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Senate votes against allowing witnesses in Trump's impeachment trial

BY RUBY VAN DYK
Assistant Managing Editor

Last Friday a coalition of Republican senators voted to block new evidence and testimony to enter the impeachment hearings. The move makes Mr. Trump's acquittal all but assured. This will make him the first president in U.S history to face voters in an election after an impeachment trial.

On December 18th, 2019 the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives voted to impeach the President on two articles: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Both of these charges were related to the accusations that President Trump withheld military aid from Ukraine in exchange for the investigation into his political opponents, including Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

After passing in the house, the vote moved on to the Republican-controlled Senate. For weeks, Democrats pleaded with Republicans to allow additional and new witnesses and testimony, which finally culminated in Friday's unsuccessful vote.

A vote to summon more



Photo courtesy of Sara Silbiger/Getty Images

The no vote on witnesses ensures that President Trump will almost certainly be acquitted.

witnesses would have prolonged the impeachment trial process, introducing more debate over the President's innocence. One of the key pieces of testimony would have been from Mr. John Bolton, the previous National Security Advisor to President Trump. The leak of an unpublished manuscript from Bolton's new book (titled *The Room Where It Happened*, a nod to the music Hamilton) has stirred up

controversy. In it, according to the *New York Times*, Bolton claims that months before the now infamous Ukraine call, Trump directed Mr. Bolton to help him with his efforts to put pressure on Ukraine to give him damaging information about his Democratic opponents, including Joe Biden. This would have been extremely significant evidence as the President's lawyers repeatedly argued that the aid and

the investigations were not linked.

Another aspect of Mr. Bolton's testimony that would have been particularly unique was the fact that it would have been the only first-hand account of the phone call involved which may have raised questions about the President's conduct. Mr Bolton's testimony would have directly contradicted the argument made by the President and his lawyers of his innocence. That being said, Mr. Bolton's testimony would have in no way automatically resulted in the Senate voting against the President. It simply would have been additional information for senators to factor into their decision.

The vote split nearly entirely across party lines with Republicans voting 49 to 51 in favor of entering more documents and testimony into the impeachment trial. The two Republicans who voted with the Democrats were Senator Mitt Romney of Utah, a former presidential candidate, and Senator Susan Collins of Maine, up for a challenging re-election vote in 2020.

Some of the key Republican

see IMPEACHMENT, page 2

Novel form of conoravirus emerges in China, sparking concerns from health officials

BY ELLYN FRITZ
Staff Writer

A new strain of the coronavirus is making waves worldwide after it appeared to originate in early December. According to the *Economist*, its origin was traced to a fish and animal market in Wuhan, China, and originally was believed to only spread from animals to humans. On January 20th, however, the first clear evidence that the illness could spread from human to human was confirmed when an official stated that 14 health workers who treated patients were ill.

The 2019 coronavirus can cause severe pneumonia and may lead

to death. According to the World Health Organization's report on February 2nd, there are approximately 15,000 confirmed cases and 300 deaths. Due to the lack of test kits for officials to accurately diagnose, the number is most likely higher.

The rise of coronavirus brings back dark memories of SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, which erupted in China in 2002 and spread globally the following year. Because SARS is a different form of a coronavirus, it appears to be the more deadly pathogen, killing 10% of the people it infected, while the 2019 coronavirus has killed 3% of those infected according to official

reports. However, the new virus may spread from person to person more quickly than SARS and China now has more reported cases of the coronavirus than it had of SARS.

Countries worldwide are concerned that small Chinese hospitals are not equipped with the resources to handle the new coronavirus. Memories of the early delays by Chinese officials in containing the SARS crisis two decades ago, which contributed to a higher rate of infection and death, have raised concerns that a similar event could be repeated. There are a lack of medical supplies, beds, and staff to adequately serve the number of people look-

ing for treatment. As the *New York Times* reported, China's response of a lockdown, sealing off cities and closing down schools, could exacerbate the issue as transporting medical supplies becomes more difficult.

In response to the pressure to manage the crisis, the Chinese government has promised to open two new hospitals. According to People's Daily, the Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital is on track to provide 1,000 more beds by February 3rd and the Leishenshen Hospital is due to open by the middle of February with 1,300 more beds. Chen Xi, an assistant professor of

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Impeachment: Moderates Murkowski, Alexander refuse to break party lines

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senators in the vote include Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. Both Alexander and Murkowski are considered to be moderate Republicans, and Democratic hopes of introducing more evidence hinged on their support. Instead, both Murkowski and Alexander voted not to allow new witnesses. In an interview with NPR, Alexander said he “[didn’t] need to hear any more evidence to decide that the president did what he’s charged with doing.” The truth of the accusations, however, did not make the offense

Conoravirus: New virus continues to spread, World Health Organization declares emergency

continued from page 1
health policy and economics at the Yale School of Public Health, reported to the New York Times that having a working system of family doctors who can act as gatekeepers for the hospital is integral to handling the contagious virus. There are no known or proven drugs to treat the new virus. As a result, health authorities have told doctors to prescribe a combination of anti-viral H.I.V. drugs, along with traditional Chinese medicine like buffalo horn, jasmine, and honeysuckle. Despite efforts to quarantine millions of people infected with the virus, it is spreading rapidly. The majority of recently reported cases come from outside China: about 100 cases have been confirmed in at least 23 other countries. The virus shows signs of spreading overseas due to reports of people falling ill who had never visited China in Thailand, Taiwan, Ger-

impeachable in Alexander’s eyes-- particularly during an election year. In the aftermath of the vote, several Republicans argued that the introduction of witnesses and testimony was the responsibility of the House of Representatives and the Senate’s only obligation is to make a judgment on the evidence collected by the House. Senator Lisa Murkowski argued in a statement that “The House chose to send articles of impeachment that are rushed and flawed.” Their controversial decision not to go to court for witnesses early in the process appears to have influenced some senator’s decision-making.

many, Vietnam, Japan, France and the United States. As reported by The Wall Street Journal, the first patient to die from the coronavirus outside of China was on February 1st, as a 44-year-old Chinese man passed away in the Philippines. Within the United States, the 8th case of the coronavirus was confirmed in Massachusetts; the patient is a University of Massachusetts- Boston student who had recently traveled to Wuhan, China. Additionally, a person is being tested for the coronavirus in New York City after exhibiting the symptoms for the virus. On January 30, the U.S. State Department upped its China travel advisory to the highest level, “Do Not Travel,” shortly before the World Health Organization classified the coronavirus outbreak as a public health emergency on February 1st.

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Democrats responded by arguing that nowhere in the Constitution is there anything that limits the Senate from using their resources and power to investigate impeachment further. They also cited that history indicates it is within the senate’s discretion to call witnesses as they have in every other impeachment trial in the past. As the votes rolled in, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader in the Senate, voiced the frustration of those in his party: “America will remember this day, unfortunately, where the Senate did not live up to its responsibilities, when the Senate turned away from

Junior Ruby Van Dyk is the assistant managing editor. Her email is rvandyk@fandm.edu.

CRIME WATCH

Friday, January 24, 1:30 am - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) cited eight students for drug violations on the 400 block of W James St.

Friday, January 24, 2:15 am - DPS made a citation for a liquor law violation on the 600 block of W James St. after a student was seen walking with alcohol.

Friday, January 24, 2:03 pm - DPS responded to a fire alarm activated in Shadek-Fackenthal library after a hot water heater released steam.

Saturday, January 25, 1:25 am - DPS responded to an altercation at Hildy’s and assault of F&M students on the 700 block of Harrisburg Pike by non-F&M students. It is being investigated by Lancaster City Police.

Saturday, January 25, 10:30 pm - DPS responded to a complaint of underage drinking in Weis College House.

Saturday, January 25, 11:14 pm - DPS issued a violation of city ordinance on the 400 block of W James St. in response to fireworks celebrating the Lunar New Year.

Sunday, January 26, 12:06 am - DPS responded to a complaint of underage drinking in Weis College House.

Monday, January 27 - DPS responded to three fire alarms set off in Marshall Hall throughout the day due to a faulty detector.

Wednesday, January 29, 12:23 pm - DPS responded to a drug violation in Weis College House.

Thursday, January 30, 12:50 pm - DPS responded to a drug violation in New College House.

equivocally regret my ill-judged association with Jeffrey Epstein” during the BBC News Interview. For those who are still fighting for justice, Andrew’s half-hearted apology does not seem enough. Recently, the U.S. Attorney General publicly revealed that Andrew has not cooperated with attempts to gain information in order to aid the progression of the case against Epstein. Although there are no intended charges against the Prince, his testimony and evidence would be extremely valuable to lawyers defending the victims. As the FBI has limited jurisdiction to pursue leads abroad, the public announcement of Andrew’s failure to comply may have been a strategy to force him into participation. Lisa Bloom, a defense attorney for Guiffre stated to the BBC, “If Prince Andrew truly has done

nothing wrong then it’s incumbent upon him to go and speak to the FBI at a time that’s convenient for him and say what he knows.” The only further step the U.S. Government can take is to file a Mutual Legal Assistance Request, which is used as a last resort mechanism. Andrew is understandably upset that a narrative of uncooperative behavior has been published, which he claims is not the reality of the situation. He has been meeting with a group of lawyers on a weekly basis to prepare for potential interviews following these developments and is currently under the Queen’s close watch at the Sandringham Estate.

First-year Erin Maxwell is a staff writer. Her email is emaxwell@fandm.edu.

Staff Writer Commentary

Commemorating Kobe Bryant: his professional life, familial legacy

BY ASHANI WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Can you imagine someone who knows nothing about basketball at all, like can’t even tell the difference between traveling and dribbling, crying over a basketball player’s death? Well, that was me, and I cried like a baby when I heard the news. Death itself takes a toll on me; however, this was no ordinary basketball player. This was Kobe Bryant, a legend, my hero.

On January 26, 2020, I heard the tragic news that a helicopter crash killed 9 victims, including the legend Kobe Bryant. Kobe passed away in this crash along with his daughter Gianna Bryant and five other victims. All of their deaths were a tragedy and have had an immense impact on our country.

The late Kobe Bryant was born in Philadelphia on August 23, 1978. He is the son of the former NBA player Joseph Bryant. Kobe played in Lower Merion at Lower Merion High School, where, after he graduated, he committed to the NBA. Kobe was such an influential role model for me because



Kobe Bryant dies at age 41 in helicopter crash, alongside his daughter, Gianna. Photo courtesy of cnn.com

he came from where I’m from, walked the streets that I walked, and attended schools just fifteen minutes from mine. He showed kids who came from the streets of Philly that someone like us did have a way out, although I knew I would never be a basketball player. I finally saw something beyond Philly because of Kobe.

In interviews, Kobe spoke about traveling as a young child and how it prevented him from

partying much in high school. He also talked about how he preferred to spend his weekends at the recreational gym where he perfected his craft. It was efforts like this that enabled him to have a twenty-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. It was on this team that he was established as one of the greats. Seeing Kobe’s hard work pay off was not only an inspiration to me but to all the young black kids who doubted their dreams.

F&M student describes current food waste crisis in United States

BY OLIVIA CAPASSO
Junior Editor

According to The Atlantic, each year Americans collectively dispose of an astonishing 60 million tons of produce, making fruits and vegetables the leading occupants of our landfills. Nowhere else in the world is food waste so prevalent, an unfavorable accomplishment we can attribute to the nationally low cost of items and a senseless “aesthetic culture.” American shoppers as a whole have decided that slightly tarnished or discolored produce is never a worthy purchase, a mentality that I, regrettably, can associate with. Social media additionally promotes this ideal on a massive scale; “foodie” accounts on Instagram only showcase the most perfect looking mango or banana, influencing younger generations to select only the produce that most resembles that model. This cycle of careless selectivity leads to hundreds of billions of dollars of perishable food being thrown away each year, food that instead could be made use of in other, more sustainable, ways.

In September of 2015, former President Barack Obama and his administration decided to institute a campaign that would work to significantly reduce food waste in America. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the standing goal is to cut food

waste at both a consumer and retail level in half by 2030. In alliance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and private, nonprofit, and government organizations, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hopes to reach this lofty aim by working towards greater food efficiency, more effective redistribution tactics, and improved recycling. Currently, one in six Americans are in need of pioneer services, such as the Bay Area’s Imperfect Product, to make use of the entirely safe and nutritious produce that is being discarded purely for its imperfect appearance.

The USDA, EPA, and FDA additionally signed the “Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative” aimed at joining the agencies in collaboration under a formal agreement. The initiative promotes communication between these government agencies and businesses in the private sector, with an emphasis on educating Americans on the importance of food sustainability. In France, supermarkets have been barred from disposing of any produce, a drastic yet effective move to minimize waste. In the United States people of all ages must understand the importance of the issue and the consequences of our behavior. According to The Washington Post, not only is the disposal of such goods cost inefficient, but

the large production of fruits and vegetables that are not even being consumed contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

The fact is, the American tendency to prefer aesthetically pleasing produce is not only disruptive to the environment, but wildly irresponsible when considering the number of malnourished individuals in the United States. Organizations such as Feeding America are actively working with distributors, farmers, retailers, and manufacturers to collect as much refused but healthy produce as possible for those in need. Of course, food safety requirements are still in place to maintain a certain standard, and all items must abide by the same rules that govern United States grocery stores and producers.

As we move toward a more sustainable future, it is critical that Americans receive an in depth education on the subject of food waste. Each day, millions of pounds of produce go to waste that could otherwise be donated to those in need, or even composted and used to improve our land and ecosystem. The responsibility lies within the people to acknowledge the shortcomings of food production in America and make more conscious decisions to escape our habits as consumers. Little by little, with both legislative changes and the help of each American, I believe that our nation will reach its goal of reducing food waste in the next decade.

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Numerous, edible types of produce are thrown away due to their appearance. Photo courtesy of usareally.com

Campus Life

Nature author David Quammen expresses concerns for national park habitats

BY NINA KEGELMAN
Contributing Writer

This Thursday’s Common Hour speaker was science and nature author David Quammen, whose work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, and *National Geographic*. Titled “The Paradox of the Cultivated Wild: Conservation amid the Human Crowd,” his talk focused primarily on the issues affecting national parks, particularly the inevitable problems that surface when humans aim to control and delineate the natural world. He calls these problems “the paradox of the cultivated wild,” the title of his talk. His Common Hour traced this dilemma throughout the history of American westward expansion, and three distinct phases Quammen recognizes in the conception of national parks.

First, Quammen noted the two interrelated concerns regarding the cultivated wild. One being the survival of big predators, particularly in the North Atlantic region, such as grizzly bears, wolves, and mountain lions. The second being the large blocks of landscape such animals need in order to survive. Quammen explained how these landscapes, as public land, fall into four categories: national parks, national forests, land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, and national monuments. National parks take up the largest portion of public land, being sixty-two in total, and encompassing about fifty-two million acres. Quammen’s talk used the issues surfacing in Yellowstone National Park and their history to exemplify the threats to wildlife in the rest of the continental U.S.

Quammen showed how despite having positive intentions at its beginning in 1872, the national parks project quickly became a threat to wildlife in Yellowstone. Originally, Yellowstone was created to preserve and display “geological wonders” like canyons and hot springs. Coinciding with the completion of the North Pacific Railroad, the park

could be a commercial destination for travellers in the late 19th century. However, at this time, there were no regulations or special protections in place for the wildlife inhabiting the park. In 1886, the U.S. army was called in as the very first rangers to establish order in the park and prevent hunting.

Quammen then discussed the 20th century phase in which certain strategies were pursued to ensure the abundance and tameness of the animals within the park. While senseless poaching was prohibited, rangers went out of their way to kill carnivorous “bad animals,” like mountain lions and coyotes, to protect the herbivorous “good” ones, like elk, deer, and bison. It was also in this phase that omnivorous grizzly bears were introduced to a diet of scrap food from the park’s surrounding hotels. While the bears did alright on this diet, Quammen commented, they became habituated to human hand-outs, a pattern which threatened their ecosystem.

The contemporary approach to the “paradox of the cultivated wild” began in 1963, with the release of the Leopold Report, which recommended certain improvements in the Yellowstone park management. Oxymoronically named “natural regulation,” as Quammen claims, this approach put a stop to the excess feeding of grizzly bears and did away with the harsher borders of the past. Instead, the aim was to create a more expansive and less delineative space for wildlife. Concentric borders for the park itself, national forest, reservations, and the Bureau of Land Management together became known as the “Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem” and was ten times larger than the previous area. It is now the largest intact area of wild landscape in the U.S.

Before moving on to the question portion of the Common Hour, Quammen explained the present threats to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He discussed the lack of protection for bison migrating



Photo courtesy of Erin Maxwell.
Nina Kegelman gives an overview of the Common Hour discussion about National parks and the ways in which our current political leaders are disregarding natural life

through Montana, which get treated as wildlife rather than livestock, often killed to prevent the spread of diseases to cattle. He also expressed concern about the diminishing food sources of the grizzly bear: ungulate meat, whitebark pine tree seeds, and cutthroat trout. Effects of global warming and the introduction of exotic fish to the Yellowstone lake mean the bears are relying on army cutworm moths for fatty foods and competing with wolves for ungulate meat. While the grizzly bear population is stable, and is controversially being considered for removal from the endangered species list, Quammen finished with a plea for humans to adapt to the needs of animals rather than vice versa.

Notable questions for Quammen included what the Trump administrations’ stance is with regard to wildlife conservation, the conception of “wilderness” as potentially ignorant of native inhabitants, and the question of capping tourist visits to the park. Quammen made it clear that the Trump administration’s privatization of public lands and shrinking of national monuments

has proved them potentially threatening to conservation. He also recognized native human populations as part of their natural ecosystems and positioned himself against the use of the term “wilderness” with regard to the issue. Quammen also recognized that though it would be politically difficult, the only way to adapt to the needs of Yellowstone is to recognize that the supply of its experience is finite and create certain reforms to alleviate the pressure tourists bring.

Quammen ended the discussion portion by expressing a concern for the grizzly bear population in Yellowstone he foresees in fifty years. Issues of climate change and commercialization of the park could result in the space looking very different in the future. Regardless, Quammen is assured that it is possible to preserve the wildlife given the proper attention and resources to the national lands.

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Current state of Arabic, Middle Eastern Studies at Franklin & Marshall

BY MIRA LERNER
Copy Editor

About two weeks before Thanksgiving, administration notified certain faculty that the teaching fellow position for Arabic is being eliminated. In response, a group of faculty amassed proof of the Arabic program’s success, in comparison to other language departments, and presented it to

administration. They included evidence that enrollment, despite a slight dip in fourth years, is fine.

A second meeting was later held to again advocate reinstating the teaching fellowship position, but in early January the request was shot down. Faculty were despondent to hear that no permanent teaching position for Arabic would be opening.

The discontinuation of this position leaves F&M with one professor responsible for all Arabic classes, greatly limiting resources available to students interested in pursuing the language. The cut has prompted discussion on more than just the state of Arabic studies, though. The lack of Middle Eastern studies programming has been called into question as well.

On Tuesday, January 28th, a group of concerned faculty and over 30 students gathered in Brooks College House to discuss their worries and hopes for the future of both Arabic and Middle Eastern studies at F&M.

For context, neither Arabic studies nor Middle Eastern studies

see ACADEMICS, page 5

Campus Life

Arabic Studies: Students express concerns for confusion regarding Arabic and Middle Eastern studies.

continued from page 4

ies are their own major or department at F&M. At best, students interested in the fields can minor in area studies with a concentration in either Islamic and Middle Eastern or Arabic studies.

Professors who teach classes in Middle Eastern studies are housed in all different departments, making scheduling very difficult. After sorting out conflicts within their department, it is hard to ensure that there is no overlap of Middle Eastern studies classes with each other, or with Arabic.

Lack of established programming aside, the formal separation of the two subjects came under scrutiny from the group for philosophical reasons as well. Many

people agreed that the Arabic language and Middle Eastern studies are intertwined and they wished to make that vital connection visible in the curriculum. The integration, it was expressed, enhances student learning. “Language and culture inform each other,” one person said while providing an anecdote about how knowing Arabic helped them get more out of a Middle Eastern studies class.

For some, the evening was emotional. The events surrounding diversity and inclusion of last semester were referenced as adding insult to the Arabic program cuts. In sharing a hope to be recognized as essential and indispensable to the F&M community, one person implied that they do not already feel such recognition. Another shared that taking Middle Eastern studies courses changed their life

and expressed frustration at how F&M prides itself on diversity but is not valuing Arabic studies. One professor pointed out the irony of finding themselves advocating for Middle Eastern and area studies programs after having dismantled the terms in a class just that morning.


In addition to adding another teaching position and establishing

departments, the desire for a physical space was expressed; a space to foster intellectual growth and personal connection, and to provide a much needed home for the arab community within F&M.

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Photo courtesy of fandm.edu
Faculty and instructors in the Arabic and Middle Eastern studies department have faced hardships in the face of being a less established department at F&M. Leading to students advocating for more attention on the topic.



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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to *The Student Weekly*, which was formed in 1915 by the union of *The F&M Weekly*, founded 1891, and *The College Student*, founded 1881. The crest of *The College Reporter* was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

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FULL STAFF OPINION

At F&M the start of a new semester means a deep dive into new courses, remembering how to balance academic life and extracurricular activities, and reorienting oneself with the College and the Lancaster community. The start to 2020 allows us to explore a new year full of new possibilities, but it also allows us to reflect. As we move forward we should reflect upon what we have learned as individuals and as a community just this past semester—namely, that there is plenty of room for growth as a campus community. It is essential that we take a step back and listen, observe, and internalize what exactly our student body needs in order to promote a healthy and happy campus environment. Only after hearing each other out and reminding ourselves that this community is bigger than each one of us individually, can we begin to initiate change and to grow.

So take this time to think about what you’d like to achieve this semester, whether it be trying something new and stretching out of your comfort zone or diving deeper into something you’re already a part of. At F&M we are fortunate to be surrounded with many individuals who come from different backgrounds and who belong to a variety of groups on campus. Take advantage of this—get to know your peers, where they are coming, what they enjoy. Try to participate in some new activities and explore what is available to you.

In addition to trying new things yourself and keeping an open mind, encourage your friends to do the same. Hold each other accountable and strive to make this campus as strong and responsible as possible. In order for change to occur, we must be inspired to take action and promote a community which encourages growth with open arms.

Sincerely,
TCR Editing Staff



Photo courtesy of ourfandm.tumblr

Arts & Leisure

Contributing Writer reviews new film *Parasite* up for Academy Award

BY RYAN MCCARTHY
Contributing Writer

I was really looking forward to seeing *Parasite*. I rarely analyze the deeper meaning of movies, perhaps because I lack the intellect, but this movie was fun to watch all the way through and had a deeper meaning. *Parasite* was directed by Bong Joon-ho and had subtitles. I'll tell you what; I barely noticed them after a couple of minutes. IMDB describes the plot as, "All unemployed, Ki-taek and his family take a peculiar interest in the wealthy and glamorous Parks, as they ingratiate themselves into their lives and get entangled in an unexpected incident." So, the unemployed Kim family con their way into working for the wealthy Parks family. At that point, I thought I had a firm grasp on the plot until halfway through it distorted into something completely unexpected. I won't spoil anything here, but it's undoubtedly one of the most original stories I have seen in years. I had never seen a movie with any of these actors, probably because they're all Korean, but their performances were flawless.

The plot has twists and turns, and I was entertained the whole way through. I went into the theater thinking this movie would be one thing, but it turned into something completely unexpected. My favorite aspect of this movie was the cinematography. The visuality is mesmerizing, and Bong did a beautiful job contrasting between the Kim and Parks households. I felt like I was looking at a painting the entire time. It reminded me of the movie *Her*, a movie that is so stunning it attracts your eyes to the screen. The director made it a point to highlight how the Parks live well above the Kims. Bong starts the movie out in the crummy basement apartment owned by the Kims. It is a living situation that made me feel bad for them. Then, Bong takes you uphill to the postmodern Parks estate. I then felt sorry for the Parks family as they began over-trusting and were taken advantage of. Bong did this to establish the theme of class warfare, making you favor one family over the other. You soon realize that the Kims and the Parks are the Yin and Yang of class warfare. The Parks see the labor as disposable, and the Kims see the house as



Photo courtesy of losangelestimes.com
Parasite is directed by Bong Joon-ho and follows two families in Korea. It depicts class warfare in a unique and unexpected way.

an opportunity to take advantage. Bong made this movie conflicting, and it is up to the viewer to solve this moral dilemma. This movie stands out because it's been a week and I still don't know who the protagonist is. This is why *Parasite* is truly special. It reminds me of *Marriage Story*, a movie about a divorce where the viewer feels that they have to side with one partner. Both *Parasite* and *Marriage Story* make you feel for both sides until you realize that they are both riddled with flaws.

If I had to change one thing about this film, I would shorten it and cast a different sound producer. The music didn't wow me, and I think they could have done a better job at this. I enjoyed every minute of this movie, but in the end, things seemed to drag on. Other than that, this film is a masterpiece. *Chef kiss* I give this movie a 9.5/10.

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Writer discusses unexpected aspects of popular TV show *Love Island*

BY DIANA LICHTENSTEIN
Staff Writer

With TV shows, I always either get bored and stop short, or binge-watch. With *Love Island*, it was the latter. It takes a lot for a show to captivate me, especially one of the reality genre which *Love Island* is. I had heard of the show before but always brushed it off, thinking that it would not excite me. This is why, over the break, when my cousin recommended that we watch it, I initially rolled my eyes. She further insisted that I would love it, so I gave it a try. I made the right choice. Not to sound overdramatic but *Love Island* truly was amazing. The premise of the British television show is as follows: Male and female contestants or "islanders" are placed in a villa in beautiful Mallorca, under full surveillance, with zero contact to the outside world, allegedly. The goal is to couple up with a fellow islander, whether for romance, friendship, or desire to win a cash prize of £50,000. Re-coupling occurs pretty frequently and almost always leads to drama ensuing. At first, I chuckled viewing the first episode, realizing that the initial



Photo courtesy of heatworld.com
Love Island is a British television show in which male and female contestants are placed in a villa together and under full surveillance. Contestants "couple up" in hopes to win the cash prize.

coupling is based solely on outward appearances. If the show were to have gone in this plotless direction for the duration of the season, I would have stopped watching. Luckily, it became more riveting, not long after this first scene. The group as a whole began bonding and forming friendships. It was comforting to live vicariously

through this comradery. It was reminiscent of what the ideal collegiate experience would feel like: having a massive friend group of guys and girls all by your side. There was conflict but every moment was underscored with a genuine sense of love and support. When there were instances of arguments, it was not the same as generic

reality TV plotlines that I was used to. It was refreshing to see that not all of the female drama was based on competition surrounding men, but other topics surrounding the nature of female friendship itself. For example, in the fifth season, one girl was mad at see LOVE ISLAND, page 7

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LOVE ISLAND: Staff Writer discusses surprising and positive aspects

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another because she wasn't spending enough time with the girls. She was not mad that this girl had "stolen her man" so to speak. These moments of "fighting over boys" did happen from time to time, but it wasn't constant. This is more the kind of thing one would frequently find on shows like *The Bachelor* (sorry to the fans: aka the majority of female students

at F&M). This is one of the many aspects that I appreciated about the show. Another aspect that I loved was how the real emotions of men were placed on the forefront. When a contestant was dumped from the island many of the islanders would get very upset and cry heavily. In these tender moments, the men never told each other to stop crying or "man up" but instead said, "I love you, bro." In all seriousness, it was refreshing to have

a change from the usual toxic masculinity portrayed on shows like these. In summation, I would highly recommend this show, especially for those that would scoff at the idea of enduring the pain of reality television. It is different. The entire group becomes very empathetic and you begin to envision yourself in the villa with them. The female and male friendships are not surface level and I know this because of the countless

number of scenes showing advice being given, group hugs, laughter, and tears. You will want to be a part of their dysfunctional unit as much as I did. As a plus, you will even be familiar with a lot of British slang by the end. *Love Island* is much more complex than just a "dating show."

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Uncut Gems stars actor Adam Sandler in unique role as gambling addict

BY NINA KEGELMAN
Contributing Writer

To be honest, I have a hard time explaining the plot of the 2019 Safdie brothers film *Uncut Gems*, starring Adam Sandler, Idina Menzel, Julia Fox, and Kevin Garnett. Does that mean the film wasn't riveting? Absolutely not. We're used to seeing Adam Sandler in his traditionally goofy roles, so some were rightfully confused when the *Uncut Gems* trailer dropped, and they saw the actor donning a goatee, sunglasses indoors, a baggy leather jacket, and bling (lots of it) for his portrayal of jeweler and gambling addict, Howard Ratner, in what appears to be an intense and dramatic film. Unsurprisingly, to me at least, Sandler rose to the occasion, convincing us of his almost comically out-of-touch and impulsive character in a performance so natural he could have been flawlessly imitating a close friend. Howard Ratner, like all of the characters, feels so real. His over-the-top presentation and hopeless ambition remind us all of a familiar type of annoying upper-middle class desperation, making us cringe, laugh, and worry all at the same time. The film catches you off guard right out of the gate. If you're one for trailers, you'd expect to be immediately set in New York City's Diamond District, figuring out what trouble Adam Sandler's gotten himself into this time. Instead, you're placed in Ethiopia. Injured miners hustle about in graphic displays of agony and duress in the wake of an accident. Two miners enter a cave and quietly and painstakingly carve out a massive black opal gem: what would become Howard Ratner's downfall.



Photo courtesy of KCCU.com
Uncut Gems stars Adam Sandler, Idina Menzel, Julia Fox, and Kevin Garnett. It follows a gambling addict in New York City and the aftermath of his actions.

After a trippy transition featuring gems from a kaleidoscopic point of view, we find ourselves back in New York, and meet the protagonist Howard Ratner, who is on the brink of receiving his precious gem from the "Ethiopian Jews" who mined it. Loosely, the film follows Howard in the aftermath of the black opal's arrival, navigating a messy oncoming divorce, tumultuous affair, and the devastating gambling addiction not unrelated to those first two. Throughout the film, Ratner is balancing a multitude of terrible decisions: loaning the gem to basketball star Kevin Garnett for luck, betting money on Garnett's games, dodging the threats from his loanshark brother-in-law, and taking his family for granted. As Howard runs from the consequences of each, he somehow manages to make each problem worse, building the extreme sense of discomfort and anxiety the film is already renowned for (I remember reading a Tweet: "If you're Jewish and have anx-

iety, don't see Uncut Gems.") Though that's not necessarily my takeaway, I cannot understate the tension and suspense of the story which makes it painfully enjoyable to watch unfold. The other captivating theme of the film is Ratner's Jewish identity, connection to the Ethiopian Jews, and the overarching urgent, shameful feel its setting in the days before and after Passover. We're privy to his family's awkward Seder dinner, as he and his wife, played by Idina Menzel, plan to hold off on their divorce until after the holiday. As they read the Haggadah and remember the Exodus, we can't help but associate the plagues Howard lists with his life's own chaos and troubles, reinforcing a sense of impending doom. Considering Howard's shortcomings in the morality department, the religious theme reinforces a darker fate for Howard despite his addictive yearning for a "promised land." I don't want to spoil anything, but as *Uncut Gems* begins and

ends with violence, particularly with two rather different forms of it, we're left on a mournful, empty note, stuck in a circle of pain. Perhaps the juxtaposition of the suffering of the dangerously exploited Ethiopian miners with Howard's senseless downfall emphasizes the meaningless tragedy of it all: the shallow gambling addiction, the money, the fame. All for what? I'm still trying to piece together *Uncut Gems*, and would watch it again given enough time and space to destress afterwards. For that I give it an A... and internally scream that Sandler didn't even get the decency of a nomination from the academy for a performance that not only makes us forget he's silly Adam Sandler, but also lets us see him as the darkly and twistedly comedic sealer of his own fate.

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The whole world felt the pain of Kobe Bryant's death. Read more below...


photo courtesy of nba.com

F&M squash teams are preparing for the playoffs. Read more below...

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Tragic death of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, age 41, shocks entire world

BY LUKE STREETT
Contributing Writer

On Sunday morning, a helicopter containing nine passengers fatally crashed into the hillsides of Calabasas, California, killing all passengers including NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna. The initial news of the crash was just speculation, as bystanders saw what they thought to be Kobe's helicopter falling from the sky. This led to a media frenzy, with some initial reports claiming that all four of Kobe's daughters were in the helicopter, some claiming that none were in the helicopter, and others claiming that ex-teammate and former NBA champion Rick Fox was on board. When the dust settled, reporters confirmed that it was Kobe, his daughter Gianna, the pilot, and teammates and parents of Gianna's "Mamba Academy" youth basketball team. The helicopter was on the way to one of Gianna's basketball games for "Mamba Academy" to be coached by Kobe himself.

The death of Kobe shocked the basketball community to its core, not only in the NBA community but throughout the world. Kobe memorials have begun to pop up around the globe, starting in Los Angeles, spreading throughout the United States to places like his high school alma mater, Lower Merion High School in

Philadelphia, and even in Italy, where he lived until the age of 14. Basketball has become an increasingly global game within the last twenty years, much in part due to Kobe Bryant. Kobe ran basketball camps throughout Europe and Asia, and the shock of his death has reached all ends of the globe. NBA players and coaches honored Bryant during Sunday's games, running the clock out for eight-second backcourt violations and 24-second shot clock violations, honoring the two numbers worn by Bryant during his 20 year NBA career. Many NBA coaches wore Bryant's signature Nike shoe to honor his legacy while coaching this past week. ESPN analysts were also visibly moved by the news, as many analysts had personal relationships with Bryant and were moved to tears while covering the story.

Bryant's father played in the NBA and eventually played overseas in Italy for a number of years to continue his professional career. This is where Bryant watched his father play and where he initially fell in love with the game of basketball. He moved back to the US at age 13 and rose to fame as a standout at Lower Merion High School. He decided to skip college and go straight to the NBA at the age of 17, and was drafted in the first round then traded to the Los Angeles

Lakers. NBA legend Jerry West famously watched Bryant workout only one time and immediately knew he would be a star, deciding to trade for him on draft night. Kobe played 20 illustrious seasons in the NBA, winning five championships, one MVP, and countless other accolades, including his famous 60 point final NBA game in the Staples Center.

What made this fatal helicopter crash even more tragic was the death of Kobe's 13-year-old daughter Gianna, or Gigi. Gigi was a budding basketball star, and Kobe was very involved with her career, coaching her team and advocating for the growth of women's basketball across the world. Kobe had spent much of his short three years of retirement coaching Gigi for his own "Mamba Academy" youth team, and was on his way to, in true Kobe fashion, pushing her to pursue pro basketball dreams. The loss of both Kobe and Gigi is a

massive loss for the development of women's sports in the US, and is one of the many reasons why Bryant and his daughter's death is so tragic.

Bryant may be gone, but his legacy will last forever. Jerry West, the former Laker, and current NBA logo has in the past advocated for the NBA's logo to change. Petitions have begun to circle about changing the logo from Jerry West to Bryant, something that would immortalize his legacy forever. Whether or not this happens, basketball fans will remember Kobe's passion, competitive spirit, and his commitment to getting better. The "Mamba mentality" was a term coined to describe all of these things and will always be a way to immortalize Bryant's passion for the game and his desire to get better.

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Photo courtesy of dailynews.com.

Many murals have been created in honor of Kobe Bryant in Los Angeles. Bryant will forever be remembered as one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

F&M squash teams rolling into playoffs with impressive regular seasons

BY JAMIE BELFER
Sports Editor

F&M's men's and women's squash teams are quickly approaching the home stretch of the 2019-2020 season. Both teams are fighting to earn their final victories of the regular season in hopes of rolling into the playoffs with fuel and fire.

The men's squash team has dominated throughout the entire season, earning a record of 12-4, with seven shutout victories. With only two regular season matches left, they are looking to have continued success as they soon venture into playoff season.

The Diplomats had an especially strong winning streak in the middle of their season, defeating 6 straight competitors including No. 19 ranked Middlebury and No. 20 ranked Williams. After falling to Cornell in a close 5-4 match, the Diplomats were able to bounce back this past Wednesday, January 29, to defeat No. 18 Navy, 8-1, an impressive victory.

F&M's men's squash team is loaded with strong competitors. First-year, Teddy Eill, is currently 14-1 on the season, with his only loss coming early on in the season. Junior co-captain Sanjay Jeeva, has won 13 out of

his 16 matches, competing mainly in the first position. Senior co-captain Yannis Senkel has also had a terrific season with only three losses.

With a talented and dedicated team, the Diplomats should be the team to watch out for in the Mid-Atlantic Squash Championship where they will head to Washington D.C to compete, starting February 7.

The Diplomat women's squash team has also had a successful season with a 6-5 record, including one 9-0 shutout. The team has won five of their last eight matches. They showed true strength and tenacity in a narrow 5-4 victory against Dickinson. Senior co-captain Julia Bevan came up big for the Diplomats with a comeback victory to secure a huge Diplomat win. The Diplomats had previously lost to Dickinson in their last 6 matches.

The No. 19 F&M women's squash team also upset No. 17 Tufts in a 6-3 victory in the middle of the season. Co-captain Emily Knapp, senior Katherine Galambos, first year Sam Sankaran, and junior Grace Smith all played with grit to defeat their opponents in five sets. This determination and strength shown by the Diplomats

prove they will be a dominant force in the playoffs to come.

Although falling to their latest three competitors, the Diplomats are looking to end their season on a high note in their last two matches against Bates and Bowdoin. The Diplomats are ready to face their opponents as a tough contender in the Mid-Atlantic Squash Championship.

The Diplomat squash teams have prepared for the postseason by com-

peting against challenging and ranked competitors throughout the entire season. It will be exciting to watch how their preparation will pay off in the playoffs. It is up to them to continue to play with tenacity and toughness to have continued success.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com.

F&M men's squash have had a fantastic regular season. With a 12-4 record, they are ready to make their mark in the playoffs and take down their competitors.