking that that we work so well together," Rile said.

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The Jonas Brothers return to the music scene with new hit single "Sucker"

BY ABIGAIL DOTTERER
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of usmagazine.com.

Childhood favorite band The Jonas Brothers reunites, releasing several new songs.

A lot of students seem to be reliving their childhood right now with the revival of the band The Jonas Brothers. While a handful of people haven't seen the group since their elementary and middle school days, it can be interesting to see the group make their comeback.

At the end of February, the band, consisting of Nick, Kevin, and Joe Jonas, announced that they would produce their first songs in six years. By the middle of March, they ended up releasing their new single, "Sucker."

This past week, the band has still had the ball rolling and released their second single, "Cool." Billboard.com says this about the new song: "The follow-up to 'Sucker,' their first Billboard Hot 100 leader, 'Cool' sees the bros take us back to a simpler, more colorful time where portable stereos were huge and wearing black was just, plain dark."

The video dropped at midnight on Thursday and according to a piece by Billboard, the music video featured touches of *Miami Vice* and seemed to

have inspiration from 80s group Duran Duran and Elton John. The group officially broke up in 2013. This time allowed for Nick, the youngest brother, to pursue a solo music career and tie the knot with Indian actress Priyanka Chopra. Joe also continued music and formed a new band, DNCE. Joe has been engaged to *Game of Thrones* actress Sophie Turner since October. The third brother and band member Kevin has focused on his family, happily married to wife Danielle with two daughters, Valentina and Alena.

The reason why the group broke up, according to Kevin

in a People Magazine article by Sarah Michaud was that they were "choosing our family because it was becoming toxic." Nick seems to blame himself for the breakup, but says, "I broke the band up, but I got them back together."

Also in the Carpool video, the brothers talked about collaboration with Amazon Studios to produce an intimate documentary about their lives. No release date has been announced for the film yet. The group announced their first single in March by releasing a cover for the song. As the release date drew closer, the group spent

a week on *The Late Late Show* with James Corden, participating in games with hypnotists, and appearing on the show *Carpool Karaoke*. Their first live performance of the single was additionally aired on *Carpool Karaoke*.

"It's nice to be able to finally tell somebody," Nick says in the *Carpool Karaoke* video, "we've kept this a secret now for almost seven, eight months. This is basically our first performance back."

According to the same magazine article from People Magazine, "Rumors about a reunion first started popping up in January 2018, after the Jonas Brothers' dedicated Instagram account was reactivated following almost five years of silence."

For now, fans seem to be reveling in the fact that their favorite group from secondary school is back once again. Countdowns online timed the release of the first single, as well as the second. It is anticipated that this will be the same routine for songs to be released by the group in the future as well.

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Jamie Belfer recaps F&M Women's Lacrosse victory over Gettysburg. Read more below...



photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

Editor-in-Chief gives insight into WWE WrestleMania 35. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

No. 7 F&M Women's Lacrosse defeat No. 1 Gettysburg in huge upset

BY JAMIE BELFER
Layout Assistant

The conference playoffs are approaching in almost two weeks and the Diplomats are continuing to play strong and play together against their toughest opponents. This past Wednesday, April 3, No. 7 F&M Diplomats faced-off against the No. 1 Gettysburg Bullets, both of whom were undefeated in conference play. After capturing a 9-6 victory, the Diplomats dealt the Bullets their first loss of the season.

The Diplomats got off to a hot start in the first half. After senior Caroline Kolva caused a Gettysburg turnover, F&M marched up the field for their first possession. Two minutes into the half sophomore Megan Jackson shot the ball past the Gettysburg goalkeeper, Bailey Pidler, to score the first goal for the Diplomats.

After a successful clear attempt by Gettysburg, Ella Orzechowski scored the first goal of the game for the Bullets with 22:08 left in the first half. Fifty-six seconds later, Maddi Seibel shot against F&M goalkeeper, Emily Kitchin, and scored for Gettysburg, putting the Bullets up 2-1. The Diplomats took advantage of their opportunity after a Gettysburg foul

as junior Grace Norley scored on a free position shot at the 16:48 mark, tying the game 2-2.

Jackson scored her second goal of the game for the Diplomats at 11:08 left in the game. The remainder of the first half was filled with a multitude of fouls, unsuccessful free position shots, and turnovers by both teams. After going up-and-down the field without a score for nine minutes, the Diplomats finally found the net as first-year Ally Marino scored, giving F&M a 4-2 lead going into the half.

Gettysburg came out aggressive in the second half. After a quick foul by the Diplomats, the Bullets scored on a free position shot with less than one minute into the half. The Bullets scored again almost thirty seconds later, tying the game up 4-4. First-year Tabatha Rodriguez stepped up for the Diplomats and scored at the 27:04 mark to put F&M up 5-4.

In the next six minutes, Gettysburg came out firing with four shots on goal. Their fifth shot, by Kerry McKeever, was able to sneak past Kitchin, tying the score up at 5 goals apiece. With less than fifteen minutes left, Rodriguez, assisted by sophomore Jane Cote, scored her second goal for

the Diplomats. One minute later, McKeever scored her second goal of the game for the Bullets, tying the game up at 6-6.

For the final thirteen minutes of the game, the Diplomats' strong defense held the Gettysburg offense scoreless. First-year Marissa McGarrey scored a free position shot with seven minutes left to give the Diplomats a 7-6 lead. Rodriguez tacked on her third goal of the game also on a free position shot. Marino sealed the

deal for F&M, scoring with thirty-five seconds left in the game, helping the Diplomats secure a 9-6 victory.

The Diplomats are 3-0 in the conference, 8-3 overall. They will play the Ursinus Bears at 12:00 at home on Saturday, April 13 for another conference matchup.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.

F&M Women's Lacrosse defeat Gettysburg in a major upset. The Diplomats' strong second half secured them a 9-6 victory.

WrestleMania 35: Matches to look out for in the WWE event of the year

BY GABBY GOODWIN
Editor-in-Chief

Live from MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, home of the New York Giants and the New York Jets, WWE will host the long-awaited WrestleMania 35 on Sunday, April 7th. With many exciting and unpredictable matches in store, let us take a look at which ones to look out for.

Winner Take All--Ronda Rousey vs. Charlotte Flair vs. Becky Lynch

The final match on the WrestleMania 35 card will see Ronda Rousey put the Raw women's title on the line against 2019 Royal Rumble winner Becky Lynch and Charlotte Flair, who will put her SmackDown title up for grabs. Stephanie McMahon announced on Raw that the fight will be winner takes all, with all titles on the line. As one of WrestleMania's biggest events in history, this is definitely a match to look out for.

Universal Championship -- Brock Lesnar vs. Seth Rollins

As the result of his Royal Rumble victory in Phoenix, Seth Rollins earned the right to choose

which world championship he'd like to challenge for on the biggest stage. Rollins chose Lesnar and, though Rollins was unable to compete for a few weeks and Lesnar was off television, last Monday, Rollins got over on the champion with a low blow and Stomp.

WWE Championship--Daniel Bryan vs. Kofi Kingston

With great difficulty getting there, Kofi Kingston is going to WrestleMania to challenge Daniel Bryan for the WWE title. No matter the outcome, it is going to be a great match to see a highly-respected veteran, such as Kingston, shine in such a huge spotlight after an amazing career up to this point.

United States Championship--Samoa Joe vs. Rey Mysterio

On SmackDown Live, Rey Mysterio announced that he would be facing Samoa Joe for the title at WrestleMania 35. Additionally, he announced that his son Dominic would be sitting ringside at the match. Mysterio has been cleared to compete after injuring his ankle last Monday at Raw.

Kurt Angle vs. Baron Corbin (Farewell Match)

Kurt Angle announced that WrestleMania 35 would be his final match of his career, and the McMahon family gave him the opportunity to choose the opponent who will receive the honor of wrestling against him. At Raw in Chicago, Angle announced

that his opponent would be Baron Corbin. After much backlash at this opponent choice, one has to wonder if there is more in store for the match (cbssports.com).

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Photo courtesy of foxsports.com.

WWE hosts WrestleMania 35 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Match of the night will be Winner Takes All featuring Ronda Rousey.