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Pelosi launches impeachment inquiry into Trump after whistleblower complaint



Photo courtesy of CNBC

Pelosi has historically been wary of impeachment, but new information about a phone conversation between Trump and Ukraine's president has changed her mind.

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

Last Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a formal impeachment inquiry would be launched against President Trump. The sharp reversal of policy for Pelosi came after a concerning whistleblower's complaint which alleged Trump had been "using

the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election." The complaint, filed by a currently-anonymous CIA official with White House experience, was forwarded to acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, who initially declined to share the complaint with Congress despite protocol to the

contrary. Maguire, a 67-year-old Vice Admiral in the U.S. Navy and the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, has only been in his position for six weeks.

The complaint centers upon a phone conversation between President Trump and the newly-elected president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, which occurred this summer. During the

call, Trump raises a conspiracy theory, floated by his personal lawyer Rudi Giuliani, that Ukraine was somehow involved in the emails stolen from the Democratic National Committee. He refers to this simply as "the whole situation."

Trump proceeds to ask Zelensky to "do us a favor" by investigating former Vice President and

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Trump administration announces new restrictions on vaping following mysterious deaths

BY JEREMY MAUSER
Staff Writer

Earlier this month the Trump administration announced that they are close to finishing up a ban on flavored e-cigarettes. More than 800 people have gotten sick and at least 12 people have been killed across the United States due to vaping, according to reporting from *The Oregonian*.

According to Politico, President Trump stated during a meeting with Alex Azar, the Health and Human Services Secretary, and Ned Sharpless, the acting FDA Commissioner, that "We can't al-

low people to get sick and we can't have our youth be so affected... People are dying from vaping, so we're looking at it very closely."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported this past Thursday that vaping was linked to 530 lung-related illnesses as a probable cause. They also predicted that the death toll will rise due to the severity of many lung illnesses.

However, per *The New York Times*, public health officials still haven't found success in determining the causes of the hundreds of hospitalizations. Complicating the research is that many patients

currently rely on ventilators and cannot inform investigators of which substances they vaped, although officials determined that oil stained many affected lungs.

Officials have also stated that many who fell victim to illness had smoked THC-based products, with both street vendors and recreational/medical retailers supplying the product. However, the CDC has not yet identified a single cause of the outbreak.

One of the most recent casualties was a St. Louis male in his 40's who began vaping this previous May and began suffering from chronic pain. He

passed away after a month in the hospital, during which time his symptoms went from shortness of breath to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Moreover, the CDC also revealed some demographics behind those hospitalized: nearly 75% are male, 66% are between 18 and 34, and 16% are under 18 years of age. 38 states and one U.S. territory have seen victims. Canada also witnessed its first victim recently.

From these statistics stems the decision of the Trump administration and certain states to propose

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Trump: Questions emerge over conversation with Ukraine



Photo courtesy of PBS News Hour/

In a conversation with the president of Ukraine, Trump requested he do a "favor" by investigating Hunter Biden, the son of the frontrunner Democratic candidate.

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presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter. Hunter served on the board of a Ukrainian energy company that previously faced charges of corruption. During his time as Vice President, Biden - along with leaders in the majority of the West - pushed for the removal of a prosecutor assigned to this case. There is no evidence

that he did so in order to aid his son, and Ukraine's top prosecutor has since clarified that there is no wrongdoing by the Bidens that they plan to investigate.

Although the whistleblower was not in the Oval Office at the time of the call, their complaint states that "multiple White House officials with direct knowledge of the call" expressed their concerns about its contents and "were deeply

disturbed by what had transpired in the phone call." This led to efforts by White House administrators to suppress knowledge of the call by storing its records in a system for highly classified material. The call did not meet the requirements for such action - typically reserved for information about covert intelligence activities or extremely sensitive defense material - which raised further concerns in the eyes of the whistleblower.

These actions concerned the whistleblower in part because the United States is a major source of aid for Ukraine, a struggling Eastern European country currently at war with Russia over ownership of Crimea - a historically contested peninsula on the Black Sea with important oil reserves. At the time of their call, Trump had recently frozen a military aid package for Ukraine worth hundreds of millions.

Democrats argue that President Trump misused his power as the head of the executive branch - along with the threat of withholding millions in aid money - to influence Ukraine's treatment of a political rival. They appear to have shifted a Congressional landscape in which many moderate Democrats feared impeachment as a political tool.

In a speech announcing the formal inquiry into Trump's behavior, moderate Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that "the actions taken to date by the president have seriously violated the Constitution." From the Democratic perspective, it appears that the egregiousness of Trump's actions has overruled the political concerns of a failed impeachment showdown. It is unclear how many Republicans would vote to remove Trump from office if impeachment occurred; former GOP Senator Jeff Flake said at the Texas Tribune Festival that he believed "at least 35" Republican senators would do so if the ballot remained anonymous.

In the days since the impeachment inquiry was launched, House Democrats have issued a subpoena for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and indicated their desire to interview Kurt Volker, the U.S.'s special envoy for Ukraine. Volker abruptly stepped down on Friday without explanation, although reporting from *The New York Times* indicated that he felt it "was impossible to be effective in his assignment" given recent events.

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Vaping: Bipartisan agreement over banning flavored e-cigarette products

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restricting flavored e-cigarettes. In doing so, they hope to deter teenage vape use, which-pursuant to *The New York Times*- has doubled in the past two years.

Members of Congress from both sides of the partisan aisle push for the flavor bans, restrictions on ages of users, and other measures that could discourage the youth from beginning their usage.

Per Politico, health officials

expressed concerns regarding the increasing use of e-cigarettes and their marketed safety months ago, although reports stemming from vaping-related illness first came into fruition in the past month.

The New York Times also reports that India is close to outlawing electronic cigarettes nationwide, despite their high rates of citizens smoking and chewing tobacco. The ban is expected to pass by the end of the year.

But back in the United States,

vaping industry groups-including The Vapor Technology Association-are fighting against the regulations, arguing that flavored vaping products are effective as smoking cessation tools and that officials haven't proven a strong connection between their products and the illnesses. Many also argue that the illnesses are caused by black-market cartridges, which presumably could not be restricted if a ban on legal vaping products went into effect.

To prevent the restrictions from becoming law, the vaping industry groups will have to prove that the products do not pose a public health threat. Meanwhile, politicians will continue taking actions that they believe will prevent the youth from engaging with flavored vaping.

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Attack on oil facility in Saudi Arabia sparks international tensions

BY OLIVIA CAPASSO
Junior Editor

In the early hours of September 14th, a vast oil processing plant in Saudi Arabia was attacked by a series of explosions from the air. Two facilities were targeted, the larger of which is called Abqaiq and currently exists as one of the most important producers of oil worldwide. Seventeen points of impact were located across the plant whose targets suggest that the attack was deliberate and sophisticated. Areas with highly valuable equipment and flammable tanks were apparently focused upon in order to ensure the greatest chance of

destruction within the facility.

Yemen's Houthi rebels quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that they executed the task using ten drones. This claim has been analyzed skeptically and deemed more than likely to be false given the evidence revitalized from the scene of the explosions. Since seventeen locations in the facility, not ten, were bombed, it is not plausible that the Houthis could carry out such an attack with so few drones and from such a far distance given their technology. The wreckage of the weapons used to deliver these explosions was analyzed and determined to have high rates of similarities

to Iranian weaponry. One of the delta-wing drones was identified as having appeared in a military exhibition in Iran, and its ability to travel long distances indicated that it is certainly a product of the nation's technology. According to NPR, the drones struck from the northwest direction, supporting the argument that they originated from the Iraq-Iran area, rather than from Yemen, which is from the south.

President Trump has demanded that the Pentagon prepare for retaliation strikes against Iran for their attack on Saudi Arabia, which has been met with confusion and uncertainty in some circles. His defiance of Saudi Arabia is surprising granted that the United

States has no formal treaty alliance with Saudi Arabia, and thus is not bound by any legal requirement to respond to such strikes. It is also important to take into consideration how near the United States was to entering into war over the seizure of its oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and the downing of a drone, though any action was conclusively withheld. Trump also campaigned to remove the United States from such conflict in the Middle East, however, war is precisely what the foreign minister of Iran promised should he proceed with retaliation plans.

Issues with one country in the Middle East, such as Iran, would

see OIL, page 3

Allegations against Justice Brett Kavanaugh cause controversy

BY ANNA SYNAKH
Copy Editor

Sexual assault allegations against Brett Kavanaugh first arose when he was nominated for the Supreme Court of the United States. These claims, put forward by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, were followed with a rather brief FBI investigation of Ford's statements, and a highly sensationalized television hearing led by the Senate.

Ford stated that the incident took place when both her and Kavanaugh were attending high school. She recalled being at a party that Kavanaugh also attended. She remembered being held down on the bed and groped by Kavanaugh, who forced her mouth shut to prevent Ford from screaming. Despite these allegations, no conclusive determination could be made about what happened that night decades ago. Ultimately the Senate voted 50-48, the smallest Senate vote margin in 140 years, for the confirmation of Kavanaugh to serve on the Supreme Court.

On September 14, 2019, nearly a year after the confirmation, a new wave of allegations Kavanaugh hit the news. The New York Times released an essay adaptation of the soon-to-be-published book regarding the Kavanaugh confirmation process. The essay revealed that one of Kavanaugh's Yale classmates, Max Stier, witnessed Kavanaugh exposing himself to a female student at a party and pushing his genitals onto her

hand. At this time Kavanaugh was a freshman at Yale. The incident apparently was reported to the FBI around the time Blasey Ford came forward with her story, yet no investigation was held.

The essay mentions another Yale classmate, Deborah Ramirez, who recalled a similar incident during their time at the university in New Haven. This claim was briefly discussed during the hearing but largely dismissed. *The New York Times* has since stated that they found seven other witnesses to this incident.

The new findings have created a wave of discontent among the Democratic party. Five of the Democratic presidential candidates have called for the impeachment of Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The five are Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren, Julian Castro and Cory Booker. "Last year the Kavanaugh nomination was rammed through the Senate without a thorough examination of the allegations against him," Warren tweeted. "Confirmation is not exonerating, and these newest revelations are disturbing. Like the man who appointed him, Kavanaugh should be impeached." The other candidates have made similar calls over the few days following the essay release.

On September 16, *New York Times* released an edit of their essay, which stated that some details had been left out of the article. This correction stated that the female who was allegedly sexu-

ally assaulted by Kavanaugh at Yale refused to participate in an interview with the Times, and did not recall such an incident taking place.

Since then, the *New York Times* has been getting plenty of backlash for not revealing this information right away, as the accusations lost their validity in the eyes of many readers following these revelations. The newspaper opened a thread for questions regarding the article in order to clear the air, and restated that the claims provided by Max Stiers and Deborah Ramirez were indeed found to be credible by government officials, and therefore

were worth exposing.

The confirmation process of September 2018 created a short time frame for the FBI to track every claim and statement that was provided, therefore many questions remain unanswered. Though little to no clarity exists on whether or not Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh has ever committed sexual assault, many feel that these claims still have to be investigated further in much more detail. Only time will tell where this investigation goes.

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Photo courtesy of Brendan Smialowski/AFP/Getty Images.

Brett Kavanaugh is facing new allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior centering around his time as a student at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

Oil: Perpetrator of Saudi oil attacks remains unknown; suspicion continues

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also introduce all other associated countries into combat and could result in a full-scale war across nations. These threats made my Trump now appear to be empty as he has decided for the time being only to increase sanctions on Tehran, the capital of Iran, strengthen global alliances, and refrain from disclosing all operations to the country. According to Vox, hundreds of troops have also recently been sent to Saudi Arabia to defend the nation rather than attack and actively seek out conflict with Iran or any other Middle Eastern country.

The implications of this attack of such a central oil facility are enormous and ripple into markets across the globe; the strikes have cut oil production by 5.7 million barrels per day which accounts for seven percent of the

worldwide output, according to The Nation. The price of oil has skyrocketed to its highest cost in thirty years, simply because half the production of the Abqaiq facility has been halted. Currently, the world is ruled by oil, and the plants where it is pumped, cleaned, and distributed exist at the epicenter of modern capitalism. Each nation has become increasingly reliant on fossil fuels, despite the detrimental indications for the future climate and environment, which is why it has been highly demanded in modern markets. Oil concentrates power, structures political and economic life, and results in the inevitable conflict between nations battling for control of one of the world's most important assets.

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CRIME WATCH

Friday, September 20, 10:20 pm - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a loud noise complaint at 520 N Charlotte St.

Friday, September 20, 10:52 pm - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at 512 W James St.

Saturday, September 21, 2:26 am - DPS received a loud noise complaint at Bonchek College House.

Saturday, September 21, 11:21 pm - DPS received a loud noise complaint at 625 Lancaster Ave.

Sunday, September 22, 12:41 am - DPS cited an intoxicated student for underage drinking at Bonchek College House.

Sunday, September 22, 1:01 am - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at 520 N Charlotte St.

Monday, September 23, 2:15 am - DPS cited an intoxicated student for underage drinking at Ware College House.

Monday, September 23, 12:30 pm - DPS cited an intoxicated student for underage drinking at Ware College House.

Wednesday, September 25, 7:30pm - DPS responded to a report of marijuana odor coming from Buchanan Hall.

Thursday, September 26, 8:13 pm - DPS responded to a report of criminal mischief in Schnader Hall after an ethnic slur was scratched into a student's door. DPS is currently investigating this incident as a hate crime.

Contributing Writer Commentary

Student discusses Brett Kavanaugh sexual assault allegations

BY MIRA LERNER
Contributing Writer

In light of Shafia Zaloom's Common Hour talk, "Consent and Authentic Connection," the sexual assault allegations against Brett Kavanaugh are feeling especially relevant. Zaloom's distinctions between legal, ethical, and good sex highlight the implications of Kavanaugh's appointment to the supreme court; by Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford's account, there was no consent (illegal and unethical) and Dr. Ford did not leave feeling the same way one does after a meaningful conversation (not good).

Zaloom's safe, healthy, sex positive practices felt intuitive to me, yet the national rhetoric is delivering an opposing narrative. She said, "consent protects the fundamentals of human dignity," but Kavanaugh did not have consent when he assaulted Dr. Ford and is now trusted to carry out justice. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and, according to the government page, part of its mission is to "protect civil rights and liberties." Why, then, was a justice appointed who has personally infringed upon someone else's dignity? What message does that send about



Photo courtesy of hollywoodreporter.com

At least three democratic candidates have called for an impeachment of Kavanaugh.

the court's values? What message does that send to survivors of sexual assault? Although Kavanaugh's job is to rule on the most pressing matters of justice and civil liberty in the U.S., it seems hypocritical that he himself is not being held accountable.

As a college student surrounded by hookup culture and its impacts (positive and negative), I wonder how Kavanaugh's appointment affects the saliency of the importance of consent among young adults. One the one hand, women and marginalized groups are fighting for recognition, respect, and credibility in all facets

of life. One the other hand, the 70% white and 77% male Senate (senate.gov), deemed Kavanaugh fit to uphold "equal justice under law" and guard/interpret the U.S. Constitution (supremecourt.gov).

When at college, attending parties, and engaging in hookup culture it is important to feel secure in the support of friends, school, and ultimately, the law to defend everyone's right to dignity and ownership of their body. In a story in the New Yorker, Deborah Ramirez, Kavanaugh's second sexual assault accuser, says that he swung his genitals in her face at a college party

and people standing around laughed at her discomfort. The role of the perpetrator of this action cannot be overlooked, but neither should the roles of Ramirez's peers. While Kavanaugh's transgression is being discussed nationwide, not much attention has been paid to the bystanders who perversely laughed at another person's sexual assault.

The culture that allows for such glee to be taken at someone else's expense needs to be re-examined. It is the same culture that perpetuates locker room talk and whitewashes feminism. As students at F&M and human beings we have a commitment to look out for, respect, and believe each other. We have parties here, and we have a hook up culture here, which means that decisions about consent are constantly being made. Following Shafia Zaloom's advice and being educated on what consent is and how it benefits all parties involved is a means of respecting each other as members of the F&M community.

Senior Mira Lerner is a Contributing Writer. Her email is mlerner@fandm.edu.

Sophomore addresses confusion regarding F&M meal swipe currency

BY SOJIN SHIN
Contributing Writer

Sometime last week, I stopped by Mein Bowl to grab sushi. It cost me a swipe and 1.09 Flex. After that, I started walking to Shadek, which is when I saw the poster on the Protest tree. It said that,

Meal Swipe= \$5
150 * 5= 750
750+400=1150

Where is my money?

Since then, more posters about meal plans have been hung on the tree. Now, if people were to walk by it, they would see the tree plastered with memes and posters addressing this issue. While a lot of them are lighthearted, it does seem that the situation is deeply frustrating for most people. I interviewed a couple of my friends, and they all seemed to agree that Meal Swipe is an odd currency.

One person defended it. "You know, it isn't that terrible. Dhall costs way more than five dollars," a friend of mine said. I agreed that she had a point, but another friend quickly added.

"Yeah, but you have to Flex for everything if you want sushi or just not dhall." She clicked her pen and spoke. "Like how much are swipes?"

The conversation went on for a little while, until it fizzled off. But you know, I think that my pen-clicker friend did get to the

core of this issue. Meal Swipe is an inconsistent currency. It's 5 in CC, 6 in Blueline. That in itself is annoying— But moreover, there is the question of whether such prices are an accurate reflection of what they cost us. Beneath is all the possible values of Meal Swipes based on the price of our plans. Here, I am assuming that 1 Flex= 1 dollar. All numbers are rounded to the hundredth. <https://fandm.dining.sodexomyway.com/my-meal-plan/#> was the reference I used.

Block Plans:

225 Meal Block Plan with \$120 Flex: 2,950 dollars
(2,950-120)/225= 12. 58.

150 Meal Block Plan with \$400 Flex: 2, 880 dollars
(2,880-400)/150= 16. 53.

125 Meal Block Plan with \$220 Flex: 2, 630 dollars
(2,630-220)/125= 20. 08

70 Meal Block Plan with \$225 Flex: 1, 845 dollars
(1,845-225)/70= 23. 14

50 Meal Block Plan with \$340 Flex: 1, 580 dollars.
[Available to Juniors & Seniors]
(1,580-340)/50= 24. 80

Meals Per Week Options: [there are 14 and a half weeks in Fall 2019 semester. Aug 28-Dec 15. I will round it up to 15 weeks, considering freshman orientation.]

20 Meals Per Week with \$180

Flex: 2,970 dollars
(2970-180)/(20*15)= 9.3

14 Meals Per Week with \$250 Flex: 2,950 dollars
(2970-250)/(14*15)=12. 95

7 Meals Per Week with to Flex: 1,630 dollars (junior/senior only)
1630/(7*15)=15. 52

Finally, the average of all the Meal Swipe prices found=13. 99314

Also, an interesting fact: the plan that results in the cheapest value for a Meal Swipe is the most expensive plan (20 Meals Per Week with 180 Flex). Also, even in that case, a Meal Swipe still costs roughly 9.3 dollars.

The inconsistency of the worth and the cost of Meal Swipes itself is a problem. Moreover, it is clear that the money we pay for Meal Swipes exceed what they are worth, at least in Blueline and College center. And frankly, very few people eat solely at the Dining Hall. On one level it's a simple matter of needing some variety. But sometimes, class schedules force people to eat in places that are much closer to the buildings like Keiper or Stager. So it is highly problematic that CC or Blueline employs this rule, where we are made to pay already overcharged Meal Swipes and Flex.

What disturbs me the most is that most students have no option

but to buy the meal plan as it is. Freshmen are required to purchase a meal plan; most on-campus inhabitants lack kitchen access and have to resort to buying overpriced meals.

Of course, there is the argument that one should consider "invisible" prices, including labor and services. Yet, it is common knowledge that the final price of an item should be inclusive of all those factors. So saying something is 8 dollars and making us pay far more in reality, let's say 14 (the average price of Meal Swipe), would be considered as an outright lie. And given that a hearty bowl of Pho at a local restaurant like Rice and Noodle costs only 8 dollars, it seems that school is indeed overcharging us even after considering labor and maintenance.

If there is a reason why Meal Swipe prices fluctuate so much, the college is not being transparent about it. If there is a reason why Meal Swipes are so expensive, the college is not being transparent about it either. In this kind of situation, I can't help but feel that our lack of choices are being exploited. The college needs to produce a reasonable response to our complaints.

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Campus Life

Rebecca Romney discusses implications of term 'authorship' at Writer's House

BY CAITLYN JENNINGS
Staff Writer

On Sep. 17, Rebecca Romney spoke at the writers house at Franklin & Marshall College. Romney is a rare book dealer, makes a regular appearance on the T.V. show entitled Pawn Stars, and is the author of a book called "Printer's Editor."

Many students came to hear Romney speak, along with some professors, such as Professor Goeglein, who is a Professor of English at Franklin and Marshall College.

According to Romney, it is important to remember all of the authors who have defined what the word authorship means today. While the word 'authorship' carried little merit in the 1700s, the phrase is currently incredibly powerful. People throughout the world strive to hold the title of 'author'; many people choose to self-publish their own novels in order to achieve this dream.

As such, authors today are held to a much higher degree of respect than they were in the past. While society is striving to accept writers of all backgrounds and honor them equally, male writers still receive more credit than their female counterparts.

When asked what she does to try and change this, Romney stated that, as a rare book seller, she pushes for

male and female writers to be placed next to one another on a shelf. While Romney cannot control what books people purchase, she hopes that book dealers can help consumers realize that the female authors of 'The Great Awakening' are just as important as their male counterparts. Sadly, the history regarding 'authorship' and authors themselves is heavily biased to support those prominent, white men such as Rousseau, Montag, Patronage and Radcliff. While all of these men delivered important messages for their times, their equally-important female counterparts are unfairly forgotten.

Mary Wollstonecraft, for instance, only recently received the literary merit that she deserved. As a woman whose goal was economic independence, Wollstonecraft knew that her written work would not be taken seriously. In fact, she is quoted as saying: "If what I do well, proves well, it won't advance. They'd say it was stolen..."

Wollstonecraft's beautiful writing, which contains ideas well ahead of her time, was unfairly ignored due to gender-based discrimination that still occurs today. This is why best-selling authors, such as Bronte and the more recent J.K. Rowling chose to use pseudonyms in their books rather than state their full names.

Additionally, Romney discusses

how, during Wollstonecraft's time, writers were "just another creator, like a printer or a sculptor" and therefore were not viewed as the creators of their own material. Rather, they were treated as one part of the bookmaking process, and therefore did not have the right to own their work.

Even successful male authors, such as Burke, did not have copyrights on their products. Burke specifically realized that his "authorship had to be denied so it could be attained." In other words, Burke had to give up rights to his book so that it could be read by its intended audience.

According to Romney, during the 'Great Awakening,' Jane Austen was the one female writer who was taken seriously. However, she used the pen name "A Lady" to publish her first novel: "Sense and Sensibility" and on

Jan. 28, 1813 she published "Pride and Prejudice" under the same name.

It was at this time when successful writers were beginning to be viewed as 'icons.' According to Romney, two examples of such 'icons' are Saint Augustine, author of "The Confessions" as well as Elizabeth Gaskell, who wrote "The Life of Charlotte Bronte."

However, these women were the only two who were viewed as 'icons' at this time. While there is nothing we can do to change history, we can begin discussing historically prominent female writers such as Mary Wollstonecraft in order to give them the credit that they deserve.

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Photo courtesy of history.com

Rebecca Romney, a rare book dealer and acclaimed author, explores the differences in the term 'authorship' between male and female writers over the centu-

FULL STAFF OPINION

BY TCR EDITING STAFF

Free speech is a vital part of community engagement, especially on college campuses. Over the course of the past few weeks, there have been numerous postings on the Protest Tree which have expressed strong opinions about various present political and campus issues. It is important to recognize the value of free speech and sharing opinions with others. A lot of times a poster or flyer can serve as an effective way of making a point.

While we may not always agree with the statements made by those who post on the Protest Tree, they are entitled to their opinions and voices. With the exception of posting hate speech, the Protest Tree is free reign for the F&M community members to express their own thoughts and views.

The College Reporter encourages students to utilize the Protest Tree, expressing their opinions and ideas in respectful ways. This way students, faculty, and professional staff alike are able to not only utilize their freedom of speech but also see what others have to say about hot topics.

The Protest Tree is located in a spot central to F&M's campus between Distler House and Stager Hall. Thus, most members of the community pass the Tree at least a couple of times a day. The College Reporter encourages everybody to take a few minutes to stop by and read what has been posted. Do not tear down peoples' posters unless they contain hate speech. The point of the tree is to have an open conversation, not to shut each other down.



Photo courtesy of the-college-reporter

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Arts & Leisure

Amazon Prime Video releases new original animated series, *Undone*

BY DANIELLE RICE

Arts & Leisure Editor

The first of its kind, *Undone* is a short, eight-episode animated television series that was released by Amazon Prime Video on September 13. Geared toward adults, the show centers around Alma, a funny, sarcastic, yet particularly insightful character. Alma comes “undone” when she gets into a car accident - the opening scene - and starts seeing her dead father, who helps her learn to time travel in order to track down his killer. It incorporates aspects of science fiction into drama and comedy with great writing and character development.

Although the plot is exciting, what really made this series for me was Alma’s character. Living with her long-term boyfriend and working at a daycare center, she questions whether there is more to life than just “this.” We meet her younger sister, who is getting married. As the episodes progress, we learn that both Alma and her sister fear that they are “broken people.” This is part of the reason Alma gets invested in finding out what happened to her father. She feels that if she

can go back in time and prevent her father’s death, she would end up a better person, with a complete family. However, we learn that Alma has a family history of schizophrenia, and while she and the viewer get transported through time and see her father, her overbearing mother and sister simply believe that she is hallucinating due to her mental illness.

Throughout the series, the viewer gets to experience Alma’s exact point of view - everything she sees and hears. Even though it’s never explicitly said, we learn that she is deaf, but hears through a cochlear implant. When she doesn’t have it in, we just hear muffled noises. We are so inclined to trust Alma because we experience everything alongside her.

The meticulous animation process that went into the making of these eight episodes is what makes it entirely unique. The creators used rotoscope animation, which involves drawing over live-action filming to create animated versions of each actor. This is the first time rotoscope animation has been used in a television series. Although they are clearly animated, the charac-



Photo courtesy of slate.com

Undone stars Rosa Salazar, Bob Odenkirk, Angeliqe Cabral, and Constance Marie. The series was created with the use of rotoscope animation and oil paintings.

ters have such distinct facial features of the actors that play them that you question whether they are real or animated. This adds to the dream-like state of the show where things happen that don’t seem possible. In addition to rotoscope animation, the backdrops are created using oil painting on canvas, which are digitally added to the scenes. In the end, a product is created that is a blend of live acting, animation, and oil paintings. This allows things to happen in the series that would never normally be possible,

such as the sky breaking open or scenes switching very rapidly.

When I was watching this series, I tried to spread the episodes out, but I ended up finishing the whole season in two sittings and was left yearning for more episodes. I would recommend this series to anyone who is a fan of drama, comedy, science fiction, or anyone just looking for a fun new show to check out.

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News Editor Reviews *Green Frontier*, Columbian Netflix Original Series

BY KATHERINE COBLE

News Editor

Since its arrival on the media scene in the late 1990s, Netflix has been changing the way Americans - and now people worldwide - consume television and film. Their increasing involvement in the production of Netflix Original series has also garnered worldwide attention and hundreds of Emmy nominations - plus 43 wins for series as diverse as *Black Mirror*, *The Crown*, and *Orange is the New Black*. According to an interview with *Indie Wire*, more than 60% of Netflix’s audience is now international. It makes sense that they would expand their Netflix Originals from domestic to international settings. These include the Spanish cult hit *Money Heist*, the Brazilian dystopia *3%*, and the German dramas *Dark* and *Babylon Berlin*.

Now Netflix has come out with their first-ever Columbian original series, *Green Frontier* (Spanish title *Frontera Verde*) - a worthy addition to their already enormous Spanish-language offerings. *Green Frontier*, which takes place in the depths of the Colum-

bian Amazon, was coincidentally released during the same week worldwide attention and horror was brought to the wildfires breaking out in the Amazon rainforest. This tragic coincidence is actually deeply meaningful, as much of *Green Frontier* centers upon the relationship between man and nature.

Although it opens as a conventional crime thriller with an unconventional setting, *Green Frontier* is much more likely to satisfy fans of science-fiction than fans of murder-mystery. The show is best described as an exploration into magic realism - perhaps fitting, since this genre is most commonly associated with Latin American literature including the works of famous Columbian author Gabriel García Márquez.

Green Frontier lures the viewer in through the mysterious deaths of Catholic missionaries in an isolated part of the Columbian wilderness and the arrival of detective Helena Poveda, sent from the capital to investigate the murders. But it quickly develops into an exploration of history, indigenous culture, and the conflict between those who wish to exploit the Am-

azon’s power and those who respectfully call it their home. Much of the mystery involved in *Green Frontier*’s plot ultimately lies less with the murders and more with questions of the past, family, and human connection.

Green Frontier falls into many of the flaws Netflix Originals are known for. It moves at a snail’s pace, and viewers expecting a quick-witted exploration of its opening crime (or subsequent mysteries) will undoubtedly be disappointed. Even its ending feels mildly anti-climactic, playing out over the course of a full hour rather than fifteen or twenty minutes as one may expect. The show is a saga of exploration, meandering unhurriedly from one discovery to another.

If *Green Frontier* took place in any other setting, this may have become a fatal flaw: but the show’s backdrop serves as its saving grace (and most interesting plot point.) Indeed, the rainforest itself is the most important - and fascinating - character that *Green Frontier* has to offer. Over the course of eight episodes, averaging forty minutes each, there is plenty of time for gorgeous slow-moving camera



Photo courtesy of oprahmag.com.

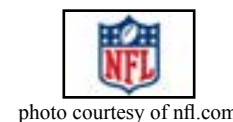
Green Frontier takes place in the Columbian Amazon and centers around the deaths of Catholic missionaries.

shots of the Amazon and its beauty. *Green Frontier* takes advantage of its environment whenever possible, and is all the better for it.

Green Frontier is far from a perfect show - but is undoubtedly worth the binge for those interested in nature, magic, death, and the intersection of the three. Netflix’s first foray into Columbian television is a promising start, and hints at greater and better things to come.

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Katherine Coble discusses Antonio Brown’s NFL career and his latest issue with the Patriots. Read more below...



MLB playoffs are quickly approaching as teams are fighting for the final spots. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Antonio Brown released from New England Patriots, saga continues

BY KATHERINE COBLE

News Editor

The professional football world has been left in the lurch in the past weeks as the dramatic saga involving Antonio Brown and the New England Patriots has unfolded. Brown, 31, is best known for his nine years with the Pittsburgh Steelers. During this time he played in seven Pro Bowls, one Super Bowl championship game, and amassed more receptions and receiving yards than any other player since he entered the league according to ESPN.

Brown’s tenure with the Steelers slowly turned sour. By 2018, disagreements between him and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger were publicly known. He skipped practices for a week 17 game following an argument with Roethlisberger and requested a trade from the team once the season was over. This led to a short-lived stint with the Oakland Raiders in California from March until September of 2019.

Brown’s time with the Raiders began on a poor note after he developed frostbite during a cryotherapy session. Cryotherapy relies on the use of extremely cold temperatures to

heal muscle tissue. It was eventually revealed that Brown was frostbitten because he did not wear proper footwear during a cryotherapy session in France. This injury caused him to miss 10 of the 11 training camp practices held by the Raiders during the 2019 offseason.

Brown’s offseason was also marred by disagreements with the Raiders over the use of his favorite helmet, which was banned by the NFL after they discovered it was more than ten years old. The NFL requires all helmets used to be manufactured within the most recent decade. Brown threatened to retire early if he was not allowed to continue wearing the old helmet, but the issue was eventually resolved. This would be foreshadowing of more retirement threats to come.

Brown almost immediately clashed with Raiders general manager Mike Mayock. The two engaged in a verbal altercation after Mayock fined Brown on September 4th for a series of unexcused absences with the team. Brown also threatened to hit Mayock and was physically restrained by several teammates during the incident, according to CBS Sports. He apologized for his

actions the following day, but this remorse was short-lived, and Brown requested a trade shortly after learning the Raiders had voided the guaranteed money in his contract - a hefty \$29.125 million price to pay. He was released by the Raiders on September 9 after a whirlwind month of tension and drama.

After being released by the Raiders, Brown was immediately picked up by the New England Patriots, and the next step of his saga began. On September 10 legal paperwork was released which confirmed that Brown has been accused of sexual misconduct by his former personal trainer, Britney Taylor. Taylor is a gymnast and fellow alumni of his alma mater, Central Michigan University. Taylor alleged in a civil lawsuit that Brown exposed himself to her, forcefully ejaculated on her, and eventually raped her on three separate occasions. Brown is now facing multiple allegations of sexual misconduct in the wake of the lawsuit.

Although he played one game with the Patriots, Brown was released by the team on September 20th following additional allegations that he sent threatening text messages to an accus-

er via text message. Brown responded to the news by going on a tirade on Twitter, claiming that he “[w]ill not be playing in the @NFL anymore” and accused the league of hypocrisy for how they have dealt with his case in comparison to that of Robert Kraft, the Patriots owner charged with soliciting prostitution in Florida earlier this year.

It is unclear whether Brown’s “retirement” from the game will be permanent - and whether any team would take him on as a player if he indicated a willingness to rejoin the league. Either way, the saga of Brown’s off-field journey appears to be far from over.

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Photo courtesy of nytimes.com.

Antonio Brown was released from the Patriots. His return to the NFL is uncertain.

Major League Baseball playoff picture shaping up, teams battle for final spots

BY JAMIE BELFER

Sports Editor

October baseball is quickly approaching as American and National League teams are fighting for the four remaining playoff spots. While six teams have already clinched a spot in the 2019 playoffs, they are still continuing to battle for home field advantage in their final games of the regular season.

The Los Angeles Dodgers were the first team to earn their spot in the playoffs after defeating the Baltimore Orioles 7-3 on September 10. The Dodgers have led the NL West all year as they currently hold 101-56 record. With a strong starting rotation and hefty hitters, the Dodgers continue to dominate their opponents. Four of their starting pitchers have reached double digit wins, with Clayton Kershaw leading the pack with 15. Meanwhile, Cody Bellinger leads the offensive charge with a .300 batting average and 46 home runs. The Dodgers will most likely play the National League wild-card winner at home in the first round of the playoffs.

The Atlanta Braves clinched the NL East title on Friday, September 20 with a 6-0 win over the San Francisco Giants. The Braves are currently 96-62 with five more games left to reach 100 total wins. The Braves have multiple power hitters in Ronald

Acuna Jr., Freddie Freeman, and Josh Donaldson, who have 41, 38, and 37 home runs apiece. Although Acuna Jr. will not play in the final games of the regular season due to a hip injury, it is probable that he will be ready for the playoffs. Additionally, Freeman, who has been battling some elbow issues, is expected to play in the final series of the regular season (ESPN.com).

The Houston Astros earned the AL West title for the third straight year on Sunday, September 22, after a 13-5 victory against the Los Angeles Angels. The Astros have a current record of 103-54, making this season their third straight season with over 100 wins. The Astros could be the team to beat this year with hot and dangerous hitters such as Michael Brantley, Yuli Gurriel, Alex Bregman, George Springer, and Jose Altuve, all who have batter averages above .290. The also have a devastating one-two punch in starting pitchers Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole, who have 20 and 19 wins, respectively.

The New York Yankees have had a rollercoaster season filled with constant injuries. However, with their “next man up” mentality, the Yankees persevered to clinch the AL East title after defeating the Los Angeles Angels 9-1 on Thursday, September 19. The Yankees are currently competing with the Astros and the Dodgers

for the best record in baseball as they are currently 102-56. Although many of their biggest hitters were out due to injury for a significant part of the season, the Yankees currently lead the MLB in homeruns and RBIs. Key players such as DJ LeMahieu, Gio Urshela, Gleyber Torres, Cameron Maybin, and Luke Voit have all stepped up to fill the various voids throughout the season. With Domingo German out for the postseason, it is up to the remaining starters to step up to give the Yankees a shot at a World Series title.

The St. Louis Cardinals clinched the NL Central after a close 3-2 victory against the Chicago Cubs on Sunday, September 22. The Cardinals are currently 90-69, closing the regular season with three games against the Cubs. After battling for first place in the NL Central against the Brewers all year, the Cardinals managed to edge them out to clinch a playoff spot. While the Cardinals may not have the big name players as some of the other teams, they could certainly rally to make a run for the World Series. With consistent starter pitchers and a solid closer in Carlos Martinez, the Cardinals could shock some people as an underdog contender.

The Washington Nationals clinched a wild-card spot in the playoffs on Tuesday, September 24 after defeating the Phillies. The Nationals

did not have a great start to the season, as they had the third worst record in the National League as of May 24 (ESPN.com). The Nationals are currently 88-69. With an impressive starting pitching rotation composed of Stephen Strasburg, Max Scherzer, and Patrick Corbin, the Nationals were able to bounce back to become a playoff contender.

With the regular season coming to a close, many teams are still battling it out for the final playoff spots. The Minnesota Twins are close to clinching the AL Central, while the Brewers seem to be closing in on the second NL wild-card spot. Meanwhile, the Oakland A’s are battling the Tampa Bay Rays and Cleveland Indians for the two remaining AL wild-card spots. The first two wild card games will be played on October 1 and October 2.

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Photo courtesy of mlb.com.

Six teams have clinched a spot in the MLB playoffs, four continue to battle.