



# The College Reporter

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
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Lancaster PA  
Permit 901

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

<http://www.the-college-reporter.com>

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 9

## Protests against racism on college campuses extend to Syracuse, Penn, others

BY MIRA LERNER  
*Copy Editor*

An Inside Higher Ed article titled “F&M athletes wore racist Halloween costumes” is one of the first hits on a simple Google news search for “college campus racism.” The most recent incidents of racism at Franklin & Marshall sparked great protest, but we are hardly alone- both in issues and in activism. The past few months have been divisive for colleges and universities across the country.

Currently, Syracuse University is in the spotlight for a (still continuing) two-week long run of racist incidents on campus. According to the New York Times, the saga began on November 7th when racist graffiti was found on the walls of a dormitory building. The Washington Post reports that since then, almost a dozen more racial incidents have been reported, including an accusation of a group of students for yelling a racial slur at a female African-American student and a swastika carved into the snow outside a university building. The most widely acknowledged event happened one evening when a racist manifesto was airdropped to multiple students’



Photo courtesy of Maranie Staab/Reuters.

Two students participate in protests against white supremacy at Syracuse University.

phones as they were studying in the library, said the Washington Post. The manifesto appears to be the exact document circulated by the shooter of the New Zealand mosque massacres. After this incident, a Jewish Mexican professor received a threatening email calling her a racial slur and suggesting that she die.

In light of these events, daily functioning at the University was highly disrupted, much like it was at

F&M. Several classes were cancelled and students remain fearful to leave their dorms. Also similarly to F&M, Syracuse students are unhappy with their administration’s response and have been staging sit-ins. They released a lengthy list of demands for the administration to address as well. The university’s newspaper posted some of the items, which include expulsion of students involved in racist incidents and punishment of

bystanders, mandatory diversity education, clearer policies regarding hate speech, more counselors reflective of the diverse student body, and \$1 million for a new curriculum that would address racism.

A few weeks ago at the University of Pennsylvania, a talk featuring former director of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, Thomas Homan, was shut down in less than fifteen minutes. The Daily Pennsylvanian reported that in the days prior, over 500 students and alumni signed a petition. Students from several other universities signed as well. “Inviting Homan as a guest speaker contradicts Penn’s claim of being a sanctuary campus that is committed to ensuring the well-being and safety of all of its students,” the petition read. Before the talk was scheduled to begin, students arrived at the venue and began protesting, resulting in the eventual cancellation.

Students at the University of Connecticut were outraged after a video showing a few white students loudly saying a racial slur was released. Students of color expressed

see SYRACUSE, page 2

## Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees remain displaced in Bangladesh

BY ANNA SYNAKH  
*Copy Editor*

The Rohingya people are a Muslim minority group that formerly lived on the western coast of Myanmar (formerly Burma), a predominantly Buddhist country. This group has been persecuted for their religious beliefs ever since mid-nineteenth century. In 1977, they were denied citizenship and labeled as ‘illegal’ residents. Such laws started both military and civilian attacks on the group, forcing it into displacement. Nearly 200,000 Rohingya people escaped to Bangladesh, running away from mass arrests and violence

and hoping for a better future. While the government of Bangladesh was willing to host refugee camps in theory, it simply lacked funds to provide for this new population. The refugees struggled to survive.

In 1989, the government of Burma changed, and the persecution worsened. The Rohingya who did not escape before faced unimaginable violence, enduring torture and rape on the daily basis. This time, nearly 250,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. The options for a new home consisted at that time of twenty refugee camps around Bangladesh with a very low quality of life.

In 1992 this conflict was finally noticed by the United Nations. A treaty was created between Bangladesh and Myanmar, stating that Rohingya will be repatriated and provided appropriate documentation in their country of origin. Bangladeshi refugee camps closed down and no longer accepted new arrivals. A large portion of Rohingya returned to Myanmar but they were not provided with any documentation as promised. Bangladesh closed 18 out of 20 camps and the remaining two were in dire condition.

In 2015, a new party was elected into the majority in Burma. The

leader of the party, Aung San Suu Kyi, was a Nobel Peace Prize winner, due to her democratic stance prior to the election. The world powers were hopeful about the future of the Rohingya under this newly elected government, in addition to renewed positivity about the state of Burma overall.

In 2016, a new outburst of violence broke out in the region due to clashes between the military and local militias. Rohingya were being attacked directly by the military. Aung San Suu Kyi and the head of the military still claim that these

see ROHINGYA, page 2

### Inside this Issue...

**Opinion & Editorial**  
Junior editor speaks to the importance of free speech  
page 3

**Campus Life**  
Common Hour discusses logistics and politics of impeachment  
page 5

**Arts & Leisure**  
Grammy nominations bring surprises, snubs  
page 6

**Sports**  
Houston Astros accused of cheating in 2017 World Series  
page 7



Syracuse: Protests against racist acts continue on campuses across the country

continued from page 1

anger, Vox says, because the incident reflects the historical issues of neglect they have experienced at the school. Both a march and a rally were held protesting UConn’s responses. Closer to home, a racial slur written in salt was left on a table in a Millersville university building on November 4th. A letter from the president was sent out to the student body condemning “all forms of hate, bigotry, and discrimination on campus” and announcing a police investigation. Franklin & Marshall is a part of a larger movement happening in

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CRIME WATCH

All reports this week were initiated by witness rather than self-initiated by DPS employees on duty.

Friday, Nov 15, overnight - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) received a report of a vehicle that was broken into in the West parking lot.

Friday, Nov 15, 11:25 pm - DPS received a complaint of underage drinking at Steinman College Center.

Friday, Nov 15, 11:25 pm - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at 534 W James St.

Saturday, Nov 16, 5:18 am - DPS received a report of a domestic violence incident between two students at College Row.

Saturday, Nov 16, 6:23 pm - DPS responded to the complaint of a marijuana odor at the 600 block of College Ave. No students were cited.

Sunday, Nov 17, 11:51 pm - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at 520 N Charlotte St.


Sunday, Nov 17, 12:39 am - DPS responded to a complaint of underage drinking, loud noise, and a drug violation at the 500 block of W James St.

Sunday, Nov 17, 11:43 pm - DPS received a complaint of underage drinking at Bonchek College House.


Monday, Nov 18, 12:23 am - DPS responded to a drug violation at Weis College House.

Wednesday, Nov 20, 12:00 am - DPS received a report of domestic violence on College Row from the Title IX coordinator.

Thursday, Nov 21, 11:07 pm - DPS responded to a loud noise complaint at Marshall Hall.



**The College Reporter**  
Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.  
**THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER OF  
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE**



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Rohingya: The Gambia files genocide case against Myanmar for actions against Rohingya

continued from page 1

clashes were not geared towards the Muslim minority. In the summer of 2017, persecution of the Rohingya minority worsened. Their villages were burned. Men were slaughtered on the spot. Women were raped en masse. Children were beaten. The 570,000 that manage to survive the horrors of the attacks once again escaped to Bangladesh. The government of Myanmar stated that the Rohingya people are nothing but Islamic terrorists and that the military was simply trying to prevent the spread of terrorism into other regions. As of now, more than 600,000 Rohingya remain in Bangladesh. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has started a program which provides refugees with identification cards, thus validating their existence, in the hopes that someday they might use this identification to cross the border and return home. The violence against the Rohingya population has not stopped since the 1970s. Many of them have not yet known a life in peace. Many of them will never know one. The global NGOs have struggled to call the persecution of this Muslim minority a genocide for years, as no proper solutions have been found. The government of Myanmar has denied the presence of genocidal intentions. Last week, the Republic of the Gambia filed a genocide case against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ will hold public hearings from December 10th through December 12th. The Gambia is a part of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which in the past has spoken out against these genocidal actions. Gambian

Attorney General Abubacarr Marie Tambadou provided The Associated Press with the following statement, claiming that the filing of the case should “send a clear message to Myanmar and to the rest of the international community that the world must not stand by and do nothing in the face of terrible atrocities that are occurring around us. It is a shame for our generation that we do nothing while genocide is unfolding right before our own eyes.” Aung San Suu Kyi responded in a Facebook post which stated that she will be representing her country in court. The post never mentioned the issue of the Rohingya Genocide addressed by the Gambian government but rather referred to it as the issue of the “displaced persons in the Rakhine state.” Earlier in the week, the ICC, the international court which investigates individuals, had requested to investigate certain representatives of the Myanmar government because of their apparent encouragement of the violence against the Rohingya. The request was denied by Myanmar, as the country is not a member of the ICC and thus does not have to fulfill such demands. For nearly fifty years the world has ignored the persecution of the Rohingya people, but it seems that nations worldwide are finally noticing the awfulness of the actions taking place. Although the outcomes of the ICJ investigation cannot be foreseen, there is hope that the Rohingya will finally find justice, and possibly even peace.

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Full Staff Opinion

With Thanksgiving break coming up, students, faculty, and staff will be awarded a well-deserved break from school and work. For those of us who are lucky enough to head home for the break, getting home to see family and friends will be nice, and for those who remain on campus will have a break from the non-stop nature of class and every other responsibility. No matter what, it will be good for everyone to get a break before coming back to finish the semester as strong as possible, especially with exams coming up right after we get back. That being said, while the rest is nice and distancing ourselves from school may be much needed for some, it is important to realize that coming back to campus after break means that we resume our responsibilities as students, workers, and members of the Franklin & Marshall community. Being members of this community is possibly the most important of those three responsibilities, and with recent events considered, we cannot let the conversations that we have been having die out. As of late, the community has played host to discussions about equality and racism, and we need to try our hardest not to let this busy time of the year allow those conversations to fall to the wayside and be forgotten. That being said we urge students, faculty, and staff to rest and relax over Thanksgiving break. Take time to be with loved ones, if you are lucky enough to have the chance, recharge before exams, and come back ready to both finish the semester, and continue the conversations that we have been having in the last portion of the semester. Happy Break!

Staff Writer Commentary

Freedom of speech on campus: how dialogue facilitates growth

BY OLIVIA CAPASSO  
Junior Editor

All citizens under the United States’ democracy are endowed with a set of inalienable rights. One of our most fundamental and constitutionally protected liberties, freedom of speech, has sparked bouts of controversy throughout history regarding its appropriate limitations and whether or not the federal government even has the ability to restrict it. A more contemporary issue taken with speech is how a balance might be achieved between preserving the liberties of Americans who wish not to be exposed to language they deem offensive, as well as those of the individuals who intend to fully exercise their legal freedom to speak their mind.

In response to this national dilemma, I believe that between all levels of government, the regulation of speech in an attempt to eliminate prejudice is widely counterproductive. Now, as a private educational institution, there of course must be some limitations in comparison to that which is allowed in the public sphere; at Franklin & Marshall College, speech must abide by state and federal law. It cannot include threats, slander, or harassment, for these forms of language are not categorized as protected “expression.” However, I believe speech that is not legally prohibited should not be attacked purely because it is deemed offensive by a select group or individual.

Our nation and our college are proudly built upon diversity in thought and culture. Clashes in beliefs will naturally be the by-product of a school with students from a variety of backgrounds. In response to the racial issues circulating on campus, many are

Student describes impression of “Let’s Talk About Racism” forum

BY SOJIN SHIN  
Op-Eds Editor

On November 18th, a forum was held in New College Hose at 7 PM to discuss recent changes. Dean Hazlett, President Altmann, and the General Counsel was present. Here are a few major points.

Dean Hazlett announced that a Director of Diversity will be hired at around late January to late February, when people in administrative positions often seek for new jobs. This position, she explained, will support multicultural student organizations and



Photo courtesy of amec.org

Students protest for free speech on campus.

demanding alterations to F&M’s statement on freedom of expression which, as written, supports “multiple opinions” and communication rather than “censorship” and restricted speech. By instituting preventative measures on the exchange of ideas and personal credence, such as the bias reporting system, we are not only undermining the core and historic beliefs of this college, but failing to successfully address the prejudicial incidents and mindsets that we are taking issue with in the first place. I truly believe that the recent events on campus are largely the result of ignorance rather than overt and calculated racism towards any particular group. Now, how can such ig-

norance be resolved if our best solution is simply to silence the speaker? Would it not be more productive to permit expression in order for there to be collective, societal growth?

As indicated in recent alum Ryan Jacoby’s blog post on free expression on campus, the existence of the bias reporting system allows for any individual or group to reasonably argue that certain speech or behavior is “offensive.” The sure consequence of such an implementation is a hyper-sensitive environment, filled with students hesitant to express their opinion in fear of differing from that of the majority. Additionally, with limitations on prejudicial

their development. She also mentioned that OMCA is currently understaffed, and that it will go through major structural changes. To me, it sounded like an underhanded explanation as to why the office had been so unresponsive through the course of events that took place.

Dean Hazlett then announced that a new Director of Athletics will be hired. Also, the rest of the coaches will go through what she called ‘professional development.’ She did not give specific details as to what that ‘professional development’ would include, although it sounded vaguely like diversity training.

A large part of the forum was dedicated to describing the bias reporting system, which will be implemented by Fall 2020. Here, Dean Hazlett admitted that F&M falls behind in terms of ensuring diversity and safety of POC on campus. Also, according to her, even though bias reporting system had been envisioned for a while, it was President Altmann who jump started the project in January of 2019.

Pierce Buller, the General Counsel and Deputy of Chief of Staff, came up to speak how the system will function. Under this system, all bias incident will get reported to a committee consist-

language come limitations on productive conversations that may advance a more cohesive understanding of our differences as distinct individuals. The entire basis of attending a liberal arts college is to promote personal growth and to think more deeply about the community around us- how can an elevated mind be achieved if our degree is one that has been diluted by systems seeking to eradicate diversity in thoughts?

As college students, we have arrived at likely the most idealistic period of our lives. However, if collective tolerance and acceptance is the standard we strive for, then everyone, regardless of his or her understanding of the world, deserves to be treated with the same amount of respect. Methods that shut down discussions and employ harsh and punitive responses to miscalculated behaviors do not change hearts and minds. Policies and laws against prejudice do not address the actual issue--an ignorance which exists internally and cannot be regulated without the organic flow of ideas between diverse individuals. The Halloween costumes and other racially charged events on campus were no doubt hurtful and perpetuated stereotypes that our nation is striving to eliminate. The only way to successfully combat such behavior at F&M is to uphold and preserve the fundamental liberty of freedom of speech and engage in discourse, rather than selecting the more convenient, administrative route of entirely limiting unpopular language. Change will ensue, but only as the result of meaningful discussions on race originating from a place of understanding and compassion.

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ed of designees of Dr. Altmann, student representatives, and faculty members. There will be a log that will keep track of details on bias incidents, including the place it occurred and people involved. Then, when enough precedent is built, they will be able to analyze the data to see if there is a trend in all these events, which can then be fought off with administrative policies. He mentioned, however, that the administration hoped to get input from the student body as to more details on how the system will look like.

A student then questioned what see FORUM, page 4



continued from page 3

actions, other than being recorded in the log, will happen whenever a biased incident occurs. They were rightfully concerned that a log alone wouldn't be enough to deter racist actions on campus. Mr. Buller answered that there could be sanctions, although he did not answer as to what specific actions or speech may cause such a sanction to be issued. Every member of the committee, he stated, will be trained to have better discernment. There was no discussion of what that training would be.

During orientation, HAs will explain how to use bias reporting system. Further discussion of the system occurred at a forum that happened on Nov. 19, 2019.

An open forum followed after the announcements. Even though there were some moments of tension, most of the discussion was

civil and respectful. At the close of the forum, President Altmann spoke that F&M is going through an "identity crisis," and that these changes will cause "chaos and upset." Yet, she stated "dialogues like this is how we will make change," revealing optimism about the college's future.

I have mixed feelings about the forum. On one hand, I am hopeful. The fact that administrative members hosted this forum indicate a dedication towards our core values: communication and dialogue. I appreciate that.

At the same time, there are terms used during the forum, such as 'professional development' or 'diversity trainings,' which are rather ambiguous. Perhaps the administration is in the process of ironing out these details, but I worry that these words will remain as mere words.

The new changes look promis-

ing, but they do not put our unsettled minds to rest.

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Photo courtesy of fandm.edu

Day of dialogue is one of many events F&M hosts to promote diversity.

## Student expresses concern about effect of 2.3 million budget deficit

BY MIRA LERNER  
Copy Editor

If you would like a short summary of Franklin & Marshall's financial situation, here it is: "The endowment is just too small." Paul Mutone repeated the statement so often at the budget forum held on Tuesday, November 12 that it took on a comical intonation. Nevertheless, in light of recent events on campus and calls for action that will require significant investment from the College, the budget forum was an interesting window into F&M's financial situation. My main take-away from the hour long session? Current student unhappiness has dire implications for F&M's future.

Each fiscal year, the Budget Priorities Committee (BPC), creates a recommended operating budget. To do so, they examine past budgets and spending patterns and talk to senior management and leaders about the spending they oversee. For example, the provost is allotted around \$49 million dollars each year under the heading "academic affairs."

After the BPC has compiled a budget recommendation, they give it to the president, who has the prerogative to make changes. The president then gives the budget plan to the board of trustees, who ultimately must pass or reject the budget. If the board passes the budget, no more changes can be made and each department/office receives their suggestion.

Suggestion. I asked Paul Mutone, Vice President for Finance & Administration, Treasurer, and Ex Officio for the BPC, what happens if people/departments go over budget? He acknowledged

that such a problem does exist—"They can go over, but in the past there have not been punishments or repercussions for doing so." Overspending is where the operating budget deficit begins and why the College must draw from its endowment.

The operating budget for the 2020 fiscal year was a little over \$133 million. To keep up with our peer institutions, the BPC said, that number needs to be more like \$150 million. Seventy seven percent of that money came from the revenue made off of students and 15% from the endowment—the inverse of how we should be pulling money. For operating costs, the BPC explained, more money should be available in the endowment and the percentage coming from students should be much lower. "We have a \$133 million operating budget and not a dime for the unexpected," said Mr. Mutone.

F&M's financial situation is definitely hurting current students; there is a lack of funding for student-programming and we are the 10th most expensive college in the country. Most organizations and departments are fighting for a piece of the budget and the lack of resources is having an effect on community satisfaction. As exemplified by the recent protests, news interviews, letters to The College Reporter, signs on the protest tree, and forums, many students at F&M are unhappy at the moment. They are not happy with the administration, their fellow students, and the campus culture that both bodies create together.

As many challenges as current members of the F&M community face, future students may have

larger problems and a smaller endowment if the administration does not address student demands. Unhappy students turn into unhappy and disconnected alumni. A large part of why F&M already has a small endowment is alumni disengagement. At the forum the BPC said, "Many alumni are largely disconnected from the school and therefore don't donate, which is really hurting the endowment." If the current student population walks away from F&M without the intention of giving back, as has happened in the past, the endowment will most likely get smaller, and future students will feel the effects.

"I'm optimistic—and that's saying something," the BPC president, Seth Kopchak, inserted at the end of the forum. The joke earned him a few chuckles.

The 2021 fiscal year is projected to end with a \$2.3 million deficit. However, that number does not include several factors, such as slowing the rate of tuition increase and reducing the rate of endowment draw. That could send the deficit up to \$9 million.

Going forward, the BPC explained their rationale as trying to find places to save in order to avoid "cutting into the meat, which is the educational experience of the students." Major cuts may be coming, but F&M needs to find the money to financially support multicultural programming and resources, or it's looking like our problems will only get worse.

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Photo courtesy of usaturf.com

Can F&M overcome its increasing financial deficit?

# Campus Life

## Common Hour panel discusses future implications of 2020 impeachment trials

BY ISABEL PARIS  
Campus Life Editor

This week's Common Hour featured a panel of government professors discussing the history and current implications of impeachment. More specifically, the professors focused on the historical impacts of impeachment in the United States, the politics of impeachment, and the status of the impeachment process. Covering both domestic and foreign impeachment implications, the talk drifted into discussing public opinion as well as any possible impact on the 2020 Elections.

Jennifer Kibbe, her research and career focus much on U.S. foreign policy, international relations, and political psychology. Matthew Schousen's research is focused on United States institutions and he teaches many courses regarding Congress or the Presidency. Stephen Medvic is mainly concerned with campaigns and elections, the media, public opinion, and political parties. Each professor gave their own expertise and viewpoint on the current impeachment trials and how it is impacting the various levels of both domestic and international sectors.

The moderator, Terry Madonna, began the talk by overlaying general facts and information about the impeachment process. There are three articles that deal with impeachment in the US Constitution. There have been 19 impeachments in US history, 15 of those involved federal judges

and 1 being a supreme court justice. The Constitution lays out in very specific terms who are involved in the process however the decision will fall to whatever the majority House of Representatives says it is.

Jennifer Kibbe first spoke about the initial charge for the beginning of the investigation into President Trump. She says that while quid pro quo is now a universal Latin phrase that is equated with our current President, his supposed actions in regards to Ukraine stepped outside the realm of acceptable. While quid pro quo is used in terms of countries working together and giving and taking something. However, the difference is that President Trump supposedly used this form of quid pro quo for his own personal gains. Kibbe outlined the significance of Ukraine and why it is in the conversation at all. Since the separation from Russia, Ukraine is the most valued land. The US has been mostly bi-partisan and only desires to keep Ukraine out of Russia's sphere. If Ukraine were to ever be brought back under Russia's power, it would become an empire. This theory of Ukraine and President Trump was originally pushed by Russian propaganda channels in order to be hopefully released from the sanctions placed upon them. Kibbe finished out her time by explaining how high the stakes are in regards to the international community. She says that it is the survival of a long-time ally and how any move of Putin could disrupt the international system.

Matthew Schousen then spoke about the logistics behind the impeachment process. He began by pointing out that the impeachment of President Trump had not been a majority view in the Democratic caucus. In fact, most of the caucus hasn't really wanted to impeach him. Nancy Pelosi had been rejecting any proposals of impeachment until the Ukraine issue arose. After the issue was brought to Pelosi's attention, in mid-September six committees were investigating issues with a focus on finding any evidence that could lead to possible impeachment. The difference between this process and the processes of former Presidents Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon is that they started in a judiciary committee. Instead, for President Trump, the House started the collection and have been doing most of the leg work. Schousen emphasized that the intelligence committees are trying to collect as much information as they can. Their job is not to set up for impeachment but gathering enough evidence to evaluate if there is enough that impeachment would proceed. It is only after that they collected enough information that they hand it over to the judiciary committee and only then does the judiciary committee decides to go forward with a trial. The final issue Schousen touches upon is wondering how long could this possibly take? He says that it all depends on the scope of what the committee wants to address. Do they only include any implication of

President Trump and Ukraine or do they bring over issues and evidence that was collected in addition to this main charge?

Wrapping up the talk, Stephen Medvic gave possible scenarios and speculation as to what will happen in terms of the election in light of these trials. He showed the public opinion polls and comparing where people are today in regards to where people were for Nixon and Clinton. Medvic also talked about how President Trump's approval ratings have been pretty stable throughout these past months. Giving his best assumption, he said that President Trump is likely not going to be removed and that these impeachment trials won't have an impact on the election. In regards to the general election, he believes that both parties are going to be motivated by these trials. Regardless of the outcome, each will strive for promoting their party in whatever way they believe will help them win.

The Common Hour proved to be very informative and helpful especially for those who may not have been keeping up with these trials in general. People in the audience were clearly engaged and entranced by the seemingly simple but well-layered proceedings of impeachment and what it could mean for the United States both domestically and internationally.

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## Writer Amani Dobson shares first experience at Writer's House Thanksgiving

BY AMANI DOBSON  
Layout Assistant

Shivering, I ripped the door to the Writer's House open, and there it was. A warm breeze hugging me as Nina Simone's "Feeling Good" gently poured into my ears. So this was what the annual Writer's House Thanksgiving looks like. I was only a minute late, but the line already stretched from the dining room into the living room and swooped to the door. These college kids do not play around with their food I see. I scanned the room for my friend Lauren and was grateful when she entered the room. She joined me in the line, and we excitedly stood waving to familiar faces until we finally reached the main course (no pun intended): the kitchen.

The table of food seemed endlessly long. What immediately caught my eye was the delicious looking array of breads at the front. I quickly picked up two and plopped them onto my plate. I

continued to grab food around the table as I greeted people—some friends, some I had never met. At the back of the room there were drinks and to my pleasure many desserts. After stockpiling our plates with numerous options, Lauren and I found a seat in the living room along the side. This time "All I Want for Christmas" was blaring out of the speakers. It felt like a huge family reunion as my friend and I caught up on our lives and engaged in bubbly chatter with our friends that were scattered around the room. The playlist contained many hits, and the entire room was singing nearly every song. There were people sitting everywhere, on tables, chairs, couches, floors, steps and the hall leading to the kitchen.

When Lauren went to get more food I was left alone and could not help but notice how happy everybody looked at that moment. Not one frown or blank face. There was just a bunch of teenagers and adults mingling, laughing, and enjoying the great food provided

to us that day. As someone who had been missing home recently, it gave me a familial feeling I had been missing after everything these past few weeks that left the campus environment tense and uneasy. This was pure love floating around the room and giving us each a kiss on the cheek.

After finishing my plate, I went back up for some desserts, and on the table I saw my favorite holiday cookies which I immediately grabbed up. I also saw pumpkin pie, another favorite. I went back with those and scarfed it down pretty quickly. The dj started playing popular songs like "Thank U Next" and "Bad Guy" which got everybody dancing. Even the adults, who I had no idea knew any of these songs, were singing and dancing their hearts away with the rest of us. The photographer was snapping pictures the entire night, and I was so thankful that there was someone capturing these moments on camera.

The entire event was like the one bright sunflower in a field

of weeds. Warm, fun, and in the right place at the right time. The semester had been stressing everyone out that it was almost a perfect pick me up for the rest of the week. Overall, writer's house Thanksgiving was a magnificent experience. If you did not go this year definitely make sure you show your face next November.

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Photo courtesy of twitter.com

Writer's House hosts a Thanksgiving meal to relieve stress across campus.



# Arts & Leisure

## New, darker music style expected for Harry Styles’ new album, *Fine Line*

BY MATILDA STOLTE  
*Staff Writer*

Since his debut on the 2010 singing competition “Britain’s Got Talent,” Harry Styles has become a household name. Subsequent to his audition, he joined the boy band One Direction along with four other members: Louis Tomilson, Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, and Liam Payne.

One Direction instantly became a worldwide phenomenon. The band’s debut album *Up All Night* selling 2,095,000 units and reaching #1 on US Billboard Weekly Chart. The next four albums did just as well, selling out venues across the world. In 2015, following the departure of Zayn Malik, the band broke up.

Outside the strict regime of a boy band, Harry’s musical and personal style evolved. In One Direction, he was constricted to boy-band pop. With four other members, his creativity seemed to be hindered. Two years later, Harry Styles released his first single “Sign of the Times.” Styles wrote the song along with Jeff Bhasker, Mitch Rowland, Ryan

Nasci, Alex Salibian, and Tyler Johnson. Sign of the Times flipped the expectations from former boy-band member on its head. The song was moody and dark in contrast to the teen-pop that was expected. The song became 2× Platinum, debuting 4th in the US Billboard 100. It was the lead single for his self-titled first solo album.

In the album he distances himself from predictable pop and expands into psychedelic, melancholy pop similar to the idols he adores. Besides “Sign of the Times,” “Two Ghosts” has a haunting melody referencing a tumultuous relationship. Sweet Creature’s delicate guitar riffs and thoughtful lyrics allude to Style’s close relationship with his sister Gemma.

As a solo artist, Styles found his individual fashion taste. Unlike many mainstream male artists, Styles makes many brave fashion choices. He isn’t afraid of bright-colored bell bottoms, sparkly blouses, or other retro styles that might be deemed feminine. According to an interview with British GQ, Styles keeps his wardrobe

in a frozen vault with 24-hour security.

In an interview with Rolling Stone in 2019, Styles discussed drugs, sex, and rock & roll for his next coming album. He talked about the presence and influence of drugs in his musical journey. The presence of drugs is evident in his most recent music video for his newest single: *Lights Up*. In the video, a sweaty and potentially influenced Styles can be seen swaying and dancing shirtless with a group of people. The lyrics allude to the presence of drugs with the line, “never coming back down.” The song also references his road to self-discovery, constantly repeating the question, “Do you know who you are?”

On November 18, Harry Styles hosted Saturday Night Live along with being the musical guest. He sang “Lights Up” along with his newest song, “Watermelon Sugar.” In a tweet, Styles stated that, “Kiwi walked so Watermelon Sugar could run.” Watermelon Sugar describes a summer, and Style’s craving with the lyrics, “I don’t know if I can ever go without that Watermelon Sugar High.” The



Photo courtesy of celebmx.com  
Styles’ album *Fine Line* will be released on December 13, 2019.

repetition of the song title as well as the usage of high alludes to the broader theme of craving, drugs, and of course, romance. Both “Watermelon Sugar” and “Lights Up” provide plenty of excitement for what Harry’s Styles’ sophomore album *Fine Line* has in store for us.

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## Shelby Kaplan, *Drop Dead!* student director, discusses her experience directing

BY DANIELLE RICE  
*Arts & Leisure Editor*

Junior Shelby Kaplan made her directorial debut two weekends ago when Green Room Theatre Club put on *Drop Dead!*, the comedy/murder mystery play. Kaplan is a Theater and Government double major. Although this is her first time directing a play, she is no novice to the theater world. Kaplan said, “I have been performing in plays and musicals since sixth grade, including a number of productions here at F&M.”

However, she had never seriously considered directing until she heard about the need for directors. “When I heard that [the Green Room Theatre] club was looking for directors, I knew that *Drop Dead!* would be a fun show to put on here, and I thought, ‘let me see if I could even get a group of tech people together’ (tech manager, set designer, stage manager, etc.). Next thing I knew all the people I asked were agreeing and excited,” she explained.

Kaplan performed in *Drop Dead!* at her high school, and chose to direct it because of its humor. “During my time at F&M I have not seen anyone direct a

play that was just really funny. Life can be incredibly difficult at times and I have had my fair share of hard times. I wanted to do something that would really bring people joy and provide them [with] an hour and a half of laughter,” Kaplan said. Since this was her first time directing, it was a whole new experience. She said, “My favorite part was looking at the growth of the actors overtime and seeing my ideas come to life.”

Kaplan faced many challenges, however, when getting the show on its feet. “For a while I thought the world may have been against me making the show happen.” One of them, Kaplan said was, “About two weeks before the semester started, I learned that the theater I intended to use was unavailable as it would be under construction all semester.” The play ended up being performed in the Other Room Theater. She also had another dilemma during the casting week. She explained, “I needed to return home due to a family emergency. We had to move what was intended to be three days of auditions, a day of callbacks, and a day for the read-through, into two days.”

Despite the obstacles, the show



Photo courtesy of phxstages.blogspot.com  
The Green Room Theatre Club performed successful play, *Drop Dead!* two weekends ago, led by first-time student director, Shelby Kaplan.

was a success with a sold out closing night. Kaplan credits her tech crew, advisors, and friends for helping her to be able to direct the show. “I honestly could not have done it without my tech crew, advisor, and some really good friends.”

Kaplan decided that proceeds from the tickets would be donated to research for the treatment of angiosarcoma, which her brother passed away from. “It really meant a lot to me that

I was able to dedicate the show to my brother and raise money to research a cure for the disease.”

Her hope for the show, she said, was for the audience to leave the theater in a better mood than they came in. “I hope they were able to step away from their outside problems and be healed a bit from laughter.”

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F&M Wrestling is 2-0 after defeating first two competitors. Read more below...



photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

# Franklin & Marshall Sports

## F&M Wrestling off to great start, taking down first two competitors

BY JAMIE BELFER  
*Sports Editor*

The F&M Wrestling team is off to a great start in the 2019-2020 season. With dedicated upper class leaders and talented first years, the Diplomats are prepared to take down their competitors. Senior captain Emmett LiCastrì knows that the success of this Diplomat season will depend on “avoiding injuries, continuing good training, and being able to bounce back [from losses] throughout the season.”

After months of training, the Diplomats participated in their first competition of the season in the Bearcat Open at Binghamton University on November 10. The Diplomats faced many different competitors from over ten different schools including Cornell, Lehigh, and Bucknell. LiCastrì lead the Diplomats with a third place victory in the 165 lb. weight class by going 5-1. As a second year captain, LiCastrì understands his role on the team as one who leads by example by “living right on and off the mat,” in addition to one who is a “spoken leader” by being a voice that builds the confidence of his teammates. He owes much of his leadership skills to his coaches who have been great leaders to him over the past three years.

The weekend following the Bearcat Open, the Diplomats traveled

down to Lexington, Virginia to compete in their first dual meets of the season against Virginia Military Institute (11:00am) and Davidson College (1:00pm).

After losing the first 125 lb. match-up to VMI, F&M quickly rebounded with Nick Tewell’s 9-1 major decision and Wil Gil’s 4-1 decision. These two victories put the Diplomat team up 7-6 against VMI. After a subsequent 6-4 loss in the 149 lb. match, the Diplomats once again bounced back with two deciding victories of 8-1 by Noah Chan and Emmett LiCastrì.

The match became much closer after two Diplomat losses putting the Keydets up 17-13. With only two matches left, the 197 lb. and heavy-weight classes, the Diplomats needed two victories to earn their first team victory. First-year Ethan Seeley stepped up to secure a big victory, earning three points for his team to put the Diplomats within one point of the Keydets. With a score of 17-16, the Diplomat’s fate rested in the hands of sophomore heavyweight Cenzo Pelusi. A close 9-5 match brought the F&M team’s its first victory of the season, with a final score of 19-17.

The Diplomats had continued success in their second match of the day. F&M’s Jack Bruce rebounded from his individual loss against VMI

by winning a close 5-4 match against Davidson, giving the Diplomats a 3-0 lead. Tewell and Kulp fell to their opponents, but Wil Gil’s impressive 29 second victory against his opponent tied the score up at 9 points apiece. With their second back-to-back wins of the day, Noah Chan and Emmett LiCastrì put the Diplomats up 15-9. The Wildcats inched closer with a win in the 174 lb weight class, but Geoff Magin kept the Diplomats ahead with his first win of the day with a major decision. After Davidson won a major decision in the second-to-last match of the day, the score was 19-16, the Diplomats being ahead by

three. The fate of the meet once again came down to Cenzo Pelusi in the final match. With a major decision or pin, Davidson could tie or go ahead. However, a determined Pelusi fought to earn a 9-5 victory, once again securing the victory for the Diplomats.

The Diplomats will look to keep improving match after match and continue to push one another to be the best in order to send as many of their teammates to the NCAA tournament as possible at the end of the season.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.  
Emmett Licastrì placed third in the Bearcat Open at Binghamton University. The Diplomats are now 2-0, after defeating VMI and Davidson in their first two matchups.

## Astros cheating allegations ignite questions regarding success in postseason

BY KATHERINE COBLE  
*News Editor*

The Houston Astros are in hot water this week following dramatic cheating allegations stemming from behavior that occurred during the 2017 World Series. The Astros won that series against the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games. In an article by The Athletic, former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers served as the whistleblower—breaking open the case.

Fiers claims that throughout home games that season, the Astros used a camera to view opposing catchers’ pitching signs. Then, in real-time, they would inform the hitter of the upcoming pitch by banging on a trash can near the dugout. When the trash can was banged on, an off-speed pitch was coming. When it was silent, a fastball was on its way. The cheating mechanism appears simple but was surely effective. The Astros were 8-1 in home games during the 2017 postseason, including 2-1 at home during the World Series.

This particular scandal comes at a unique time. In the modern era, nearly every postseason baseball play from the past decade can be found and repeatedly examined. In light of

these allegations, the 2017 Astros are facing intense scrutiny online. As the New York Times Magazine puts it, a “cottage industry” of sports YouTubers has popped up attempting to find every single case of cheating from the Astros that season. “Baseball Prospectus” blogger Rob Arthur even ran audio data from MLB games, looking for the distinct banging noise of the dugout garbage can, and found that those bangs line up almost exactly with the fastballs of opposing pitchers.

Sign stealing has been a part of baseball almost since its inception. The first case of it, according to The Athletic, occurred in 1876 by the Hartford Dark Blues (they folded the following year). In 1951, members of the New York Giants stole signs from the Brooklyn Dodgers using a telescope. Although the act of sign stealing in itself is not specifically banned by the MLB, the use of electronics or mechanics to aid sign stealing is. It raises bigger issues of fair play and sportsmanship, which have been made all the more complicated in the modern era.

In 2017, the very same year that the allegations against the Astros oc-

curred, the Boston Red Sox were fined for violating rules about electronics. During a regular-season series against their rival New York Yankees, an assistant coach for the Red Sox used an Apple Watch to communicate about catcher signals to the Boston players. MLB commissioner Rob Manfred fined them an undisclosed amount. At the time that fine was viewed as a warning to all thirty teams, and Manfred warned he would not be afraid to punish more harshly if cheating occurred again.

The league has been investigating these latest Astros allegations for some time now and plans to wrap up that investigation by the beginning of December according to the New York Times. Their punishment is sure to be hefty, given the circumstances, but many fans of other teams are sure to feel any punishment is not harsh enough.

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Photo courtesy of reviewjournal.com.  
The Houston Astros have been accused of using technology to steal signs from opposing teams. The MLB is looking to wrap up its investigation by December.