The Patriots offense worked the clock down on a drive covering nine plays and 72 yards. They scored a touchdown and hoped to recover an onside kick to force overtime. Zuelerin's 48-yard field goal attempt sailed wide to the left, sealing their fate.

Brady then orchestrated the game's lone touchdown drive, a five-play, 69-yard march, finished off with a 29-yard throw to tight end Rob Gronkowski. On the next play, the veteran kicker knocked down a 42-yard field goal at the 10:29 mark to give the Patriots a 13-3 halftime lead.

For the third time in the last five years and for the sixth time in franchise history, the New England Patriots are Super Bowl champions. They defeated the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl 53, 13-3, at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

The lowest scoring game in Super Bowl history that a touchdown was not scored within the first three quarters of the game. Super Bowl 9 holds the record for the fewest points.

The Rams, who averaged 32.9 points per game this season, now join the Miami Dolphins, from Super Bowl 6 as one of the only teams to not score a touchdown in the championship game.

By contrast, the Patriots have not only won their sixth Super Bowl, but they have won all six within the last 18 years. They are now tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers for the most titles all-time.

Julian Edelman captured the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Award with a 10-catch, 141 receiving yard performance. With the award, Edelman becomes the seventh wide receiver to win the award and the first since Santonio Holmes.

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Fairfield University Settles in Sexual Abuse Lawsuit

BY EVAN DENNY
News Editor

Fairfield University is one of several affiliated groups that have agreed to a $61 million lawsuit regarding alleged sexual abuse at a school for homeless boys in Haiti. More than 130 people who say they were sexually abused as children at the now-defunct charity school in Haiti will have the money from the settlement.

The class-action lawsuit filed in federal court in Hartford involved poor and often abused boys who attended the Project Pierre Toussaint School in Cap-Haïtien over a period of more than a decade beginning in the late 1990s. A founder of the school, Fairfield University graduate Douglas Perlitz, is serving a federal prison sentence of 19 years and 7 months for sexually abusing boys there.

The judge who sentenced Perlitz called him a serial rapist and molester. "What we learned in these cases is that impoverished Haitian children were sexually abused and then left in pain, agony and without hope," said Mitchell Garabedian, a Boston lawyer representing the 130 plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit.

The settlement must be approved by a federal judge. Perlitz was arrested in 2009 and later convicted. Prosecutors said he abused at least 15 children, gave them money, food, clothing and electronics and threatened to take everything away and expel them from the program if they told anyone.

Fairfield University officials said in a statement that it played no role in running the Haitian school. University officials were not aware of the sexual abuse before it was publicly reported, the statement said.

They said the lawsuit is being settled to support the victims and spare them the potential pain of having to go through a trial. "We hope that these proceedings and the settlement reached will give some measure of relief to the victims," Mr. Garabedian said.

The USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus, a religious order of the Catholic Church into which the former Society of Jesus of New England has merged, issued similar comments about the settlement Friday.

"All of these 133 sexual abuse victims will be members of the proposed settlement class," Garabedian said. "Other victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by Douglas Perlitz, Father Paul E. Carrier or anyone else affiliated with (Perlitz's) Project Pierre-Toussaint will have the opportunity to become members of the settlement class."

Garabedian said all the victims in the latest settlement claim they were abused by Perlitz, with one of those also alleging to have been sexually abused by Carrier, long described as Perlitz's mentor, according to the Connecticut Post.

Despite this claim, Carrier was never charged with any crime. Carrier spent 20 years as an instructor, chaplain and director of campus ministry at Fairfield University.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

New Set in Studio B

BY PATRICK MOORE
Staff Reporter

The Communications and Media Arts program at Sacred Heart University built a new set in Studio B. This new set comes from the former General Electric headquarters, now Sacred Heart's West Campus, which the university acquired in 2016.

Instead of getting rid of the set, the program decided to repurpose it and bring it to the Martire Building.

The set was once used by Lucky Duck Studios, who produced a number of shows on Nickelodeon. It is in great condition and was only used for three years.

Studio Manager and professor Keith Zdrojowy helped to acquire the new set for the studio.

"It was time for change," Zdrojowy said. "The only cost of taking apart the set was for use of the rental truck."

The set had to be taken apart, moved, and then reassembled in the Martire Building.

Graduate Students in the Communication and Media Arts program helped with the process.

"This new set is very versatile [and it gave Studio B a] modern look," said Gregory Golda, a professor in the Communications program. "The steel structures are flexible and easy changes can give the set a new look."

Some of the main features of the set are lighting, new panels, and a backdrop system. The set provides more production options than were available in Studio A.

Junior Kyle Horna, a Business major and a Communications minor, said, "I think it is a great addition to the Sacred Heart University's communication program and I am excited hopefully I will use it sometime."

The goal of the new set was to add more production options for the school. The new set is not just used for film production; the backdrops can also be used for photography.

The Studio B set is open to all Communications and Media Arts majors that attend Sacred Heart University and is currently being used by classes like TV Production I. To use the facility, you can reserve a time slot online.

"I did not know that the Studios were available for students," said junior Reed Keller, a Communications major. "It is good to have more production options for the Communication program."

Studio B was used recently by students from Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. The SCMA program has no concrete plans in the future to change any more studios.
Who doesn’t love the feeling of coming home to a package on your front steps? Every time I order new clothes online, I anxiously await for them to arrive at my doorstep. Being a Media Studies and Communications major, I have always been an avid user of different social media platforms and technologies. Online shopping has made huge steps lately, even causing some malls and department stores to shut down.

Although I do still shop in stores sometimes, I find online shopping to be so much more convenient in my life. Whenever I need a new outfit for a special occasion, I just hop on my laptop from the comfort of my own house and browse through my favorite store’s websites. Online shopping has saved me so much time. I no longer need to drive to the mall, walk from store to store, and look through countless racks of clothes.

Some may say that online shopping is making people lazy, but personally, I find in-store shopping to be so much more convenient in my life, rent textbooks for a much lower price than most bookstores. Also, I love to shop online for other things, too. I have a passion for photography, and I used to spend hours on end at CVS printing all my photos. But now, thanks to online shopping, I am able to stop by CVS on my own time and quickly pick up the photos. This process is so much easier for me and has saved me so much time. Additionally, as a college student, every semester I need to order textbooks and I refuse to ever buy my books from the school bookstores.

I have not only saved time, but I have saved so much money by ordering my textbooks online from Chegg.com. Chegg is an online store where you can order and rent new or used textbooks for a much lower price than most bookstores. Also, let’s not forget about Amazon Prime, and the fact that students are able to be Amazon Prime members at a reduced price with a school email address. Amazon Prime is my best friend when it comes to last minute birthday gifts thanks to their free two-day shipping.

Whether I am shopping for pleasure, for school, or for friends and family, online shopping will always be my go-to. Online shopping has benefited my hectic student lifestyle and my sometimes unnecessary shopping habits in so many ways. I will most definitely continue to browse my favorite shopping websites, find promo codes, and wait for my packages to arrive on my doorstep. Online shopping is always the way to go!

To conclude, online shopping is convenient, due to speediness and accessibility. Although, online shopping has restrictions and costs. Whereas in-store shopping grants me an experience where I make a purchase with 100% confidence that I made the right decision, and I always go back for more.
Apple released the AirPods on Dec. 16, 2016. AirPods are wireless earbuds that charge themselves in a compact case. According to Apple, the starting price for a pair of AirPods is $159.

Junior Anthony Smith believes that AirPods are a great pair of earbuds. "I love my AirPods. They connect automatically and the earbuds themselves have no buttons. They even pause themselves when one of the AirPods is taken out of your ear. I love that there are absolutely no wires involved with AirPods. Wires can only cause struggle, and often wires get all tangled up together," said Smith. "Also, the AirPods are so small and take up barely any space."

According to Apple, the AirPods have the power of a 24-hour battery life. "The battery life on the AirPods is great. It makes my life a whole lot easier that the AirPods case charges the earbuds on-the-go," said sophomore Juliianne Minervini. "Especially when I'm in between classes and don't have time to sit and charge my earbuds, it's nice not having to plug them in every few hours."

Apple AirPods are being used by many Sacred Heart students. With jokes that have gone viral on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, other students wonder if Apple's new wireless earbuds are really worth the "hype."

"I love the AirPods," said senior Kyle Carmona. "I just wouldn't recommend them because the earbuds are so easy to lose. If you lose one, then you won't be able to use them at all. I just think it's a very risky purchase."

Students like sophomore Julia Antonacci, think that the AirPods aren't worth the $159 price.

"Although AirPods are comfortable and easy to use, I am just as happy with my original Apple earphones that are not wireless. There are plenty of other wireless headphones on the market which have better sound and microphone quality that are worth more than the $159 that you would spend on AirPods," said Antonacci. "I just don't see what the hype is all about."

Some students like junior Christopher Quigley prefer to buy headphones from other name brands.

"I'm not going to lie. I thought they were pretty cool when I saw a bunch of people wearing them around campus. Bluetooth headphones with no wires, and it's an Apple product?! More what could I want? When I went to try them on, I was so dissatisfied by not only their extreme discomfort, but more importantly their poor quality of sound," said Quigley.

"Instead of following my initial desire to buy Apple AirPods, I invested a bit more and purchased the Bose Quiet Comfort II Noise Cancelling headphones," said Quigley. However, junior Chrys Georgioskakis is overall pleased by the Apple AirPods. "My AirPods have been so easy to store and access when needed, simple to connect, and have a great quality of sound. I used to always find myself untangling wires and now I can simply just open a box and listen," said Georgioskakis. "This product is probably the first in a while that I believe is really worth the hype."

Super Bowl Traditions

What do you do to celebrate Super Bowl Sunday?

"Every Super Bowl Sunday, I wake up and order wings and pizza for before the game. I usually get enough food for all my friends and I. Every year, they come over and we have a big party, no matter who is playing," said junior Andrew Demmings.

Many students, like junior Emma Sanders, have Super Bowl Sunday traditions. They look forward to every year.

"One tradition I had before coming to college was going to my grandparents' house with my whole family. At my grandparents house, we bet on boxes and it is always really fun," said Sanders. "Since I will not be home this year, I am going to be watching the Super Bowl with my friends from school. We are ordering a bunch of food and having some people over."

"Usually, during the Super Bowl, I will either be with friends or family depending on where I am. One tradition I stick to no matter where I am is making buffalo chicken dip. It is my favorite food to eat during the game. I do not remember a Super Bowl without it," said junior Erin Constantino.

In addition, freshman Tori Hanuschak looks forward to going home and spending the Super Bowl with her family.

"I always watch the Super Bowl with my family, and we actually place bets on how long the national anthem will last and what the score will be," said Hanuschak.

Not only is junior Nicole Mucciaroni excited to watch the game, she is also looking forward to a fun night filled with good company.

"I am just as excited to spend time with friends and eating good food as I am to celebrate America's religion; football," said Mucciaroni.

Being a Massachusetts native, Constantino is hoping that the Patriots will win. Due to her native roots, whenever the Patriots win, she is excited to attend the parade.

"I love going to the parade, because it is all of us crazy fans. We all are able to come together and celebrate, which makes it awesome to be a part of such a big group," said Constantino.

However, Demmings is rooting for the Rams to win the Super Bowl this year. He is hopeful that the Rams will beat the Patriots.

"I really want the Rams to win and I think they will. I am just sick of the Patriots always winning," said Demmings. "I do not really have any big traditions, but I do always watch the game with my friends every year."

Junior Matthew Wielk looks forward to watching the half-time show and the commercials.

"I really don't even end up watching much of the game. I watch the half-time show and look for the commercials. I like to see who's performing. I feel like there is always a lot of talk about how the half-time show will go because sometimes it's really good or really bad, depending on the performer," said Wielk.

Freshman Robert DiNotsa is also eager to watch the half-time show and see what Travis Scott has in store for his performance.

"I am always excited to see the half-time shows. Personally, this is always my favorite part of the Super Bowl. But I am especially excited this year because of the hype of Travis Scott's world tour. This half-time show should be worth the anticipation."
The Value of Family

KRISTIN BURNELL
A&E EDITOR

Senior Retirement

TESSA KIELBASA
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

I came to college with the sole purpose of graduating. I have been ready to graduate college as soon as I stepped onto campus 4 years ago as a naive freshman. School isn’t for everyone and while I like to think I am good at it, I think most of the work we do is busywork that professors give us as a way to enforce our understanding and to establish a routine for the rest of our lives. With that being said, an graduation approaches (in less than 100 days), I am beginning to realize the impending doom of heading out into the real world. That’s an important lesson for anyone holding a position. Don’t just leave them in the ocean to drown, make sure the life preserver is nearby to bring them to shore if need be.

I am a washed-up second-semester senior who has lost and who will lose control of things she spent four years building. Standing outside Beta Hond in August of 2015, I was a terrified kid from Massachusetts with no plan, goals, or a clue as to what she was doing. However, as my connections to campus grew and I formed relationships with people I will never forget, I began to develop a future for myself that will hopefully pan out after graduation. Over four years I lost friends, gained some absolutely amazing ones, and have had experiences that changed my outlook on life. Things no longer seem as dire as they once did. That’s an important lesson for anyone holding a position. Don’t just leave them in the ocean to drown, make sure the life preserver is nearby to bring them to shore if need be.

I am hopefully moving on to something different and possibly better. While most people’s retirement involves golf and moving to Florida, mine will revolve around figuring out how to be a functioning adult and how I am going to pay my bills post-graduation. My college experience has been incredible, and to my sisters and to everyone else who affected me in the past four years, for good or for bad, thank you. I appreciate it all. However, my time has come to move on, hang up my backpack, and retire. May 12, 2019, can’t come soon enough.

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Features

Joe Elbertson; Marine to Music Man

BY PAXTON MCULANE
Staff Reporter

From the outside, artist-in-residence Joe Elbertson is just the average Sacred Heart Choir director. He divides his time between directing SHU’s Blended Hearts choir and teaching high school students music and personal wellness at Kolbe Cathedral High School. Few know about this former Marine, his traumatic brain injury, his recovery, and how music found its way back into his life.

Elbertson first became interested in music when he began high school.

“My freshman year was in a really low spot in my life. I was doing the lighting for the choir, and I saw them and I said wow, I want to do that, I want to be involved in that,” said Elbertson.

Since that moment, Elbertson has cultivated his passion for music. First, by becoming a singer, later picking up not only the piano, but the guitar, and the drums as well.

After graduating, Elbertson was quick to join the military.

“I signed up right out of high school. I needed some direction in my life. I always knew that I wanted to serve in the military because I have a long family history of service,” said Elbertson.

Despite joining the military, Elbertson always knew that he had a passion he could pursue after his military career was over.

“Late in my high school career, I realized that rather than going into exercise science, I wanted to be a music teacher. My music teacher in high school had a profound impact on my life. He really was someone who guided me and established a direction and a purpose for my life,” said Elbertson.

Now Elbertson guides and gives purpose to dozens of students, both in the Blended Hearts choir and at Kolbe Cathedral High School.

However, Elbertson did not take the easiest path to the career he has now. During training camp in the military, Elbertson suffered a traumatic brain injury.

“I was in a training accident. I had hit my head in a truck. I was good for a little bit before I started experiencing a horrible headache, vomiting, stiff neck. After that they gave me a spinal tap and said there was bleeding in my head,” said Elbertson.

This injury ended Elbertson’s military career before it even started and his life was changed forever.

“I was in a hospital bed with essentially a turkey baster hanging out of my head. They had to cut part of my skull out. I had to go through rehab to learn how to walk again and reading was really tough. I had to relearn how to do a lot of things,” said Elbertson.

Despite suffering this injury, Elbertson did not let it stop his passion for music. Last semester, he joined the Sacred Heart choir family as the director of the all women’s a cappella choir, Blended Hearts.

Since his arrival at Sacred Heart, he has worked closely with Assistant Choir Director Thomas Cuffari.

“I have known Joe for a couple of years now having worked with him outside of Sacred Heart prior to this fall when he joined our choral staff. He is a very versatile singer, generous spirit and has a quiet strength about him,” said Cuffari. “We are delighted that Mr. Elbertson has joined us at SHU as the new director of our women’s a cappella choir, the Blended Hearts.”

SHU Students Given Tips To Be More Green

BY KATHRYN ANDRES
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 30, Sacred Heart University welcomed Scott E. Thompson, Chairman of the Sustainable Fairfield Task Force. For Thompson, living an environmentally friendly life is easy. He drives an electric car, the Nissan Leaf, uses solar power at his home, and eats green everyday.

Thompson started his “Green SHU Colloquia” by introducing easy actions that students at Sacred Heart can do to become more “green.”

The easiest actions that students can take are first to use reusable water bottles, food containers, and grocery bags. Thompson also stressed the “Skip the Straw” campaign, and explained that many restaurants in Fairfield are participating in the campaign such as the “The Colony Grill”.

“We need to be more socially conscious consumers,” said Thompson.

Thompson stressed that students need to get informed and get involved. Thompson listed environmental blogs to read such as the Sierra Club, Mother Nature News, Grist, and Green Car Reports.

Thompson also suggested “green” sports and activities that are an alternative to those that produce greenhouse gases. Such as sailing rather than riding a motor boat and kayaking rather than dirt biking.

“We should follow what the town of Fairfield says they are going to do. That includes transportation and food. Students can get around via bicycle and walking. There are plenty of different ways that students and the university can target to reduce the amount of waste and our impact on the environment,” said Keith Gallinelli, Advisor for the Green SHUs and Director of International Admissions at Sacred Heart.

Thompson also talked about how eating lower on the food chain, or eating vegetarian and vegan can help the environment.

“Energy is the number one item. Meat is the most energy intensive item. Nobody can do is to eat lower on the food chain. Because not only is it affordable, it will save you money, and eating lower on the food chain is a great way to have a positive impact without hitting the wallet at all,” said Thompson.

According to peta.org, “It takes more than 2,400 gallons of water to produce just 1 pound of meat. Only 25 gallons of water are required to grow 1 pound of wheat”.

“You could save so much time, energy and resources just by replacing meat products with more plant based foods into your diet,” said senior at Sacred Heart and President of the Green SHU club, Courtney Paccione.

“One word: HOME. This place is our home and that’s it. Earth is all we have and we need to take better care of it,” said Kanakry.

Joe Elbertson, the new Sacred Heart Blended Hearts Choir Director has recovered from his traumatic brain injury.
Club Running

There are currently 29 registered club sports teams at Sacred Heart University. And Club Running is one of the newest of that 29.

Sophomore Nicola Paerg founded this club in October 2018 to share her love of running with others.

"Club sports are a great way for students to get involved," said Gregory Jones, Assistant Director of Club Sports.

Club Running is filled with enthusiastic members who enjoy running but don't feel safe running alone.

"Running is really accessible because all one needs is themselves and maybe a pair of shoes," said senior communications major Kayla Kanakry.

The running club runs to get outside and enjoy nature, and as a stress-reliever. As far as fitness, they aim for exercise, cardio, strength training.

"Club running is one of the more interesting teams because they don’t compete like the majority of our other teams do, but it’s unique way of getting involved," said Jones.

Students reach out in the Group Me to find other students to run with. The group usually tries to do weekly runs whether it be on the week days or weekends, hoping to see if someone is available that day or schedule a run with others in advance.

"This flexibility with the club allows me to fit the sport I love in to my busy schedule," said freshman Anthony Cimino.

Running in an unfamiliar place can be terrifying. This is why members of Club Running prefer running outside than on a treadmill.

"Running in a group motivates you just as much as it protects you," said Kayak.

Distant varies between the runners. At most, one will do 5-6 miles. However, the group usually runs 5ks.

"My goals for this club are for students to be active, make new friends, utilize the buddy system, and train for individual or group goals. Most importantly, we motivate each other one step at a time," said Paerg.

Students are encouraged to join Club Running, whether they love the sport, do it for fun or train for races.

Spring recruitment is right around the corner and the Sacred Heart University Greek life community is ready and excited to welcome new students into their organizations. Alpha Tau Omega, Beta Theta Pi, Kappa Sigma, Iota Phi Theta, Omega Phi Kappa and Pi Kappa Phi will be participating in Spring Recruitment for the fraternities. Delta Zeta and Theta Phi Alpha will be the sororities taking part this spring.

According to Emma Cannetti, Head of Recruitment for Theta Phi Alpha, Spring Recruitment differs from the “traditional” fall recruitment because spring is more informal. Students do not have to go through different rounds and meet all of the organizations, as they would during fall.

"With spring, you can come in casual clothes and hang out with the sisters so we can get to know you and you can get to know us. It is a great way to take a study break and learn more about Greek Life and Theta Phi Alpha," said Cannetti.

Theta Phi Alpha will be having various events to get to know their future sisters. On Thursday at 10:10 p.m. in HC 223, they will be hosting “Cookie Decorating”.

According to Madison Lafferiere, the Head of Recruitment for Delta Zeta, their sorority will be having small meet and greet type events that will be open to everyone who is interested in joining Greek Life and wants to know more about Delta Zeta.

“We want to be open to everyone in the SHU community and give them the opportunity to participate and be a part of Greek Life for those who didn’t participate in Fall Recruitment,” said Lafferiere.

According to Karan Fanelli, a Greek Life Graduate Assistant, the spring is an opportunity for women who do not want to go through the fall weekend to go through the recruitment process in a more relaxed setting.

“Fraternities go through a similar recruiting process that they go through in the fall. The recruitment process kicks off with the “Around the World” event, where students who have registered for the recruitment process get a chance to visit any or all of the organizations for a quick 15-minute introduction inside one of our classrooms,” said Fanelli.

A two-week process then follows, where fraternities hold two events so students can visit the fraternity of their choosing. At the end of the process, fraternities place their bids on students.

“So far, my favorite part about recruitment has been getting to know different groups of guys and what they each stand for. From the outside, it is easy to make a general assumption about guys in fraternities, but once you’re on the inside getting to know the different groups and individuals, it’s eye opening,” said freshman Anthony Cimino.

Spring Recruitment usually goes on for the first few weeks of the semester, and each fraternity and sorority is responsible for coordinating their own event during the recruitment process.
The Festival that Never Was

BY JOSEPH BRAUN
Staff Reporter

In the spring of 2017, Billy McFarland, the CEO of Fyre Media Inc. along with his company, attempted to host a music festival in Norman Cay, Bahamas called the “Fyre Festival.”

The “Fyre Festival” was branded as a luxury music festival, but ultimately failed. Recently, both Netflix and Hulu have released documentaries that give a behind the scenes look at the planning of the festival.

The documentary introduced the “Fyre Team.” It showed how McFarland exploited investors, the way Fyre used social media to promote their product, and how unprepared they were to deliver on their promises.

With the advertising of large acts, Fyre tried to raise the profile of smaller bands. The headliners of the festival were going to be well known artists. Those artists included: Major Lazor, Blink 182, Lil Yachty, Disclosure, and Migos.

“Most of the artists that they were working with were expecting a certain level of production, sustainable lighting package, and a good sound system. I started to realize that they didn’t know what it meant to book the artists they were booking and what it takes to run a music festival,” said Marc Weinstein, the head Music Festival Consultant of Fyre.

McFarland and the “Fyre Team,” were kicked off of Pablo Escobar’s private island due to a disagreement with the locals like Maryanne Rolle, who was a cook, and how they were frantically working on the site. Hundreds of day laborers were working around the clock with no sleep, said Marc Weinstein, the head Music Festival Consultant of Fyre.

With the workers, took a huge loss. McFarland then hired over 200 local workers with the promise of payment to build sustainable housing and plumbing for guests.

“I went through about 50,000 dollars of my own savings to pay my workers,” said Rolle. “Personally, I don’t even think of the smash musical that took the world by storm. "Rent" was written by Jonathon Larson and first premiered on Broadway in 1996. "Rent" had an all-star cast. Major Broadway stars, including Idina Menzel and Anthony Rapp, appeared in the original "Rent." Menzel, Rapp and the rest of the original Broadway cast made an appearance in "Rent" live, singing the show’s most popular number “Seasons of Love." This came as a huge surprise for "Rent" fans.

This musical tells the story of a group of young artists struggling to survive and flourish in Lower East Side Manhattan, while dealing with a breakout of HIV/AIDS. The show covers a heavy topic but is also a story of falling in love, finding your own voice and living for today. "Rent" live was adapted for television by Kristoffer Diaz, produced by Gregory Sils, choreographed by Sonya Tayeh and directed by Michael Greif.

"Rent" had an all-star cast. Leading the show was Jordan Fisher as Mark Cohen, a Jewish film maker who serves as the narrator. According to senior Sarah Minto, Fisher “carried the whole show.”

Fisher was joined by Brennin Hunt as Roger Davis, Taylor Trensch as Mimi Marquez, Kiersey Clemons as Joanne Jefferson, Brandon Victor Dixon as Tom Collins, drag queen Valencia as Angel Dumott Schunard, Mastro as Benjamin Coffin, and Vanessa Hudgens as the “outrageous” performance artist Maureen Johnson.

“Brennin Hunt and Brandon Victor Dixon were the stand out stars,” said Possenti. "My favorite part of the show was I’ll Cover You (Reprise). Dixon killed it!”

Many students praised Hudgens’s performance as Johnson.

Sophomore Sarah Minto’s favorite part of Fox’s “Rent” was Vanessa Hudgens as Maureen Johnson, particularly in her big solo, “Over the Moon.”

“Growing up with her as Gabriella from High School Musical, I was definitely nervous about how she was going to portray her,” said Minto. “Maureen is such a bold character and I think Vanessa absolutely killed it! "Over the Moon" was done so well. Her facial expressions were phenomenal, and I really loved that the audience was so included in that scene, as if they were members at Mauren’s concert.”

During a rehearsal the day before "Rent" was set to go live, Hunt injured his foot and was unable to perform live. Instead of cancelling the performance, they used the footage from their final dress rehearsal the day before, which included a live audience.

Larson died hours before it opened off-Broadway. Although Larson never got to witness the phenomenon that would be "Rent," his legacy lives on, today and every day.
**Arts & Entertainment**

**First Transgender Superhero on TV**

**BY NICOLA PAERG**  
Staff Reporter

The CW series “Supergirl” will introduce the first transgender superhero to TV. Associated Press first reports that Nicole Maines, a transgender activist, has been cast to fill the role. Maines will join the existing cast of Melissa Benoist, Chyler Leigh, Katie McGrath, Mehcad Brooks, David Harewood, and Jeremy Jordan.

“I honestly didn’t know about this because I don’t watch the show, but I think it is a great thing. For many, it’s a very fresh topic to understand and I think exposure will help people grasp and understand that there is no difference between anyone of any gender,” said sophomore Carlos Ruiz.

“Supergirl” has been airing on the CW since 2015 and is currently in its third season. Maines will portray the character Nia Nal, who is the superhero Dreamer. I have only seen a few episodes of the show, but I think that’s awesome that they’re introducing this new character,” said sophomore Katie Quinn. “You don’t see a lot of roles in film or television getting filled by transgender people. I think it’s great that they’re doing that to show more diversity among the cast.”

Others feel the same that representation of transgender people is a great idea, but see how it can bring controversy.

“I have never heard of this show, I think it’s a good idea,” said senior Nicole Maseroni. “I can see the benefits and value in creating a character that includes a diverse person. However, I can see how some people may not agree with it if it is exposed to younger kids and audiences.”

Maines won a discrimination lawsuit against Orono High School in 2011. She was denied the use of the female restroom due to her gender. “CW is home to many of the television shows that I am interested in, said senior Jack Sullivan. “The Flash, Arrow and Supergirl all connect ties to the original comics but put their own twist to it. Supergirl’s transgender superhero appearance is just another addition to the franchise. They have a history of making statements with gay superheroes, so I am not surprised that they did this.”

Maines was nationally recognized for the victory of her lawsuit versus Orono. This was one of the first transgender restroom use lawsuits to gain national attention, as reported by Associated Press.

“I like that CW and DC comics did this, even if there is backlash coming from it. It’s TV and she’s playing a role. The role is her as a person and a superhero doing good for the world,” said Sullivan. “The CW is always sending out the message ‘Dare to Defy’, they want to defy the division of us versus the LGBT community. This is another step forward in that movement.”

Associated Press Contributed to this Article

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**Sundance Film Festival**

**BY CHRISTOPHER DOLAN**  
Staff Reporter

The Sundance Film Festival gives new writers and directors a chance to show off their skills and get their film picked up by a distributor.

The festival took place from Jan. 24 to Feb. 3 in Park City, Utah.

Various films were shown onscreen for the audience to see. These movies included actors such as Zac Efron, Mindy Kaling and Shia LaBeouf.

Many of the films shown were directed by directors Alma Har’el, Joe Berlinger, Nisha Ganatra, Grant Sputore and Jacob Estes. Producers included Bobby Cohen, Ben Browning and Michael Costigan.

“I’ve heard of the festival, but I was never quite sure it was for mainstream movies,” said sophomore Matt Andrianas.

One of the films included this year was “Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile,” which stars Efron.

When comparing his role as Troy in “High School Musical,” to his new role as Ted Bundy, students felt that this role would be difficult to see him in.

“I think it will be tough for him, but he will do well. In terms of his previous work, it is a full 180 degrees for him,” said Andrianas.

“Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile” is a chronicle of the crimes committed by Bundy according to his girlfriend Liz, who refused to believe the truth about him for years.

Shia LaBeouf’s “Honey Boy,” an autobiographical film, also played at the festival. The film is based on LaBeouf’s childhood and his struggles with his father. The film stars Lucas Hedges who plays a younger version of LaBeouf, named as Otis Lort in the movie. LaBeouf portrays his father, James Lort.

“It was emotionally difficult for LaBeouf because of his complicated relationship with his father. It defined his life more than anything else. He wrote the script in rehab and actually sent me an email, from there, with the script,” said director Alma Har’el.

Students thought it was interesting that LaBeouf played his own father in the film. “I think playing his own father is a creative approach by the director and can create something very powerful,” said sophomore Devin Gavigan.

Another film shown at the festival was “Late Night,” which stars Mindy Kaling and is directed by Nisha Ganatra.

The film is about a talk show’s host world turning upside down when she hires her only female writer.

“It sounds like an interesting plot for a movie,” said Digiovanni.

The ground breaking film shakes things up with the only female staff writer bringing diversity.

The Sundance Film Festival occurs every year, allowing a variety of movies to be showcased at the event.

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The CW series “Supergirl” will introduce the first transgender superhero to TV. Associated Press first reports that Nicole Maines, a transgender activist, has been cast to fill the role. Maines will join the existing cast of Melissa Benoist, Chyler Leigh, Katie McGrath, Mehcad Brooks, David Harewood, and Jeremy Jordan.

“I honestly didn’t know about this because I don’t watch the show, but I think it is a great thing. For many, it’s a very fresh topic to understand and I think exposure will help people grasp and understand that there is no difference between anyone of any gender,” said sophomore Carlos Ruiz.

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Lauren Somers breaks 50-Yard Freestyle Record

BY ANTHONY SACCONE
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 26, Lauren Somers broke the McCann Natatorium 50-yard freestyle pool record with a time of 24.10 seconds. The record was previously held by Long Island University (LIU) of Brooklyn’s Bri Vega, which was 24.18 seconds.

Somers, a junior at Sacred Heart University, has been a leading force for the swimming and diving team.

"I was very excited about breaking the 50 freestyle pool record, as I had been trying to get the record for some time now," said Somers. "Vega is one of the best 50 freestylers in the conference, so to break the record that she set was amazing.

"With the guidance of my coaches and the support of my team, I have been able to break pool records and receive Northeast Conference (NEC) Swimmer of the Week honors on multiple occasions," said Somers. "I can't stress enough how essential my teammates and coaches have been in my success here at SHU so far."

The swimming and diving team is in the home stretch of its season and head coach John Spadafina hopes Somers’ success translates to team success.

"I actually was surprised when Lauren set the record," said Spadafina. "At this time of year, swimmers are a little bit broken down and a little more tired. Sometimes speed is not quite there, but for Lauren to break the pool record a week after she was sick was very special."

Once Somers finished her record-breaking race, Spadafina was among the first to realize what she had accomplished.

"I immediately went to the announcer and said, "that’s a pool record," said Spadafina. "And I knew she was extremely happy with her record at that time because it was just as fast as what she was doing earlier in the season."

Sophomore Emily Peters, a teammate and close friend of Somers, was also there to witness the event.

"I knew she really wanted to break the record for a while," said Peters. "It’s been her goal and I was so excited she was able to do it at our second to last home meet.

Somers’ teammates look up to her for the way she carries herself both in and out of the pool.

"She’s a great teammate, always cheering for her teammates and you will always see her standing at the end of someone’s lane yelling for glam," said Peters. "We train together every day and she always pushes me to be better, pushes everyone else to be better, and she is always high-fiving everyone which really makes the sport fun for all of us."

Somers, who is a nursing student, manages to balance time for both schoolwork and swimming.

"Balancing both nursing and swimming can be tricky at times. They both require a lot of work and focus so it is easy to get overwhelmed at times," said Somers. "But I enjoy nursing and swimming so much that I always find a way to make the two work."

The Pioneers will return to the pool from Feb. 13-16, at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, NY, where they will compete in the NEC Championship.

Tennis Teams Begin Spring Seasons

BY CAROLINE BOLLETINO
Contributing Writer

Sacred Heart University’s men’s and women’s tennis teams have officially begun their spring seasons.

On Jan. 27, the men’s team started their season with a match against Boston University, while the women’s tennis team started their season with a match against New Jersey Institute of Technology. Junior Brianne Laura got a win at the number one position on the women’s side and the men’s senior captain, Bryan Einstoss, got the number six position.

The women’s team then had two matches this past weekend at Army West Point, where they went 1-1. They lost to Army 6-1 on Feb. 1, while defeating Binghamton 5-2, on Feb. 2.

"The fall season was a step in the right direction for our program," said graduate student Sabrina Navarro of the women’s team. "By the way we finished out the fall season, I believe our spring season will be very good."

Head coach William Boe-Wiegard felt that the fall season helped bring the team to a new level of awareness of how and why pressure in practice is important.

The fall season consisted of invitational matches, where the teams had the chance to play against schools that they normally would not play against. The spring season will consist of conference matches and the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship will be in April.

"I am really curious to see what will happen in April at the NECs if the teams keep this level of intensity going throughout the spring," said Boe-Wiegard. "Since the first practice, I have seen a real commitment from every player on the team in terms of being prepared for practice, being on time, and being ready to give 100 percent effort."

The teams lost their on-campus courts in the fall to make way for construction of the new Bobby Valentine Athletic Center. For the time being, they will continue their training on courts off-campus. The team travels to indoor facilities in Trumbull, Milford, and sometimes at Yale University. "We have to work with what we have," said Einstoss, a senior.

The team has set high expectations for themselves this season and wants to do whatever it takes to meet its goals.

"Our greatest success this season would be to win the NEC Championship, and the toughest challenge is the same thing, winning it," said Navarro.

Although the teams don’t have the luxury of having a permanent home court, their mentality remains the same for each upcoming match.

Boe-Wiegard is hoping the players will learn to deal with pressure better as well as find ways to get in the zone quicker and stay longer.

"The other teams in our conference are really good, but I am really confident in my team," said senior Olivia Podsiobierski of the women’s team.

The men’s team’s next match will be on Feb. 9, as they take on the University of Connecticut. The women’s next match will be a week later on Feb. 16, against Colgate.
Men's Basketball Enters Final Month of Season

BY ASIA MCCRAY
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University men's basketball team has entered the final month of the regular season. They are currently 6-4 in Northeast Conference (NEC) play and are sitting in a four-way tie for second place.

With seven freshmen, two sophomores, three juniors and one senior, head coach Anthony Latina believes the team is starting to come together after a few early losses in the season.

"It takes some time, but we are pleased with where we are," said Latina. "We feel like we are improving, and our best basketball is ahead of us."

On Jan. 21, the Pioneers faced Wagner College and won 62-38. That tied a school record that was set back on Dec. 29, 1987, for the least amount of points allowed in a game.

"The culture we have set here is to out-work each other and push each other in order to make each other better," said Anosike.

Senior guard Sean Hoehn looks at some of the losses this season as motivation to inspire himself and his teammates.

"We have not won many games in the past and I think for the older guys who have been here, we don’t want to lose as many games as we have before," said Hoehn. "We want to completely rewrite the script; that’s what’s making this team come together."

The team also follows a certain quote that they value for inspiration prior to every game.

"You have to hate to lose more than you want to win," said Hoehn. "I think that’s true and I think we have been doing a good job bouncing back."

Latinas said that the team's future depends on whether they can improve on their half-court offense. He’s also looking for the team to be more aggressive on defense by taking away the opposition’s three-point attempts.

"We’ve made some adjustments defensively by adding JT and he gave us the luxury to do some things that we haven’t been able to do," said Latina.

Spellman believes defense is the biggest asset for the team this season and he hopes that trend continues during the final month of play.

"We are probably one of the best defensive teams as far as statistics go," said junior Jan'e "JT" Spellman. "I think that’s the biggest difference from this year and any other year. If we keep upholding that, then I feel like the sky is the limit for us."

The team has two home games this week. On Feb. 7, they host Fairfield Dickinson at the Pitt Center for a 6 p.m. start. After that, they welcome Mount St. Mary’s on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.

The Mount St. Mary’s game will be televised on ESPN+ and will be the annual "Pack the Pitt" game.

Wrestling Team Looking to Finish Strong

BY STEFAN AYANIAN
Staff Reporter

The wrestling team is looking to finish off their season with a winning season after finishing last year, 2-10.

This season, their record is 5-5, and head coach John Clark believes his team can still accomplish a lot in the second half of the season.

"It’s a really exciting time right now," said Clark. "The school hasn’t had a national qualifier since 2007 and that’s the main focus."

Whether the outcome of a match is a win or a loss, the team keeps their heads up and they stay mentally focused on moving forward and preparing for their next match.

Getting ready for a match starts in the weight room and at practice. Putting in extra work has been a significant factor to the team’s success this season.

Senior captains Gerard Daly and Brandon Levesque recognize the team’s hard work. The dedication the team puts in the weight room has helped them improve their skill level.

Levesque believes the team is more motivated and energetic compared to last year. He likes how his teammates get to work when they don’t have classes, in between classes, or if it’s late at night.

"Extra workouts are crucial and that’s where you make the most improvements," said Daly.

Daly is impressed with his teammates’ initiative to set the pace for others in order to get in better shape and reach their full potential.

"Guys are getting rid of that mutual agreement to take it easy on each other. Team-wise I think we should hopefully win out for the rest of the year," said Daly.

Daly is looking to make his final season a memorable one. The team hasn’t had anyone qualify for the National Tournament in a decade, and Daly’s goal is to break that streak.

"Guys are getting rid of that mutual agreement to take it easy on each other. Team-wise I think we should hopefully win out for the rest of the year," said Daly.

Clark is looking to guide Daly and the rest of the team through training in order to give themselves the best chance at qualifying as the postseason draws near.

"It’s a really exciting time right now," said Clark. "The school hasn’t had a national qualifier since 2007 and that’s the main focus."

The National Tournament will be held in Pittsburgh this year. The team has two dual meets remaining in the season, with the next one coming on Feb. 9, against Hofstra. After that, they’ll wrap up the season on Feb. 23 at Brown.

The Sacred Heart Spectrums
February 6, 2019
FOUR PIONEERS EARNED ALL-NEW ENGLAND HONORS AT THE 2019 NEW ENGLAND INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS, INCLUDING BIANCA DE LUCIA (PICTURED ABOVE), JILLIAN KILMER, JACKIE THORNE AND OLIVIA WEISS.

THE SACRED HEART WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WAS HOME FOR A THREE-GAME NEC HOMESTAND ON FEB. 2 WITH A GAME AGAINST SAINT FRANCIS BROOKLYN WHERE THEY FELL 56-53.