



The College Reporter

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Anger, controversy sparked over racist Halloween costumes worn by students

BY KATHERINE COBLE

News Editor

The Franklin & Marshall College campus has been awash with tension, anger, and frustration this week as images surfaced of several male students, all athletes, wearing racially stereotypical costumes to a Halloween party during the weekend of November 1st-3rd.

In one picture, two soccer players wore stereotypical mustaches and Mexican apparel in an attempt to be a fictional 'Jose Cuervo', a tequila brand named for agave farmer and entrepreneur Don Jose Antonio de Cuervo, who began his family business in the 1750s. In another, basketball players dressed in stereotypical Mexican clothing and as an Asian "rice paddy farmer" with soy sauce hanging from his neck. In a widely-circulated photo, the student dressed as the rice farmer pulled his eyes into a mocking pose. A final photo showed a soccer player in traditional African clothing known as a Dashiki. All were posted on social media like Instagram and Snapchat before being shared widely among the student body on a variety of platforms.

One such platform was the Protest Tree, which was inundated with signs related to the incident - including pictures of the students in their costumes and a complete list of their names. Some signs called on them to face repercussions from potential employers. Others expressed doubt that the students would be punished at all, due to their status as student-athletes. Still more demanded change from the administration. The anger was palpable, and quickly spread around campus.

This incident is not the first of its kind at Franklin & Marshall. Four years ago, several brothers of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity



Photo courtesy of Mira Lerner '20

A student displays a copy of the administration's letter to students at a rally on Friday. were reprimanded for culturally offensive Halloween costumes. Last year, still more male students faced backlash for costumes depicting nuns and stereotypical "Arabs." In both cases, email blasts were sent out to the Franklin & Marshall student body reminding them to be mindful of their costumes and respectful of the community - but this incident has been perceived as a breaking point by many. This may in part be because of a still-unsolved hate crime against Asian students on campus which occurred earlier in the semester, when racial slurs were etched into the door of an Asian-American student's room in Schnader Hall.

In an email sent out to the campus community on Wednesday, November 6, Dean Margaret Hazlett, Provost Cam Wesson, and President Barbara Altmann said that "the students who wore the costumes met with Student Affairs staff as well as colleagues in the Office of Multicultural Programs as part of the College's adjudication process." These students "expressed remorse for their actions" and the administration

insisted that "there is no place at F&M for racist actions and cultural appropriation." They then identified three initiatives "in the works" to deal with this and other issues related to racism on campus: the campus climate survey due November 15, the hiring of a director for "diversity, equity, and inclusion", and the development bias response reporting system. The latter two initiatives are slated to begin in spring of 2020.

In an email shortly afterwards, Altmann, Wesson, and Hazlett announced their decision to remove certain posters from the Protest Tree - a longstanding unspoken rule among the student body. Specifically, they removed the signs which named the offenders by name and called for repercussions against them, such as their employment prospects. They stated that these signs "are inconsistent with Franklin & Marshall's Statement on Freedom of Expression" and had contributed to "threatening, violent online messages" against the students involved. They also announced the development of

a forum to be held on racism and cultural appropriation in the following week, later determined to be Tuesday, November 12.

Many students, unsatisfied with this response, held immediate student-only forums to discuss the incident. These included a discussion hosted by organizations including the Black Student Union, Mi Gente Latina, the Asian-American Alliance, and the International Student Advisory Board. Another forum was held by the Diplomatic Congress. Both discussed issues of cultural appropriation versus appreciation, respect for students of color, and what concrete steps need to be taken by the athletic department and the administration to respond to this incident in an effective manner.

On Friday morning, November 8, hundreds of students and faculty gathered on Hartman Green in a rally to call for action on this issue. Many professors cancelled class, the Writing Center shut down for the morning, and students left their classrooms or workplaces to stand in solidarity with the students of color on F&M's campus. The rally, which was organized by professors seeking to show their support for students in a more concrete manner, featured chants, speeches, and demands for change.

The response from the athletic department, both during this rally and in general, has been mixed. The interim women's basketball coach spoke at the rally about the importance of education and the need for white students (or students from other majority groups) to take it upon themselves to engage in difficult dialogue to expand their worldview. However, another representative from the department mentioned that the decision over whether or not to bench players

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would be up to the department to decide internally, upsetting many students in attendance. Later in the day, to reiterate their support, the faculty sent out a “Statement of Support Against Racism.” In this letter, these professors said they “affirm the right of all students to feel safe and welcome on campus, and we view incidents of this type as serious challenges to the environment of critical thinking and free speaking that is central to our College mission.” This statement, which called for “standardized institutional structures for reporting and dealing with racist acts and/or language on campus,” was signed

by more than 250 F&M professors, faculty, and other staff members. No official statement has been released by the men’s soccer team, men’s basketball team, or athletic department more generally regarding the incident. Additionally, no decision been publicly announced about what punishment these students will face for their actions - either by their team or the school. In the meantime, the campus community continues to plan forums, protests, and demand action on the issues of racism and cultural appropriation.

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Photo Story: F&M students rally against racism on Hartman Green

BY MIRA LERNER
Copy Editor/Photography

Senior Mira Lerner took these photos on assignment last Friday, November 8 during a faculty-led rally against racism held on Hartman Green. The rally was attended by hundreds of F&M students, faculty, and staff and garnered local media attention. Students were encouraged to walk out of their classes and workplaces to support demands for change in administrative policy. The rally comes after several Franklin & Marshall students worn racially offensive costumes to a Halloween party the prior weekend. All five students involved are student-athletes, and their punishments

have yet to be announced publicly. During the rally a mixture of professors, students, and members of the athletic department spoke about the culture of racism on Franklin & Marshall’s campus and what can be done about it to ensure incidents like these - and wider incidents of racism - do not continue to occur. Mira’s photography depicts the anger, frustration, and deep sadness that has plagued F&M’s campus for the past week and impacted every member of the community, from first-year students to longtime members of the faculty. Similar demonstrations and demands for change are sure to continue in the coming days and weeks.



Beto O’Rourke announces end to bid for Democratic presidential nominee

BY PATRICK CULCASI
Layout Assistant

The massive pool of Democratic Presidential nominees has shrunk yet again. Beto O’Rourke has dropped out of the race, joining the crowd of eight other candidates who did the same. This may come as a shock to some, due to O’Rourke’s seemingly recent rise to stardom after he nearly defeated Ted Cruz for the seat on Texas Senate last year. Now he will sit this election out due to a lack of funds. Beto O’Rourke’s campaign shockingly raised more money in the first two days than it has since, and that was back in March. Last Friday, November 1st, Beto O’Rourke announced his plan to drop out of the race in Iowa. On his way out, O’Rourke made a couple of statements regarding the future of the Democratic party as well as his further plans for public office. In a speech to his supporters in Iowa last week, O’Rourke pledged his full support to whoever is awarded the Democratic nomination, saying that he will support them “with everything that I’ve got.” That being said, many people would expect the politician, whose popularity seems to be in its infancy, to run

for office yet again. O’Rourke has dismissed that idea, saying that he couldn’t see himself running for public office unless he was already the nominee. He claims that his service to the country from here on out will not be in public office. Many attribute O’Rourke’s fall from grace to his inexperience in the higher levels of politics. The last position he held was Representative for the 16th Congressional District of Texas. He attempted to challenge

the incumbent Ted Cruz, a former presidential candidate himself, but failed and then attempted to run for the highest office in the country. That’s a big step, and many associate O’Rourke’s removal from the race and lack of funds to his disorganized and relatively inexperienced campaign. Towards the tail end of his Presidential run, some of O’Rourke’s funders approached him in the hope of convincing him to drop out and try for another

Senate bid, he declined and now he is walking away empty-handed. At times people questioned O’Rourke’s actions, like when he live-streamed a dentist appointment when other candidates were busy talking to lawmakers and donors, something many perceived to be something he and his staff failed to do sufficiently. In a campaign where fundraising is everything, O’Rourke may have ignored the important opportunities to talk to governmental entities and donors in favor of gaining popularity with the electorate. He neglected to share his availability with reporters, stumbled through a couple of debates, and maybe most shockingly, he went into his campaign without a campaign manager the day he announced his bid. This leaves the Democratic field slightly smaller - but still crowded, with more than a dozen hopefuls ready to take on Iowa and take their campaigns to the next level. O’Rourke is one of the first to fall, but he will not be the last.

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Photo courtesy of Mario Tama/Getty Images

California continues to be plagued by wildfires during arid fall season

BY ERIN MAXWELL
Staff Writer

At least eight fires continue to burn in California as mass evacuations and blackouts plague millions of the state’s residents. The wildfire season emerged in full force on October 7 with the Taboose Fire - the first of what would become fourteen separate fires in the month of October alone. As of last Sunday, California’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) reported that 162,600 acres of land have been destroyed and three fire-related deaths have occurred. The fires have been steadily moving in a southwest direction, spreading from Sonoma County to areas in and around Los Angeles. Panic arose earlier this week when it was reported that the flames were in the area of the famed Getty Museum, which houses over 125,000 pieces of historic art. The area has since been declared safe and remains secure. Although firefighters have made great progress, the state is bracing for the Santa Ana winds to pick up in the next few months, threatening greater destruction. After declaring a statewide emergency, Governor Gavin Newsom pointed a finger not only at the arid climate and wind but at the mismanagement of electrical companies. According to TIME magazine, he claims the mismanagement is “putting the lives of millions of Californians at risk.” One of the more recent and uncontrolled fires, the Maria Fire, has been under heavy investigation due to its mysterious origins. According to CAL FIRE, the fire first broke out mere minutes after South California Edison had re-energized one of their power lines. Following this news, many power companies chose to participate in targeted blackouts, which prevented further risk of wildfire but also left countless Californians in the dark. Newsom has since promised that companies will be held accountable for any damage and malpractice. Although more moderate weather with fewer windy days has made fires less prevalent this year than in the past, the Santa Ana winds are keeping officials vigilant. This season has been an exception to an overall frightening trend rising temperatures and dry weather posing tangible danger to a wider population. Since the early 1970’s, the average temperature for warm-season days has increased by 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This poses a real threat, as warmer days lead to drier land, which can erupt into flames from just a spark. Additionally, the wildfire season itself has lengthened by nearly 75 days and the fires have increased in size by about 500 %. When asked about this issue by CNN, former California governor Jerry Brown stated, “This is only a taste of the horror and terror that will occur in decades.”

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New Delhi, India faces massive public health crisis due to poor air quality

BY ANNA SYNAKH
Copy Editor

In the past week the air pollution in multiple cities in India reached record breaking levels. The smog has taken over large areas of the country, oftentimes so thick that even the grandest of monuments cannot be seen. Due to the dangerous conditions outside, the government of the city of Delhi has declared a state of emergency, canceled flights, shut down schools and banned private vehicles from driving. Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi’s Chief Minister went as far as calling the city a “gas chamber” in a tweet posted on November 1, 2019. Delhi, and India as a whole, usually experience such increases in air pollution around November. Yet, this year the levels of pollution broke the record. The main causes of this yearly climate decline are emissions from vehicles, crop burning and industrial pollution. While these factors are in effect year round, during the months of October and November, the temperatures start to cool and winds slow down; therefore, the smog stays for longer periods of time. Crop burning, unlike the other causes of pollution, is at its worst during this time period as harvest season is wrapping up. While crop burning has

previously been banned, farmers say they have no choice but to break the law. Many farmers in states north of Delhi are therefore burning the leftover crops, in order to prepare for the winter harvest season, which approaches soon after the fall season. According to the farmers, they cannot afford to avoid crop burning as the fields will not be ready in time for the next season. As many farmers are engaging in crop burning all at once, its effects on air pollution are always rather sudden, and prominent. The main concern with crop burning is the chemicals which are released in the process, and get trapped in the air. The smog produced consists of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and methane along with fine particulate matter. Constant inhalation of these substances has proved to severely damage human health, and even cause death in the case of prolonged exposure. While crop burning is the main reason behind the intensification of the issue at this time, India’s air pollution is also dependent on the low standards of vehicles of transportation. mopeds and motorcycles crowd the cities, and release more greenhouse gases than cars, as they are often times older and oftentimes

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McDonald’s CEO Steve Easterbrook steps down following employee relationship

BY ELLYN FRITZ
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, November 3rd, McDonald’s announced the abrupt firing of their chief executive officer, Steve Easterbrook. During his time at McDonald’s, Easterbrook changed the trajectory of the company’s performance by restructuring the corporate structure, speeding up decision-making, cutting hundreds of millions in overhead costs, and emphasizing technological innovation - in particular, by striking food-delivery deals with the third-party apps like UberEats and DoorDash.

In a statement announcing the firing, McDonald’s board said that Easterbrook had “demonstrated poor judgment” when engaging in a consensual relationship with an employee. Easterbrook acknowledged his fault in an email to his employees. “This was a mistake,” he wrote. “Given the values of the company, I agree with the board that it is time for me to move on.” McDonald’s standards of business conduct prohibit employees from “dating or having a sexual relationship.” with a member of the company with “a direct or indirect reporting relationship” to them. As the policy elaborates, “It is not appropriate to show favoritism or make business decisions based on emotions or friendships rather than on the best interests of the company.” It is unclear what business decisions, if any, were impacted by this relationship.

According to an analysis by executive-compensation experts at Equilar, Steve Easterbrook’s



Photo courtesy of CSNBC/Getty Images

Steve Easterbrook served as the CEO of McDonald’s internationally from March 2015 until November 2019, when he was fired. exit package totals \$41.8 million, including six months of severance pay, shares he can cash out in the future, and other equity. That \$41.8 million is also in addition to the \$23.8 in stock options that Easterbrook can exercise now. In 2018, Easterbrook made \$15.9 million. In contrast, according to Glassdoor, the average McDonald’s worker in the United States makes \$9 an hour. To some onlookers, Easterbrook’s exit package exemplifies the severe income inequality between the top 1% and the remainder of the population. Easterbrook presided over the companies as it faced allegations of rampant sexual harassment of female employees by male-workers and managers. Within recent years, dozens of McDonald’s workers have filed sexual harassment complaints, alleging everything from lewd commentstogroping. Workersalso began to experience retaliation by losing hours, shifts, and jobs. The former CEO’s departure over what McDonald’s described as a “recent consensual relationship” is seen as a reflection of the changing attitudes of romance in the workplace, but also a reflection of the culture within McDonald’s. Tanya Harrell, a McDonald’s worker in New Orleans who has helped lead the campaign for a \$15 minimum wage, said workers had filed dozens of complaints with McDonald’s demanding that the company take action to address sexual harassment. As Ms. Harrell reported to the New York Times, McDonald’s has ignored the demands, Ms. Harrell said, including requests to sit down with workers to discuss the issue. “With the firing of Steve Easterbrook, we now know why,” she said. “It’s clear McDonald’s culture is rotten from top to bottom. McDonald’s needs to sit down with worker-survivors and put them at the center of any solution.”

Chris Kempeczinski, previously the president of McDonald’s USA, will be taking over the position of Chief Executive Officer. Kempeczinski has acquired the position of CEO at a time when the underbelly of a quintessentially American brand has been exposed and when the broader fast-food industry faces significant headwinds, as Americans turn to healthier options and a tight labor market making hiring difficult.

As for Steve Easterbrook, his separation agreement temporarily prohibits him from working for such competitors as Burger King, Yum Brands, and Starbucks, as well as convenience store giants such as 7-Eleven and Wawa, meaning that McDonald’s has prevented additional competition by ensuring Easterbrook will not be the new leader of a rival.

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Photo courtesy of Rajat Gupta/EPA.

The pace of life in Dehli, India has ground to a halt due to the extreme air quality.

India: Crop burning, vehicle pollution contribute to Dehli air crisis

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have incomplete combustion. In a recent interview with the Washington Post, Siddharth Singh, an author writing about India’s pollution problem, stated that at this point the issue has too many variables affecting it. In his opinion due to anarchy of environmental movement in India, it is impossible to focus on the main issues at hand without the government turning this into a conversation about the economy. India depends on its farm industries and on its factories, both of which have high effects on the environment, therefore until a central agency that controls all things environment is created in India, the air pollution will keep getting worse yearly.

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Staff Writer Commentary

Interview with students who wore racist Halloween costumes

BY MIRA LERNER
Copy Editor

This past Wednesday, before the student-led town hall, I interviewed two of the five students who had been photographed in racist Halloween costumes. One of the other two students that I had reached out to declined to meet, and the other never responded. After listening to their accounts, I noticed an interesting juxtaposition between two of the ways that racism can be perpetuated: through ignorance and through intention. I was left struggling with the question, what can and will the F&M community (administration, faculty and professional staff, students, alumni, etc.) do to combat ignorant and intentional racism in groups on campus, not just in individuals.

Ignorance:

The first student I spoke to bought his costume from Party City, saying, “I just went to Party City and was just going through. They only had so many to choose from” (side-note: why is Party City selling a racist costume?). He claimed to have no idea that his costume was offensive to others and had not even considered the prospect. He said that he showed the costume to friends beforehand, and no one mentioned any concerns to him: “Nobody told me ahead of time that they saw it as an issue. Even when I put it on and showed them, they didn’t see a problem.” Although it was revealed at the faculty-led rally on Friday morning that there were certain individuals on the sports team who did confront the costume wearers before Halloween, the majority did not. This reprehensible silence suggests a larger problem in the F&M community: multiple people were so ignorant and did not discuss/consider that the individual’s costume was racist.

Intention:

The second student, on the other hand, openly acknowledged that he was fully aware of his costume’s insensitivity even before he donned it or showed others. Furthermore, he implicated his friends in saying that they knew as well and egged him on: “I mean I definitely knew that it could definitely be seen as a problem. I should have went [sic] with my gut feeling knowing that it was an issue versus listening to those around me, who said that some people might be offended but nothing will come from it.” He added, “I’d say I knew going in that it wasn’t right and seeing



Photo courtesy of Mira Lerner ‘20

Students protest against inappropriate costumes worn on Halloween

what has been happening is reinforcing that to me even more.” The initial idea for the costume had come from a friend who thought “it would be a funny idea.”

How does this student’s awareness of his racist intentions inform the situation? It says that the harm inflicted was not accidental. It says that this student consciously decided to engage in behavior that they were aware would hurt others.

Implications:

Both of the students’ accounts hinted at a larger racism-enabling culture present at F&M that goes beyond their individual choices. Notwithstanding that all five of the students photographed in offensive costumes participate in varsity sports, a recurring theme in the interviews was an attempt to disassociate the individuals’ poor decisions from their teams or all student-athletes. One person said, “People are trying to tie-in being an athlete and being racist. I don’t want to be the reason why other people are brought into this that are athletes.” While a valid concern— there certainly are non-racist athletes— it is hard not to conclude that student-athlete culture contributes to the dynamic that deemed these offensive costumes acceptable to wear. Yes, people are individuals (and therefore must be accountable for their own actions), but the reality is that athletes are part of teams and student-athlete culture at F&M. At least one of the Halloween parties that the students in racist costumes attended was hosted by a sports team. Margaret Hazlett, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs said, “Where was the bystander intervention

that night? Where were the peers saying, ‘That is not OK, get out,’ or something else? So it wasn’t just those four individuals who made a mistake.” Just because one person wore the costume does not excuse that others around them also failed to see it as racist. Or worse, bystanders knew the behavior was racist and laughed anyway. For context, one of the students’ photos that he posted to his Instagram account on Halloween received over 240 likes. That is over 240 people who endorsed the costume. Everyone else who knew about the costumes and did not say anything or supported them was complicit in the actions.

“People shouldn’t feel that athletes feel like they can say whatever and get away with it and not having the repercussions and that we’re just insensitive as a population,” one of the students told me. Certainly the Halloween incidents seemed to bear out his statement. Ideally, people should not feel that way. People do, though, because we do not exist in an ideal world. When it comes to athletic punishment, student-athletes have the privilege of being under the jurisdiction of their coaches, separate from administration, and are often given leniency so as not to impact a team’s performance. When asked if the administration supports benching the students from future games, Dean Hazlett replied, “The athletic department has their own code of conduct that they follow and that is in conversation with the coaches. I work with coaches on their standards and expectations.”

Additionally, when comparing the financial support that athletics receives from F&M, versus,

say, multicultural groups/organizations, it’s very hard not to see a discrepancy in prioritization. For starters, the Athletics and Recreation staff directory on the F&M website is 12 pages long, whereas two people comprise the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

What’s next:

Students took matters into their own hands by calling out/naming individuals in the costumes on social media. When the college failed to issue an adequate response, Mi Gente Latina, Asian American Alliance, African Caribbean Association, and Black Student Union hosted an open meeting in the Steinman College Center. These student initiatives show: a) the power and responsibility that students have to organize, especially when the administration cannot or does not effectively facilitate/take action, b) the significance of accountability, which enabled multiple parties to have direct dialogue with each other, c) the lack of integration at F&M, and, unfortunately, d) the responsibility that inevitably falls on students of color to educate others.

Although both students I interviewed reported that they had not received any official administrative punishment, one mentioned that he was working with an unidentified Dean to “Use this spotlight to bring awareness to cultural appropriation at this school.” The other said that he was working with a Dean to host an open forum where students could come to talk to him and that “I’m doing everything I can to apologize genuinely because I am genuinely sorry.”

I wonder if these two students learned a lesson from being named/held accountable at all. If they choose to refrain from racism in the future, what will their motivation for that be? Will it arise out of genuine care for others’ feelings and dignity or fear of social repercussions such as they are experiencing now?

I do not pose such questions to cast doubt on the character or authenticity of the interviewees. It is not my intention in any way to target specific individuals in this article; although, I do believe they should be held accountable by the school. I simply wonder what it takes to change the ignorant and intentional racism-enabling culture in our community?

Will we see the same issues next Halloween, F&M?

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Open Letter to Franklin & Marshall College

BY SANDRA SANCHEZ & MARCY PAJARES BERGER

Contributing Writers

These words aren’t pretty. They aren’t outlined or approved. And they don’t need to be.

This past Halloween, a few Franklin & Marshall students took part in racist actions. Put on other people’s culture as a costume. Claimed ignorance and apologized. While we are thankful for their apology, it’s the minimum. Over the past few days, many people have come to their defense, arguing that, “these are good kids,” “they didn’t mean to be racist,” “if you knew them you would know,” and “they’re hurting.”

Let us make one thing clear: intentional or not, these were racist actions. And racist actions need to have consequences.

Does being a “good kid” mean they get to be racist? If so, we don’t care for whatever good is when it’s defined at the expense of others. As for the rest of their defenses, we have a few things to note.

One’s intention does not equal reality. The reality is that these actions are racist and they hurt a lot of students of color on this campus, students who continuously face the same discrimination and racism on, and off, this campus every single day.

One shouldn’t have to personally know another person to respect their culture.

If they are indeed hurting, we hope it’s because they feel remorseful and not because they feel bad about getting caught.

Students of color on this campus have been hurting and will continue to do so in the years to come because of F&M’s prior lack of inaction. Why else are we trying so hard to have the administration recognize us and our pain? We don’t do this for fun. We’re tired of our hurt being dismissed. We do this because we have a right to feel safe on this campus. We do this because we don’t want the students arriving after us to feel this pain.

But this letter isn’t just about those who caused harm. We want them held accountable, yes. But more than anything, we want you, Franklin & Marshall College, to be held accountable. We want more than emails and forums. We want a change in policy.

Lack of consequences for racist actions isn’t something new here. There have been several incidents when students of color have had to hold the school accountable for failing to protect us.

These are the facts:

Fact: In 2016, a student drew a swastika in the middle of a Jewish star in a classroom in LSP. The student body received an email from

then president Dr. Porterfield ending with the line, “as a community, we are better than this incident, and we must work together to prevent such hateful acts” with no further concrete action.

Fact: In 2016, students dressed up as racially charged stereotypes of black prison inmates. This costume included cornrows, an inmate jumpsuit, and sagged pants.

Fact: In November of 2018, a poster was taped onto the protest tree mimicking the style of an ad that stated: “Undiverse Group Looking for an Asian Friend.” A school wide email was sent. Asian American Alliance made a poster in response, and the International Student Advisory Board held a forum—and still, you didn’t do anything about it.

Fact: At the beginning of this semester, the school intended to put on a play titled “The Journey to the West,” a play based on a Chinese novel. Yet, it had a mainly white student ensemble. It was only after the efforts of the leadership in Asian American Alliance that the play was canceled.

Fact: This semester, the slur, “g**k” was carved into an Asian American student’s door.

Fact: Students of color here deal with microaggressions on campus.

Fact: Students exploited other people’s culture as their costume for the past four Halloweens.

This isn’t the first time, and we aren’t naive enough to think racist actions won’t happen again, but we want to ensure this is the last time students at this school get to commit this violence without consequences.

It happened in 2016. In 2017. In 2018. And again in 2019.

Those are just the past few years. It should be noted, however, that students of color at F&M have dealt with racism on this campus since 1946.

There were protests and sit-ins 50 years ago and there have been protests and sit-ins in the last three days. We are doing this because you haven’t done anything. We go to your forums. We tell you why racist actions are wrong. You make US explain ourselves. We tell you we need change. When will you act on it? If you aren’t fighting or condoning racism, you are encouraging it. Do not bring students of color here if you cannot or will not provide the spaces and resources necessary for their safety, comfortability, and growth.

Listening is not enough. Forums are not enough. Complacency is not enough. We are tired, F&M.

We are tired of doing the work to feel safe, because the school consistently fails to provide us safety.

Support us. Change the policy.

Signed,

First Generation Diplomats

Mi Gente Latina
Asian American Alliance
Black Student Union
Define American
African Caribbean Association
S.I.S.T.E.R.S.
International Student Advisory Board
I.M.P.A.C.T.
Franklin & Marshall College Associate Chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma
National Sorority, Incorporated

On Behalf of Underrepresented Minority Students at Franklin & Marshall College,

We and our allies have come together to demand that President Barbara Altmann and Franklin & Marshall’s administration implement immediate and lasting changes to halt intolerable and continuous acts of racism that students of color endure at the College.

It is no longer sufficient for the College to solely acknowledge “incidents” and not calling them for what they are: racially targeted acts. We demand that the College partakes as a whole in fostering a community that addresses the needs and safety concerns of minority students.

There can be no Now to Next when students are going Now to Past.

We, Franklin & Marshall students of color, intend to discuss these demands with Dean Hazlett over the next two days and expect a commitment to specific and mutually agreed-upon next steps by Wednesday, November 13th, 2019.

Our list of demands is provided below:

1. Provide a Safe and Productive Learning Environment

a. WE DEMAND the immediate implementation of action steps for Title VI violations and behavior. Implementing mandatory workshops for first-years during orientation. Failure to complete it will bar students from registering from classes. In regards to the student-athletes, WE DEMAND that they:

(1) Be suspended from playing for the next three games

(2) Attend approved workshops for racism and discriminatory behavior

b. WE DEMAND that the College creates and enforces comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum and training throughout all campus departments and units,

mandatory for all faculty, staff, students, and administrators. This curriculum must be vetted, maintained, and overseen by a board comprised of students, staff, and faculty of color and allies. It must include, but not be limited to addressing the effects of implicit and explicit bias, racism,

prejudice, and bigotry, and how these things negatively impact our campus community. This commitment should start during freshman orientation for Students.

c. WE DEMAND the College put more emphasis and funding in promoting the “Bias Reporting System” program. The lack of focus on this important tool sends the wrong message about the College’s commitment to combating racial injustice.

d. WE DEMAND that the College create and implement a campaign for all Panhellenic/Greek Organizations and athletic teams to combat racial injustice. Attendance at the events of this campaign should be mandatory.

e. WE DEMAND a statement of recognition from President Altmann, the Dean of the College, and the Dean of Students to alumni, current and former students, and other parties recognizing the hostile and exclusionary climate.

f. WE DEMAND that F&M provides detailed information and statistics on incidents of racial bias at F&M on the page devoted to Diversity & Inclusion (<https://www.fandm.edu/diversity-and-inclusion>). This is to ensure that prospective students, including but not limited to students of color and international students, are fully informed on the current campus climate before committing to this institution.

g. WE DEMAND the Protest Tree be made a part of the regular tour guide routine and allowing prospective students to ask about posters. As part of this, we demand protections for F&M tour guides that will allow them to be honest with prospective students and disclose the truth about the climate of F&M when asked, without fearing that they will be fired or reprimanded by their jobs.

h. WE DEMAND the protection of all faculty and staff members who voice solidarity with students and/or express their concerns and experiences with the administration. This includes tenured, tenure track, visiting, and associate professors of the college, as well as all staff members that keep this institution functional. WE DEMAND administration to make sure that the faculty’s involvement with student movement does not influence the decisions about tenure.

i. WE DEMAND President Altmann holds a Town Hall Meeting focusing on issues specific to race. This issue has not received the recognition and attention it requires

j. WE DEMAND President Altmann to ask faculty to favorably look on giving extensions and helping in any possible way students who were affected by these events as this weekend has taken a big emotional

continued from page 6

toll on every participant of the student movement for racial equality and impacted students’ ability to focus solely on academics. WE DEMAND President Altman to ask Deans of College Houses to work with students on getting those extensions or any needed resources throughout this week (starting 11/10) to make sure students do not feel even more stressed if they have fallen behind due to these events.

2. Improve Inclusion and Representation

a. WE DEMAND transparency in the processes of dealing with racial and discriminatory incidents utilized by the Office of Student Life. In addition, we would like undergraduate minority students to be included in this process.

b. WE DEMAND the revision of the Student Code of Conduct. The Discrimination and Harassment Policy needs to be expanded to further protect students. Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct should include a policy that provides concrete consequences for racism, discrimination, prejudices, and hate speech both in person and through social media. We demand the College follow harassment policies consistently to protect students from hostility. The consequences should include taking away the privileges connected with F&M affiliation (including suspension) as well as affiliation with Greek, athletic and other organizations. Students must be a part of this process at all times. WE DEMAND a meeting with the committee responsible for reviewing the Student Code of

Conduct and all of the administration staff that participates in this process. This change in policy must be completed by the end of this academic semester (Fall 2019).

3. WE DEMAND to increase funding and support of underrepresented minority students and departments. This includes expanding funding for multicultural clubs, speakers, and major/minors regarding cultures (e.g. Africana Studies Major, Latin American Studies Minor, etc)

a. WE DEMAND that the Office of Multicultural Affairs is terminated, along with the resignation of Dean Marion Coleman from the head of the office. We demand a new DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity) Office staffed with at least, but not limited to, three officers of color. This office should ideally grow to become a larger team that implements necessary educational programming on the racial bias for all leadership groups (including but not limited to House Advisors, MA’s, Orientation Planning Directors, and student organization executive boards) as well as any individual that violates the school’s revised Student Code of Conduct. A diverse group of students should be hired as part of the Office to additionally provide perspective and contributions. Currently, OMCA does not meet the demands of the multicultural organizations on campus and the office should be rearranged to be able to adequately address issues on campus. The decision, as a result, is to have the students involved in the Halloween incident to meet with the corresponding student hearing

process.

b. WE DEMAND Mi Gente Latina, Afro-Caribbean Association, and Asian American Alliance be provided with their own meeting space. Currently, BSU and MGL are sharing the Black Cultural Center, a space not adequate for any use. The conditions of the BCC are terrible: mold in the basement, poor heating, and overall is a small space. We demand the renovation of the BCC and provide students with a temporary space while BCC is being renovated, or renovation to occur during a time where it will not conflict with student use. We, as students, do not have adequate space to receive the proper resources, support, and open environment that we need.

c. WE DEMAND the broadening of the racial composition of counselors in the Wellness Center. We as students need to be able to have access to professionals who look like us in order to have a positive effect. No representation of people of color in the Wellness Center does not serve the student body with the college efforts to “diversify.”

d. WE DEMAND: We understand that change is a process that takes time, but we expect the administration to demonstrate concrete evidence that they are beginning to take steps to meet these demands by November 13th. If no action steps are demonstrated to meet these demands by the provided date, F&M may expect the following:

- Continuous sit-ins at Old Main beginning November 14th
- Negative media coverage
- Protest Open Houses

These are the minimum action steps that need to be taken by November 13th:

- Demands noted in points 1a, 1d, 1e, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b
- 1.b - Create a plan of how racial training programming will be happening with specific action steps on how this program will be implemented and what exactly will be a part of it
- 1.c - Release an email/pre view of what this system will look like and how it will be used, regulated and what will be the effect of it
- 1.f - Create a plan on how these statistics will be tracked and action steps and timeline on implementing this plan
- 3.c - Provide updates on the search for counselors of color. Send out an update on resources available to students of color, including international students, especially about an opportunity to go to a counselor from community
- Send out an all-student email on all the steps that were taken since our conversation on Friday, November 8th. The email should be focused on tangible action steps and achievements on the road to an inclusive climate at F&M.

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Student writes on conversation she had with F&M Provost Wesson

BY WHITNEY WYCHE

Contributing Writer

Tonight I spoke with the Provost and Dean of Faculty, Cameron Wesson, about what can be done to work with administration on the issues being protested. While the protests initially started because multiple students wore clothing that portray ethnic stereotypes as Halloween costumes, the protests are about the much larger issue of the feeling of the lack of administrative action to address racist incidents on campus.

I talked to him about the need for transparency and open communication between students and administration. After speaking with him, it was clear to me that he genuinely wants to help students. This was also shown by the act of him spending at least 10 hours in Dining Hall listening and talking to students. He genuinely wants to know how to help students and he empathizes with the issues being protested and the need for change.

He talked about actions already

being taken by admin to address racism from an administrative perspective. For example, he said admin has been in the process of hiring a person to address racial incidents. (I don’t remember the specifics about this position).

Administration is on the same side as students, but there is a lack of communication between these two groups. Students do not know what specifically admin is/has done to address racial issues. Admin does not know what specifically students need/want as support from administration.

I proposed the idea for a student to work in Old Main to bridge the communication gap between students and admin.

The Provost agreed that student involvement in administration is a good idea. He said it can be done quickly. He said it is possible to give student(s) an hourly rate, a desk (potentially in the Provost Office), and involvement with administration meetings not pertaining to confidential infor-

mation (such as hiring process and so forth). The only question he had is how to choose student(s) for this position. Would the student(s) be elected by the student body? By F&M Diplomatic Congress?

Cameron Wesson will be in Dhall again this Thursday and Friday to listen and speak with students again. We agreed this is a good time to further discuss how to implement a position for student(s) in administration.

Overall, this discussion gave me a much better understanding

of the administrative perspective. I am very hopeful for the future of the movement to address racism and I believe we are moving in the right direction. Small actions make big differences. I believe that if we continue to have open discussions about difficult issues, to empathize with those who are hurting, to strive for positive progress, we create a better environment for ourselves and those around us.

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Photo courtesy of swoonreads.com
Students protest against inappropriate costumes worn on Halloween

Campus Life

Historian Joan Wallach Scott speaks to importance of academic freedom

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

On Thursday, November 7, Franklin & Marshall’s campus played host to one of the most preeminent historians of the last century: Joan Wallach Scott. Scott, who received her Ph.D. in French history from the University of Wisconsin in 1969, and taught at various campuses before landing a job as the founding director of Brown University’s Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women in 1981. Several years later she began her tenure at Princeton University’s prestigious Institute for Advanced Study. It was during her time at Princeton that Scott released her most influential piece of scholarly work - “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis.”

In this article, Scott posited that gender could be (and is) as essential a category of historical research as race or class. One of her greatest - and most-cited - arguments was that “politics constructs gender and gender constructs politics.” This examination of the relationship between power and masculinity was revolutionary for its time and led to many prominent male historians of the 1980s to decry her work as merely “philosophy” (as Princeton history professor Lawrence Stone claimed). But Scott’s work also deeply resonated with feminist scholars of the era - she gave them a new way to approach their work and legitimize the histories of women as integral rather than peripheral.

Since 1986, Scott has expanded and shifted her focus. Although theoretically in retirement, she is still producing thought-provoking literature, primarily on the topic of academic freedom. Scott has been a longtime member and advocate for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and has served on their Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure for several years. It was this topic that brought Scott to Franklin & Marshall on Thursday, to speak about the subject “Free Speech, Academic Freedom, and Neoliberalism in Higher Education.” Scott’s speech laid out a dangerous trend of anti-intellectualism that began in the 1980s under President Regan and has since accelerated, particularly in the Trump era. She described this trend as an “attack on knowledge and the production of knowledge” in addition to a decline in support for higher education as an institution made for the common good. Scott distinguished between “free speech” as defined in the First Amendment - an individual right - and “academic freedom” in

the context of higher education, which is the collective right of academics to research, teach, and participate in the governance of educational institutions without interference from private or corporate interests.

The increased corporatization of higher education is one of Scott’s primary concerns. Education, especially higher education, is increasingly being viewed as an individual benefit rather than a social good. Attending college is now a means to an end - a step on the path to being credentialed and getting a job. In this lens, students are customers and clients rather than critical thinkers. As Scott argues, this individualistic view of a college or university ignores the importance of collectivism to academia. Academia is not a useless or silly hobby, but rather a nexus for progress and change. A strong intellectual body is essential to the pursuit of truth.

In this modern, more corporate era, professors are increasingly being measured and judged according to ‘data-driven outcomes’ rather than the value of their academic work. For example, some universities determine tenure based on the sheer number of articles or books a professor publishes, rather than the quality of the works themselves.

This attempt to quantify the

worth of professors is ultimately negative for our entire society. In Scott’s view, academia is integral to maintaining a healthy society. The work of scholars helps determine policy, create laws, save lives through scientific breakthroughs, and form an educated citizenry that can vote based on policy rather than charisma. Lives are consequently at risk if higher education continues to be privatized and politicized.

In a lively question and answer session following her talk, Scott offered a piece of optimism for those feeling hopeless by this current state of affairs. She pointed to the progressive reforms and the development of the welfare state during the 1940s as an example of when a corporate system was increasingly regulated and progressive change was implemented throughout the nation. Scott also sees the rise of free college and universal healthcare as viable political stances during the Democratic primary as an example of the potential for positive change. Above all, however, Scott calls for political activism and an impassioned defense of intellectualism in order to save the future of higher education.

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Nicholas Montemarano shares his journey in finding truth writing fiction

BY ISABEL PARIS
Campus Life Editor

This past Thursday, Professor Nicholas Montemarano gave his Common Hour talk on his experience in fiction. Montemarano was nominated and awarded the 2019 Bradley R. Dewey Award for Outstanding Scholarship. His talk entitled, “Truth in Fiction” discussed his relationship between the world of fiction writing and how he incorporates truth in every aspect of his work. Montemarano has published numerous works including three novels and a collection of short stories.

He was the first professor to be hired as a creative writing professor in 2002 for the English Department. Since then he has influenced and impacted many students with his attention to detail and his kind encouragement towards the betterment of their writing.

Montemarano began his talk by describing himself and others as not “scholars” but “artists.” He found that it is the art that drives

an individual not the academic achievements or desires but what a person finds impactful in their own works of art.

He then discussed a tattoo that he has on his arm that says Truth. He went into the story behind his tattoo and talked about how one of his inspirations, Tim O’Brien once came to his college and spoke to them about his own writing.

O’Brien introduced Montemarano to his idea of the “story-truth.” O’Brien when speaking to Montemarano’s school had told them this incredibly detailed story about his time in the war however he revealed, in the end, he had made it up.

This reveal threw Montemarano as he felt betrayed and lied too. However, Montemarano realized that this “story-truth” is what he can use in his own writing.

It was finding that tension between discovering the truth and honesty in a real life and then incorporating it into his own works of fiction that made him a better writer. Many of his works look

into real situations and highlight either tragedies or scandals that show real human interaction. Montemarano finished up his talk by reading excerpts from his works in order to show this type of truth that he strives for in his work.

He emphasized his love for “giving a story to a side that is not always given.” Especially when he is writing, he said that he imagines himself always as the reader that way he can have a better understanding from the reader’s perspective.

He wrapped up his talk by answering a question he was asked regarding how he balances between listening to his editors and his own opinion. He said that when you’re writing anything, you need to know how “to your guns” but respect other voices. “Even when others may have helpful advice, at the end of the day it is your work.”

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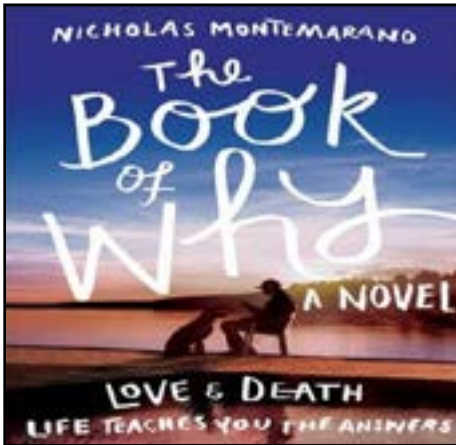


Photo courtesy of amazon.com
Montemarano read from a few of his books highlighting his own “story-truth.”



Photo courtesy of fandm.edu
Professor Montemarano discusses his various inspirations when writing.

Arts & Leisure

News Editor recommends Netflix series, movies coming out this November

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

Every month, the popularity—and power—of Netflix seems to grow stronger. Far from the simple entertainment subscription service it began as, Netflix is now one of the biggest names in the industry, churning out quality television and film every month. They move at a pace few traditional studios can keep up with and few people would have predicted. Simply scrolling through Netflix can become an activity in itself, with so many possible categories, recommended items, and trailers almost bursting out of your television screen. Instead of wasting an entire afternoon trying to figure out what to watch on Netflix this month, check out these sure-to-be solid hits instead.

The End of the F*ing World (Season 2):** This unique British series, based on the graphic novel by Charles Forsman, first aired on UK’s Channel 4 before taking Netflix and its American audience by storm. The series centers on a budding teenage psychopath, James (played by Alex Lawther) and his relationship with the rebellious, angry new girl Alyssa (played by Jessica Barden and her amazing Yorkshire accent). The two actors have instant chemistry, combined with incredible dialogue and a score to make your heart flutter. Season one ended on a mysterious cliff-hanger, so season two is sure to please its fans. The twenty-minute long episodes make it easy to digest between club meetings or as a study break. Just be warned: once you start watching, it may be difficult to stop.

The Crown (Season 3): This Netflix original, with a new season coming out on November 17, might not be the one if you’re seeking thrilling plot twists and fast-moving storylines. But *The Crown* is still worth watching for its cinematography, attention to detail, and one of the greatest casts ever compiled. Olivia Coleman, most recently the winner of the Academy Award for Best Actress, takes center stage as Queen Elizabeth during the 1960s. Helena Bonham Carter stars as ever-rebellious Princess Margaret, while *Outlander* star Tobias Menzies takes on the role of Prince Phillip. The third season of the show will cover an extremely tumultuous decade, both for the world and for Britain’s royal family, and is sure to impress those patient enough to seep themselves into *The Crown*’s world.

High Seas/Alta Mar (Season 2): High Seas is one of those Netflix shows that gets stuck under the radar, partially due to the sheer quantity of

content Netflix puts out. It’s a shame because this self-aware Spanish soap opera is one of the most binge-able shows they’ve ever released. The first season of “High Seas” centered upon a murder mystery. On a magnificent cruise ship. In the late 1940s. So really, what more could you want from a setting? “High Seas” doesn’t take itself too seriously, and is all the better for it. The drama is easy to digest and sure to serve as a stress reliever during finals week due to its November 22 release date.

Don’t have time to commit to a full television show, especially if it means catching up on prior seasons? No need to fear. Netflix has long been stereotyped as having amazing television and subpar movies on offer, but this is increasingly not the case - particularly since the critical and commercial success of Netflix originals like “To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before” and Academy-Award winning “Roma.” There are several new films coming to Netflix this month which are worth checking out.

The first of these is “**The King**”, a historical drama starring Timothy Chalamet and Robert Pattinson. If you’re interested in some royal entertainment but can’t wait for *The Crown* on November 17, *The King* is a good bet. The accents are a little sil-

ly, but the cinematography is not to be missed. “**Burning Cane**” is another excellent dramatic option. The product of a nineteen-year-old filmmaker from New Orleans, *Burning Cane* explores the intersection of family, faith, and poverty in rural Louisiana. Finally, just in time for Thanksgiving, Martin Scorsese’s epic crime drama “**The Irishman**” hits Netflix on November 27. With a star-studded cast including Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, and Joe Pesci, it is sure to please the mobster fans among us.

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Photo courtesy of digitalspy.com

The Crown, starring Olivia Coleman, is releasing a third season on November 17.

Arts & Leisure Editor reviews recently released Netflix series, *The Politician*

BY DANIELLE RICE
Arts & Leisure Editor

The Netflix original series *The Politician* was released on September 27. From the creators of *Glee*, *The Politician* centers around Payton Hobart (Ben Platt), a driven boy in high school who is running for class president, and will stop at nothing to win the election. With a fast-paced storyline, it follows Payton’s campaign, as he chooses a running mate and strategizes his girlfriend, Alice (Julia Schlaepfer), and friends, McAfee (Laura Dreyfuss) and James (Theo Germaine). At the beginning of the season, we find out that Payton’s friend River (David Corenswet), who we later find out Payton had feelings for, is running against him. Soon after a debate at the school, River commits suicide, devastating Payton and his girlfriend, Astrid (Lucy Boynton). Astrid blames Payton for River’s death and decides to run against him in River’s place. This sparks an intense competition between Payton and Astrid, each of them trying to one-up each other to prove to the school how much they cared about current issues they think are important to students and targeting different groups of students with their campaigns.

It is important to know that *The Politician* is largely a satirical series. Most of the main characters are very unlikeable. They are all privileged, extremely wealthy, and apathetic toward the students they are trying to target. For example, Payton tries to get a running mate that would make him look the most compassionate. He settles on a girl at his school with cancer. He is interested in her only for how she would make him look, and how many votes having her as his running mate would give him. However, he does not really care about the groups of students he claims to support. This seems to be the intention of the creators, however, because almost all of the characters involved in their group had a lack of awareness about less “important” students, and the series highlighted their ignorance. There was even an episode entitled “The Voter,” which was completely from the point of view of one of these students that the candidates were trying to gain a vote from. Despite being unlikeable, Payton’s character develops throughout the episodes. He recognizes his own flaws - that he was overly fixated on winning, which allows him to regain some sympathy from the viewer. This satirical nature allowed for uncomfortable realizations about the main characters

through a comedic lens. I personally really enjoyed this style; I found it entertaining, engaging, and most of all, funny.

There were several issues I had with the series, however. Firstly, the series handles LGBTQ+ issues in a potentially problematic way. Despite including many LGBTQ+ characters, the main character himself, Payton, did not come out about his own sexuality. He was in love with River, however he stayed with his girlfriend despite not actually being in love with her, for what seemed like his image. This made it seem like to win the election, Payton felt that he should appear straight.

In addition, River’s suicide seemed to be taken somewhat lightly. Although the focus was more on the other characters than him, it still is a topic that should be taken seriously. In his speech, River expressed casually that he had felt hopeless. This was all that was mentioned and then he killed himself, leaving no true explanation. Because this happened at the beginning of the series, the topic is moved on from rather quickly, and the audience does not get a reason aside from this. Since they did not have time to delve into his mental health background, I think the suicide should



Photo courtesy of netflix.com

The Politician, released September 27, was created by the same people who made *Glee*.

have been left out completely.

Overall, I thought the series was very well done. The acting was great, and the story line was compelling and thought-provoking. I enjoyed the satirical style, and I found myself binge-watching episodes because after each episode, there was a cliff-hanger and I needed to see what would happen next. I would recommend this to those who love politics and history, and those looking for a wild new series to binge—with everything from thruples to attempted poisoning.

Sophomore Danielle Rice is the Arts & Leisure Editor. Her email is drice1@fandm.edu.

Championship teams must weigh the pros and cons in visiting Trump's White House. Read more below...



Three Diplomat teams will compete in the first round of CC playoffs. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Trump's presidency raises tough questions for championship athletes

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

The Washington Nationals became the latest professional sports team to grapple with an issue unique to the Trump era: how, or if, to visit the White House following their championship, as is traditional.

Just a few miles from their stadium in Navy Yard, the Nationals arrived at the White House to a mix of fanfare and protest. Trump was notoriously booed during Game 5 of the World Series at home in DC, with some fans even spontaneously bursting into chants of "Lock Him Up!", a twist on Trump's derogatory slogan against Hillary Clinton. The incident occurred just hours after President Trump announced the death of ISIS leader Al-Baghdadi, a move many Trump strategists hoped would boost his popularity. Instead, the president's first visit to a baseball game since taking office was filled with little more than derision. Washington, D.C. is one of the most liberal enclaves in the country, with only 4% of its residents voting for Trump in 2016.

If Trump was fazed by his treatment in Washington during Game 5, he didn't show it. Instead, he carried on with an air of celebration and victory. Trump even managed to quip about his currently political situation, joking that the Nationals are all any-

one wants to talk about - "that, and impeachment." Both the players and the crowd burst into laughter.

Several prominent players opted not to attend the visit to Trump's White House, including the All-Star third baseman Anthony Rendon and relief pitcher Sean Doolittle. Doolittle was the only one who publicly ascribed his absence to politics. All in all, eight Nationals players skipped the event: Rendon, Doolittle, Michael A. Taylor, Victor Robles, Joe Ross, Wander Suero, Javy Guerra, and Wilmer Difo. Owner Mark Lerner and his wife Judy attended to represent the ownership team, although family patriarch Ted Lerner (who recently turned 94 years old) was not in attendance.

During the event, several Nationals players appeared to show their support for President Trump. Kurt Suzuki donned a MAGA hat, much to the delight of President Trump, who embraced the catcher from behind. First baseman Ryan Zimmerman, the team's first-ever draft pick in 2005, was even more explicit in his support. When presenting President Trump with a team jersey, he thanked the president "for keeping everyone here safe in our country and continuing to make America the greatest country to live in the world."

The traditional White House visit, usually par for the course in the after-

math of a professional sports victory, has become tense and highly divisive in the Trump era, as both players and fans grapple with Trump's rhetoric. Although 21 major sports teams have won championship titles since he ascended to office, only 11 have actually attended the White House. Some were invited and chose not to attend, like the 2016-17 UNC men's basketball team. Others were not invited at all, such as the Golden State Warriors in both 2017 and 2018. The South Carolina Gamecocks became the first women's basketball champions not to be invited to the White House in 34 years.

In other cases, teams have accepted the invitation to the White House while large portions of players have skipped the event. One such example is the New England Patriots' 2016 Super Bowl-winning team. Only about half of the team attended the event, with five announcing they had opted

out for political reasons. Perhaps the most dramatic display of protest occurred with the 2017 Philadelphia Eagles. Trump rescinded his invitation to the team after learning as few as two or three players would actually be attending. In response, the mayor of Philadelphia denounced the president as "a fragile egomaniac obsessed with crowd size."

The next year of professional sports championships is sure to bring continued controversy when the issue of a White House visit rolls around - especially if President Trump wins re-election in November 2020. Until then, players, coaches, and owners will continue to grapple with the social and political ramifications of attending - or not attending - a meeting with our country's president.

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Photo courtesy of gwinnettdailypost.com.
Several Nationals players including Rendon and Doolittle chose not to attend the White House after their World Series victory.

Diplomat sports teams surge into playoffs, looking for a championship

BY JAMIE BELFER
Sports Editor

As the regular season for fall 2019 sports is winding down, teams are revving up to prepare for their first playoff games. F&M Field Hockey, Volleyball, and Men's Soccer will be competing in the Centennial Conference playoffs in hopes of winning a championship. These teams have had successful seasons with winning records and huge victories to earn a spot in the playoffs.

The F&M Volleyball team started off their season on a hot streak, winning the first four games of the regular season. After a tough first 3-2 loss to Clarkson at the North Country Invitational, the Diplomats bounced back with two more impressive victories. Once conference play began, the Diplomats were unbeatable. F&M defeated all of their conference opponents in dominant victories of either 3-0 or 3-1. Their sole loss came in their final conference game of the season to Johns Hopkins, making their conference record 9-1 and overall record 19-5. The Diplomats earned the no. 2 seed in the playoffs and

will be facing off against McDaniel, the no. 3 seed, on Saturday, November 9. The Diplomats are seeking redemption against the Green Terror as they were defeated by McDaniel 3-0 in the semifinal round of the 2018 Centennial Conference playoffs. However, the Diplomats have proved they can contend with McDaniel as they defeated them 3-1, earlier in the regular season. If the Diplomats get past the Green Terror, they will face the winner of Johns Hopkins (no. 1 seed) and Haverford (no. 4 seed) to fight for a conference championship.

The F&M Field Hockey team has had a similarly successful regular season. They got off to a fantastic start, winning the first eight games until falling to Messiah in a close 3-2 game. The Diplomats bounced back, and continued to dominate by winning the final 7 out of 8 final regular season games. Similar to F&M Volleyball, the Diplomat Field Hockey team lost a close game to Johns Hopkins in their final game of the season. Although they tried to stage a fortuitous comeback, they ultimately fell to Johns Hopkins 2-1. The

Diplomats finished 15-2 overall and 9-1 in the conference to earn the no. 2 seed in the playoffs. They will face off against Ursinus (no. 3 seed) on Friday, November 8 in hopes of reaching the Centennial Conference Championship. If they defeat Ursinus, they will then play the winner of no. 1 Johns Hopkins and no. 4 Bryn Mawr. If both F&M and Johns Hopkins make it to the finals, it will be the third year in a row that it would be a Diplomat, Blue Jay finale. Both teams have each won once, so the Diplomats hope to tip the scale and come up with a victory.

The F&M Men's Soccer team's overall record mirrors the Field Hockey team's record of 15-2. After losing their second game of the season to Stockton 1-0, the Diplomats battled to win their next eight games. F&M Men's Soccer finished with an 8-1 record in the conference, with their only loss being to Johns Hopkins. However, the Diplomats defeated their final three competitors and ended their regular season with a defeat of McDaniel, 7-0. Even with their sole conference loss to Johns Hopkins,

the Diplomats were able to secure the no. 1 overall seed in the playoffs. The Diplomats will play the no. 5 seed Gettysburg in the semifinals on Saturday, November 9. If they win, they will face the winner of Johns Hopkins (no. 2 seed) and Dickinson (no. 3 seed). The Diplomats look to rebound after losing a 3-2 loss in double overtime to Haverford in the conference championship.

As the stakes are raised, the Diplomats must continue to play at their best to have a magical ending to round out their fantastic regular seasons.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.
F&M Women's Volleyball will play McDaniel in the first round of CC playoffs.