another shooting

by evan denny
news editor

connecticut residents and lawmakers gathered in mourning at the islamic community center in bridgeport on march 15, following the shootings at two mosques in new zealand. in attendance were u.s. sen. michael blumenthal, u.s. rep. jim himes, and bridgeport mayor joe ganim.

the terrorist attack was carried out by a 28-year-old australia man who appears to be a white nationalist. he killed 50 people in the city of christchurch and live-streamed his rampage on facebook.

"thank you to the islamic center for opening your doors and your hearts to us to give us this opportunity, very simply, to say we are with you," said u.s. sen. michael blumenthal. "we stand with you. we are in solidarity with you. our hearts break with you."

in his first court appearance, the suspect flashed a white power sign. before the shooting, he wrote a manifesto and later posted it on social media. the document adopts far-right, white nationalist views, specifically emphasizing a disdain for immigration and muslims.

"when there was the attack in pittsburgh last fall where a synagogue was attacked and jews were killed, as one of the leaders of the jewish community, it was very, very meaningful to me and to all of us to see people from different faiths and different walks of life showing up and saying 'we got your back,'" said steve ginsburg, regional director of the anti-defamation league.

rep. jim himes from connecticut's fourth district took the stage following blumenthal.

"we have to be absolutely opposed to the notion that there should ever be a competition of who's more a victim of bigotry," said himes. "is it anti-semitism? is it anti-muslim? is it homophobia? none of it is okay."

the killer's manifesto praised dylann rood, who killed nine people in a historically black church in charleston, south carolina. new zealanders are debating the limits of free speech after their chief censor banned the 74-page manifesto on saturday, march 23.

new zealand will hold a top-level inquiry into the massacre that will examine what roles guns, social media, and spy agencies played preceding the attacks.

"in short, the inquiry will look at what could have or should have been done to prevent the attack," ardern said. "it will inquire into the individual and his activities before the terrorist attack, including, of course, a look at agencies."

there was another shooting in new zealand at two mosques, a student lights a candle during a vigil to commemorate victims of march 15 shooting, outside the al noor mosque in christchurch, new zealand.

by erin cooney
staff reporter

2019 marks 99 years since the establishment of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote in the united states. on march 21, dr. lisa tetrault presented sacred heart's annual history lecture: to fight by remembering: women's suffrage in the post-civil war world.

dr. tetrault received her ph.d. from the university of wisconsin-madison's department of history and currently specializes in the history of u.s. women and gender.

the woman suffrage movement began in 1848, when a women's rights convention occurred in seneca falls, new york: the myth of seneca falls: memory and the women's suffrage movement, 1848-1898 unravels the possible truths of what may have actually happened at seneca falls, when compared to the story known today.

dr. tetrault is currently writing a book on post-civil war women's rights activism, directly correlating to her speech given at the university.

"history is always living," said tetrault multiple times throughout the duration of her speech.

dr. tetrault explained that events that happened in the past can technically end but they never go away. being aware of the issues that have previously occurred will help to prevent similar future events.

the speech given stated facts and stories about the movement, and the efforts taken to overcome discrimination. dr. tetrault referred back to her book to address accounts and stories about women's suffrage.

"i have always heard the saying; those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it," tetrault said. "i told my students that in every class, they should not only learn history but also reflect on how those events might connect to current events and the future."

"i met with her after the speech for dinner with several professors and students. she was inspirational and brilliant," said senior brooke mccarthy. "she has a love for history that shows when she speaks."

jeremy stein is the executive director of connecticut against gun violence. the organization's mission is to reduce gun violence in the state of connecticut.

"we are seeing a rise of this kind of hate crime in the united states and now we're seeing it in the rest of the world. this has no place in society. we have to put a stop to this kind of violence against people that may act, look, or practice their religion differently than others," said stein.

stein wants connecticut to pass "common sense" gun laws. they held a public hearing on march 11 regarding four gun laws, two of which are designed for safe storage.

"what should be the sanctity of homes and houses of worship, whether they're mosques or synagogues or churches, are the last place something like this should happen," said mayor joe ganim. "let's keep the fight going from the perspective to continue look, not only to work together to make our city and our state and our country safer, but at the same time to get the message out against hate."

the killer has been charged with murder in the attacks and is scheduled to make his next court appearance on april 5.

"this kind of repeated violence, particularly in a place of worship, is so absolutely stomach-turning," said blumenthal. "we will not talk about invading immigrants posing a threat. we will not talk about closing our borders with walls; we ought to be building bridges."
Mueller finds No Trump-Russia Collusion

Special counsel Robert Mueller found no evidence President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. That brought a heated claim of vindication from Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

The battle began Monday as White House aides and allies blanketed television news broadcasts to trumpet the findings and claim that Trump has been the victim in a probe that never should have started.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Trump will let Attorney General William Barr decide whether the special counsel's Russia report should be publicly released, though she adds that "he's more than happy for any of this stuff to come out."

Trump cheered the Sunday outcome but also laid bare his resentment after two years of investigations that have shadowed his administration. "It's a shame that our country has to go through this."

Democrats pointed out that Mueller found evidence for and against obstruction and demanded to see his full report. They insisted that even the summary by the president's attorney general hardly put him in the clear.

Mueller's conclusions, summarized by Barr in a four-page letter to Congress, represented a victory for Trump on a key question that has hung over his presidency from the start — whether his campaign worked with Russia to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

That was further good news for the president on top of the Justice Department's earlier announcement that Mueller had wrapped his investigation without new indictments. That brought a hearty claim of vindication from Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

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But while Mueller was categorical in ruling out criminal collusion, he was more circumspect on presidential obstruction of justice. Despite Trump's claim of total exonerations for obstructions, Mueller did not draw a conclusion one way or the other on whether he sought to stifle the Russia investigation through his actions including the firing of former FBI director James Comey.

According to Barr's summary, Mueller set out "evidence on both sides of the question" and stated that "while this report does not conclude the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

Barr, who was nominated by Trump in December, and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller in May 2017 and oversaw much of his work, went further in Trump's favor.

The attorney general said he and Rosenstein had determined that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to prove in court that Trump had committed obstruction of justice to hamper the probe. Barr has previously voiced a broad view of presidential powers, and in an unsolicited memo last June he cast doubt on whether the president could have obstructed justice through acts — like firing his FBI director — that he was legally empowered to take.

Barr said their decision was based on the evidence uncovered by Mueller and not affected by Justice Department legal opinions that say a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Barr said Mueller also cataloged the president's actions including "many" that took place in "public view," a possible nod to Trump's public attacks on investigators and witnesses.

In the letter, Barr said he concluded that none of Trump's actions constituted a federal crime.
Perspectives

He Said, She Said:

Professional Sports vs. College Sports

**HE SAID**

When it comes to watching sporting events, I personally prefer watching professional sports over collegiate sports, the reason being that professions are the best of the best, and it's the highest caliber of competition you're able to lay your eyes on.

Now don't get me wrong. I do genuinely enjoy college sports, especially college basketball. In fact, I feel that college basketball players give it all their more than the pros do.

However, I also prefer professional sports because of the scenery. There's nothing like walking into a professional venue and soaking up the atmosphere surrounding it. Now, the crowd is a different story, because usually the size and energy of a home team's fan-base depends on how the team is doing.

This is also where I'll give college sports their due. I feel that their fans are more connected with the team and stick with them no matter how well or poor they've played during a season. I also feel that more fans are able to relate to college athletes than pro athletes because more people can say they went to a specific college rather than played for a specific professional sports team.

But the mystique and aura of professional sports franchises is what separates the two. Professional stadiums such as Fenway Park, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field and Lambeau Field have so much history and you feel like you are through a time machine and relive all of the memories that have occurred. It always gives people a reason to come back each year.

Now there are some college stadiums and arenas that have a lot of history behind them such as Michigan Stadium and Cameron Indoor Stadium (home of the Duke Blue Devils basketball teams). But I just feel that the home territory for the pros are more stylish and impressive with their unique interior and exterior designs.

I also tend to lean towards watching professional sports because, well, I just do. I'd be much more interested in seeing a baseball game between the Yankees and Red Sox or a football game between the Giants and Cowboys, rather than sitting and watching two schools that I have no affiliation with whenever battle it out.

That's the thing with college sports. Yes, I feel that you're able to closely relate to the athletes more because you both attended the same institution, but that's only for your school. You aren't as easily able to go to another game and feel as much excitement as you did with your alma mater.

And speaking of alma matter, I know fans of college teams want their school to do well in athletics. However, there are so many teams in the country that it's nearly impossible to get your hopes up too high.

There are too many perennial powerhouse colleges in certain sports that continuously are stop the mountain each and every year. And they stay there because of the reputation they've built up and it leads to more recruits coming in each year to fill any voids.

With professional sports and drafts, each home territory for the pros are more stylish within the course of one season. Every year is a new beginning for a team, but I feel professional sports teams have a better chance at improving due to their schools' colors when they play. Very rarely do college players move schools to win a ring or change schools every year because they can. If a player does transfer it is usually due to personal reasons and no other reasons.

As much as we love professional sports, there is just something special about watching and following college sports. I am not saying that professional players are not fun to watch, because they are the best of the best. But that is why college sports is more favorable to me.

Unfortunately, not every college player will have a professional career, so those who chose to play sports in college play with more passion. For most, college is the highest level they will ever compete in and they are aware of that which is what makes it so special to watch. They do not play for money because they don't get paid, they instead play for the love of the sport.

College players leave their blood, sweat and tears on the field every single time they step onto it.

'College players are loyal to their universities when they commit to play there so it is evident that they enjoy representing their schools' colors when they play. Very rarely do college player move schools to win a ring or change schools every year because they can. If a player does transfer it is usually due to personal reasons and not the programs or the schools' colors when they play. Very rarely do college players move schools to win a ring or change schools every year because they can. If a player does transfer it is usually due to personal reasons and not the programs or the schools' colors when they play.'

I could go on and on with this topic but one of the top reasons that college sports are better than professional sports are the fans. There is nothing more intimate in sports than college teams and their fans. You are so close with the players and you do not have to spend a lot of money each game to go watch. Even when you do watch professional games, you don't interact with you as much as college players do.

So, as for the debate between college sports and professional sports, there is without a doubt in my mind that college sports are better than professional sports.
Junior Courtney Charbonneau, a member of Sacred Heart's soccer team, is upset about the scandal. Some student athletes have also been angered by the scandal because they worked hard to get recruited. After the news of the college bribery scandals became public, many students are wondering if there are even more unheard cases like this happening.

In Colombia, the community is very laid back, and the atmosphere everywhere we went was very relaxed," said junior Nate Vargashe. "People seemed to live in the moment more. No one was really on their phones, unlike the United States where we are constantly staring at our phones and rushing around."

Junior Josh Inkel, who is also a member of the soccer team, said, "An athlete who was placed on the team because of his or her family's bribe may not even have the talent to break to go to showcases to get exposure," said Charbonneau. "It is very unfair because for me getting recruited was basically a three-year process of emailing coaches to get them to see you play; sending them highlight tapes, and making trips across the country every weekend of the season and during school breaks to go to showcases to get exposure," he said.

"I think it is super messed up because for me getting recruited was basically a three-year process of emailing coaches to get them to see you play; sending them highlight tapes, and making trips across the country every weekend of the season and during school breaks to go to showcases to get exposure," said Charbonneau. "I feel like the whole college process is sometimes sketchy when it comes to money and getting in. There are buildings named after people, so of course other family members are going to do that. The school will not want to lose their support or money," said junior Dylan Moliner.

Sophomore Mary Conlon said, "This story really hit home for me because I got into my dream school, but unfortunately could not go because of the money. I think it is really unfair not only because they did not work hard to get in, but because they just paid their way in." The Yale Women's Soccer coach was one of the people caught in the bribery scandal. He was charged with recruiting players onto the team so that they would have an easier time getting into the school. Some student athletes have also been angered by the scandal because they worked hard for their spots on their university sports teams.

Junior Mateo Parzych said, "Personally, I believe that you should work hard to get into a school and you should get out what you put into the process. I think it is totally unfair." "I feel like the whole college process is sometimes sketchy when it comes to money and getting in. There are buildings named after people, so of course other family members are going to do that. The school will not want to lose their support or money," said junior Dylan Moliner. "Some people are asking: 'Should these students get kicked out of school?'"

"Coming back home from the Simply Smiles trip to Mexico has been bittersweet," said sophomore Lauren Godberson. "Everyone has been so excited to hear about our experiences abroad, but coming back to SHU makes me miss the relationships we made with the children there." "They're way of life are so different from ours, and I'll definitely miss the simplicity of life there rather than the fast-paced ways of the United States," said Godberson.

"Since Ecuador was my first international service trip, I didn't expect to be as impacted by culture shock than I did," said Benitez. "One minute, you finally find yourself growing with a new group of people, and the next, you're back home and back to reality."
Editorials

Losing a Friend

STEPHANIE DOHENY
FEATURES EDITOR

Losing a friend can be difficult. Especially if you considered them to be your best friend. This person was someone you never thought you would grow apart from, yet somehow, they are slowly disappearing into the past as you get older.

Have you ever lost a best friend? Or even thought about what that term really means? Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a best friend as "one's closest and dearest friend." It's so much more than that.

I recently went through the loss of a best friend... and I can honestly say it was one of the hardest decisions I have had to make. We had been friends since freshman year of high school and she has been there for me in so many tough situations. From first breakups to fights with my parents, this girl was there through the thick and thin. However, over the past year, I started to notice we were growing apart and it felt like I was the only one in the friendship trying to reach out and make it work.

I kept trying to hold on, see how I could make it work, but no matter what, it felt like my "best friend" just didn't seem to make an effort in our friendship. Recently, we talked and everything was somehow my fault. I didn't make time to go and see her at school, I was not there for her when she needed me, even though I thought I was, and saying how I prioritized my friends at school more than I did her.

Throughout the conversation, some of the things she claimed were extremely hurtful. I thought to myself "this girl is my best friend and she isn't willing to see my side." I think that's when I fully realized how I hadn't suddenly lost my "best friend," I started to lose her a while ago.

Friendships are about being there for each other in the best way you think possible. In my opinion, like any relationship, friendships are a two-way street. Both people have to be willing to make a decent effort to make it work.

While this experience has made me extremely upset, it has definitely made me realize and learn some things. As we get older, go through college, get our first dream jobs, etc., there are unfortunately going to be times where a person, or people, you thought would be there for you, simply aren't.

Although I lost a "best friend," I realized how important the friends I have made and have here at Sacred Heart are. Although some of the friendships here have only been for two or three years, we bond over so many things that I now can't imagine my life without them.

So, to my best friend from high school... although we have grown apart and may not talk, know that I still always want the best for you and hope you get everything you deserve in life. To all of my friends at SHU, the close ones and just the smiling faces in the hall, thank you for all of your continuous support and love through everything my life decides to throw at me. You know who you are and I could never imagine the rest of my life without you.
Features

SHU Gives Back at The Hunger Project

BY KATHRYN ANDES
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, March 19, Sacred Heart University hosted the second annual Hunger Project in partnership with Meals of Hope.

Meals of Hope helps to provide meals to people who suffer from hunger in cities across the U.S., including Fairfield, Conn., and Naples, Fla.

"The mission of the Hunger Project is to help alleviate the issue of hunger in the local Bridgeport area and throughout Connecticut. To put it into perspective, there are over 34,000 children in Fairfield County alone that struggle with hunger. We want to help be part of the solution to this problem," said junior and co-chair of the Hunger Project Anthony Smith.

Many students at SHU volunteered in the project including members of the student government, clubs on campus, and members of sororities and fraternities.

"As a SHU community, we all come together to support this wonderful cause through our fundraisers to give back to local food pantries and soup kitchens in the community," said Student Government President, Sarah Kossa.

The SHU Student Government and Meals of Hope packaged 50,820 meals at this year's Hunger Project.

According to mealsofhope.org, "Meals of Hope began as a food packing organization, and we are the only food packing organization with a priority on keeping the food packed within the United States. We developed five meals specifically designed for the American palate and added vitamins, minerals and proteins to supplement an unbalanced diet."

There are many ways to contribute to the cause including volunteering to package food or donating funds and resources.

"The Hunger Project is important because it gives students the opportunity to have a positive first-hand effect in the fight against hunger in the local community. Faculty, staff, and students are able to participate by donating $5 to purchase a t-shirt or donate online," said Smith.

In addition to participating in the Hunger Project, student government at Sacred Heart also volunteers in a seasonal turkey drive.

"In the fall, Student Government hosts our annual Turkey drive where we fundraise to buy and hand out turkeys to families in need during the holiday season. We are as a student government have handed out over 5,000 turkeys in the last 8 years," said Kossa.

Service is a valued part of the community at Sacred Heart, as Greek Life and the office of volunteer services also participates in community service organizations like the Ronald McDonald House, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and volunteers as mentors in the local elementary schools.

"Service is most definitely an important part of the SHU community. We were ranked #20 by the Princeton Review for logging over 100,000 community service hours! It is amazing to see the school community give back," said Smith.

The student government exceeded their goal of 50,000 meals packaged and hopes to continue the Hunger Project each year to help give back to the community and end hunger.

"One person can make a difference but a strong community together can make an impact," said Class of 2021 President, Gabe Bitencourt.

AT THIS YEAR'S HUNGER PROJECT, THE SHU STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND MEALS OF HOPE PACKAGED 50,820 MEALS FOR PEOPLE ACROSS THE U.S.

On Wednesday, March 13 at 8 p.m., in the Edgerton Theatre at Sacred Heart University, theatre major, social work minor, and junior, Mary Campione, decided to take a career path into motivational speaking. She brought awareness to mental illness to her fellow classmates through her speech titled "I'm Not Ashamed," focusing on suicide prevention and the importance of kindness and compassion.

"I used to run retreats through my youth group in high school, and every leader had to do a talk. I loved doing those talks and then I found out that there is profession where you can make money talking and just sharing part of your life and motivating people," said Campione.

Campione's speech was partially about suicide prevention and mental illnesses and the other was of her attempting suicide and sharing her story. She felt inspired by the Scott Family, related to Rachel Scott, who was one of the first students who was murdered during the Columbine High School massacre in 1999.

"Her family found a quote written in one of her journals, which they turned into Rachel's Challenge, and they go all over the country talking to high schools about kindness and compassion, and it was that quote that impacted half of my speech," said Campione.

In Campione's speech, she included her story of a suicide attempt, her recovery process and how she still struggles with depression and anxiety today. She also included in the other half how random acts of kindness is what's going to change the world.

"I think it's something that isn't talked about a lot. Especially for college aged students, to hear one of their peers say "Hey, I go through this..." when it's not something you would think that I would go through. It shines the light on how bad the stigmas are around mental illnesses," said Campione.

According to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in 2017, there were over 47,000 deaths are caused by suicide and it is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. While there is no single cause of suicide and self-harm, the foundation said it is imperative that people learn the warning signs of a person who is depressed and in danger of harming themselves.

These signs may include but are not limited to talking of killing themselves or feeling hopeless, behavior changes like withdrawing from activities and sleeping too much or too less, aggression, or irritability.

Junior, sports communication, and media arts major, Louis Frey sat through Campione's speech and helped her prepare for in front of her friends.

"Her strongest point in her speech is the smallest acts of kindness can change a person's day. She hit right over the head with her point on you never know what a person is going through. The smallest things can go a long way," said Frey.

Campione's experiences gave her the strength to stand in front of those classmates and share the true importance of suicide and depression and highlighted how crucial it is to be kind to another person.

"I took my hard experiences that could have altered my life in a completely negative way, and I used it to turn my life around and make myself a stronger person," said Campione.

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March 27, 2019

Features

Haircuts for Heroes

BY DEVYN KING
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, March 19, Kappa Sigma held their annual philanthropy event called Haircuts for Heroes at 9 p.m. in the University Commons auditorium. They have held this event every year since being initiated at Sacred Heart University in 2009. Kappa Sigma’s philanthropy aims to raise money for the Military Heroes Campaign, and the donations are directed towards soldiers who are disabled or who were killed in the line of duty.

According to junior Kappa Sigma president, Joe Noble, the rules of the competition were to get sororities on campus to raise money for the campaign, and the three highest donating sororities would then get to shave a fraternity brother’s head in a military buzzcut style, at the Haircuts for Heroes event.

The three Kappa Sigma brothers that had their heads shaved were freshman Brian Rice, freshman Demetrious Kotiski, and junior Dom Danzi.

“This event is important to my brothers and I because it is our biggest event, which means it’s our biggest opportunity to give back to a cause that is bigger than all of us,” said Noble.

“We donate all of our earnings to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. It means a lot to each and every one of us because we get to help those who keep our country safe,” he said.

At the start of the event, the amount of money raised was $1,800 announced by Thomas Gallagher and Nathan Gervais, both head of the Kappa Sigma philanthropy board. As you walked into the event, there were tables set up where members of the fraternity sat to take more donations before the final results of the competition were revealed.

The sororities and fraternities socialized and listened to music while more donations were taking place.

The top three donating sororities were Zeta Tau Alpha giving $636, Kappa Alpha Theta giving $349, and a tie between Alpha Delta Pi and Kappa Delta both giving $349.

With one minute added to donation time, the tie was broken and Alpha Delta Pi gave $70 more putting them in third place donating a total of $331.

“This was actually our third consecutive year that Zeta Tau Alpha donated the most money towards their philanthropy. It is an amazing feeling to know that we are making a difference in our community,” said junior Gillian Leroy, President of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Senior Meg Rice was the sorority sister chosen as the representative for Zeta Tau Alpha to shave Rice’s head, and they are siblings.

“Having my sister shave my head made the event extremely fun because we are best friends and she is probably the only regular person I would trust to shave my head besides a professional barber,” said Rice.

According to Rice, it is tradition for newly initiated members of Kappa Sigma from the previous fall class to participate. If there are no volunteers, a name is drawn from a hat.

The total amount of donations at the end of this event came to $2,695.50.

Professor Profile: Sally Hong

BY VICTORIA MESCALL
Editor-in-Chief

Sally Hong is a beloved dance instructor and professor at Sacred Heart. She teaches and choreographs for the SHU Dance Company, coaches and instructs movement for the SHU color guard and winterguard, and teaches at a local high school as well.

Hong has performed on many stages in her life, and her career accolades include Broadway casts and tours, and a six-year term as a Radio City Rockette.

“I was five years old when I got into dance,” said Hong. “Growing up in Hong Kong I saw a ballerina in a television show and I started to ask my mom for ballet classes because at the time that was the only genre.”

When she was 11, Hong’s family moved from Hong Kong to California in search of a new show that has to be my favorite. As far as the closeness of the cast, my favorite was ‘Flower Drum Song’. And being given the opportunity to come back to a Broadway stage after sixteen years felt like coming home.”
Arts & Entertainment

A Little Late with Lilly Singh

BY JOSEPH BRAUN
Staff Reporter

On Thurs. March 14, YouTube star/content creator Lilly Singh announced she will replace Carson Daly as a late-night host for NBC.

Daly, a veteran television personality has been the host of “Last Call,” on NBC for 17 seasons. He had recently announced his departure from the show.

According to the Associated Press, “Singh will be the only woman to host a daily late-night show on a major broadcast network.”

Singh, best known for her YouTube channel “Superwoman,” has had practice with creating different content for audiences to enjoy. On her channel, she creates her own characters and puts on various comedy sketches.

Students have enjoyed Singh’s channel over the past few years.

“I really love her content. It’s always funny and extremely unique. The way they she uses her own characters in her sketches really sets her apart from other YouTubers. I think that she will be a great host because she will be able to incorporate her unique style of YouTube videos into her late-night show,” said sophomore Catherine Albo.

Besides having a YouTube following of 14 million and growing every day, Singh has also had achievements outside of her channel.

Singh is a New York Times best-selling author for her book, “How to Be a Bawse”. She also has acting roles in movies such as, “Fahrenheit 451,” “Bad Moms,” and “Ice Age: Collision Course.”

Singh, besides being the first woman to have a late-night show on a major broadcast network in over 30 years, has also voiced her appreciation to the woman that have come before her in the entertainment business.

“A huge shout out to all the women that have come before me and who are currently in this space because I couldn’t have done it without them paving the path,” said Singh on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. “I do think it’s a little awesome that an Indian-Canadian woman is getting her own late-night show.”

This is the first time in over 30 years that a woman is having their own network late-night show. The previous being Joan Rivers on FOX.

Students were surprised that Singh will be on the only female daily late-night show host on a broadcast network.

“I think it’s ground breaking that they would have a female host on NBC, but to tell you the truth, I’m surprised they didn’t have one already. There are so many talented women that are involved in the television production atmosphere, that I’m shocked that it took this long for them to consider it,” said sophomore Kathryn Arider.

Singh’s Show, “A Little Late with Lilly Singh,” will premiere this year in Sept. It will take place after “The Late-Night Show with Seth Myers” starting at 1:35 am.

The Sacred Heart Spectrum
March 27, 2019

A Little Late with Lily Singh

BY BRANDON RICKETTS
Staff Reporter

Actor Jussie Smollett has been charged with 16 counts of disorderly conduct for making false reports about being attacked and making racial slurs in downtown Chicago in Jan., according to AP News.

Some students believe that Smollett committed the crime to increase his wealth.

“I hear he did it for a pay raise and I hope that isn’t true because I don’t believe staging an assault on yourself is going to help get you more money per show,” said junior Rebecca Cucuzzella.

The “Empire” star is charged with recruiting two brothers to stage an attack to make it appear that he was assaulted for being gay and black.

“Empire” co-creator and executive producer, Lee Daniels, said that since Smollett’s controversy the cast and crew have experienced “pain and anger and sadness and frustration and really don’t know how to deal with it,” according to AP News.

The newest season of “Empire” aired on Wed., March 13. The ratings were the shows lowest, with 4.4 million viewers in the first episode of the new season.

“I was very uninterested with watching the show along with some of my other friends after the controversy,” said sophomore Jessica Teixeira. “He represented the LGBTQ community so well, not to mention the black community, so to see this hurts.”

This is not the first time a show has seen a major drop in ratings or even had an episode or show pulled.

In May 2018, ABC’s “Roseanne” was pulled from the air because of the surfacing of Roseanne Barr’s racist tweets, according to AP News.

Also, Kevin Spacey, who was hit with a sexual misconduct allegation after supposedly groping an 18-year old male in 2016, has been removed from the award winning Netflix series “House of Cards” as well as other productions he had taken part in.

“I believe that actors should be held accountable for their actions. One measure I would take as the director of the show would be to get rid of this toxic person,” said Cucuzzella. “There should be no other option but removal from the show, and that goes for any show.”

Smollett’s character has been removed from the final two episodes of the current season of “Empire”.

“I hope Smollett is just being falsely accused, because I would never wish prison on anyone and I don’t want Empire’s show to become less and less interesting,” said Teixeira.

Smollett has pled not guilty and denied that he staged the attack, according to AP News. A trial date has yet to be set.
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Arts & Entertainment

Race & Culture in New SHU Play “Disgraced”

BY NICOLA PAERG  
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University theatre arts program is performing “Disgraced” by Ayad Akhtar.

The storyline revolves around an American-born Pakistani lawyer Amir, who is living in Manhattan with his wife Emily. Amir struggles to find a balance between his American culture and his Muslim heritage.

“I visited an Islamic center to help get into character which was interesting because I am Catholic, and was not brought up Muslim,” said junior Andrew Peloquin who portrays the lead character, Amir. “This allows me to let Amir’s voice be heard in the show and I am his vessel while I am onstage, preaching everything that he wants the audience to know.”

The show is open to the general public as well as campus community members. One of the audience attendees was the University President Dr. John Petillo.

“I think it is provocative and it is powerful, and it really forces the audience to deal with their own stereotypes,” said President Dr. John Petillo. “Its showing is important precisely because of the baggage many of us may have regarding these particular stereotypes and the justice or injustices that result from that.”

The Edgerton’s play summary states that Amir is unsettled by the racial injustices that he experiences along with the prejudices suggested by those in his company.

“It is interesting to see cultural dissonance put into action in such a normalized American setting,” said junior Christina Magliocco. “It clearly shows the differences between the American and Muslim culture, and also shows that you don’t always know what happens behind closed doors.”

“Disgraced” had its worldwide debut in 2012 at the American Film Company in Chicago.

In the play, Amir and Emily host a dinner party with another couple. The wife, Jory, is Amir’s coworker, while the husband, Isaac, is Emily’s art dealer.

The four enter a controversial conversation that escalates into a heated argument.

“This piece speaks to a lot of the topical issues that we are experiencing in the world right now. It leaves you thinking, wondering and questioning your perspectives on things,” said junior Grace Falvey, who portrays Amir’s wife, Emily.

In 2013, the play won the Pulitzer Prize in the category of drama.

“It is tough to relate to Amir’s character since I am not Muslim, but I see it as I am acting as his vessel and while I am on stage, I am preaching everything that he wants people to understand about himself,” said Peloquin.

With the exclusion of the intermissions, the play has an approximate runtime of 70 minutes. Within this time, the audience is able to follow Amir and see how his actions pan out through the show.

“The play is racially charged and addresses a lot of topics that many people are uncomfortable with talking about,” said Magliocco. “Amir is unpredictable in his actions and you can not really tell what is going to happen next. It keeps you actively engaged.”

“Disgraced,” will be performed in the “Little Theater” March 28-31. Tickets are available online or at the box office located in the Edgerton.

“It’s Time to Leave Neverland

BY SAMANTHA O’DONNELL  
Staff Reporter

The world once viewed Michael Jackson as the King of Pop. Now, his reputation is being questioned with the release of the HBO documentary, “Leaving Neverland.”

“Leaving Neverland” tells a disturbing story of two men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who were allegedly groomed by Jackson for sex. The two men claim Jackson molested them when they were little boys, according to The Associated Press.

Students had their own opinions about the allegations against Jackson.

“I do not understand how a filmmaker can make a documentary and does not want to speak to myself or some of the other families who were at Neverland,” said junior Rose McKenna.

In 2003, another documentary centered around the pop star called “Living with Michael Jackson,” showed the singer’s relationship with a boy named Gavin Arvizo. This documentary led to a trial in 2005, where Jackson was accused of molestation, but ultimately was acquitted on all charges.

Fans of Jackson are conflicted since the release of the documentary.

“I thought it was pretty disturbing, but also unfair, since the man is dead and can’t defend himself against these claims,” said junior Rose McKenna.

When asked about the documentary in an interview with Associated Press, Jackson’s brother, Marlon Jackson, questioned filmmakers’ intentions.

“I do not understand how a filmmaker can make a documentary and does not want to speak to myself or some of the other families who were at Neverland,” said Marlon Jackson during the Associated Press interview.

With Jackson’s reputation in question, fans feel conflicted as to whether or not to continue to listen to his music.

“I don’t know how to feel about listening to his music anymore,” said Villanueva. “I feel like I should feel guilty listening to it, because in a way, it feels like I’m supporting him. But I also can’t help that he made great music and a lot of it has become so mainstream and popular and a lot of it is downloaded onto my phone. I don’t think I’ll stop listening to his music all together, but I don’t think I’ll be blasting his music in public or at parties anytime soon.”

According to the Associated Press, “Leaving Neverland” has become HBO’s third most watched documentary premiere of the last decade. Within one week of its release, the documentary has been watched by 5 million viewers for the first episode and 3.5 million viewers for its second episode.
In the NCAA Tournament In Columbia S.C.

Basketball.

The tournament begins on March 21. The annual National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament, which began this year on March 21, is the premier basketball event of the year. It is estimated that about 70 million brackets will be created, according to sbj.net, which is a sports betting website. Within those 70 million brackets, close to 10.4 billion dollars worth of bets will be placed throughout the duration of the tournament.

"It's easy to pick Duke or North Carolina," said graduate student Geno Gonnello. "Those two teams looked the best all season. But there are a lot of teams that have something to offer. It all depends on who is hot at the end of the season."

While Gonnello says he makes multiple brackets, he only makes one serious one and creates others that are for fun.

Regardless of the bracket, it takes him the entire five days between the unveiling of the bracket and beginning of the tournament to fill out his brackets.

For sophomore Eric Hund, he typically makes more than one bracket throughout the tournament, games will be featured on four television channels: TBS, CBS, TruTV, and TNT.

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According to Forbes.com, roughly 100 million people will tune into the almost 70 games that take place over the three week period. Sometimes it can take a person's attention away from other things.

According to sbj.net, employers will lose $13.3 billion in productivity from other things.

The tournament is awesome," said Hund. "It is single elimination. Anyone can win which makes every team put it all on the line. I can sit on a couch for hours and watch the games."

Throughout the tournament, games will be featured on four television channels: TBS, CBS, TruTV, and TNT.

Based on team statistics.

"I pick the teams based on their rankings from the season," said Szefinski. "This results in me picking the higher seed most of the time."

While teams such as Duke, North Carolina, Virginia, and Gonzaga, who represent the top four seeds in the tournament are the betting favorites to win the tournament, there are other teams who have pulled off upsets against higher seeded teams, such as No. 12 Oregon, defeating No. 5 Wisconsin, 72-54 in the first round of the tournament.

"It is fun to pick Cinderella teams because not many people expect them to win," said Hund. "It's fun when you get the pick right."

The first and second rounds of the tournament took place in eight locations across the country. The winners of those games advanced to the regional semifinals in four new locations. The winners of each region will earn the opportunity to compete for the national championship at the "Final Four," which is set in Minneapolis.

According to Forbes.com, roughly 100 million people will tune into the almost 70 games that take place over the three week period. Sometimes it can take a person's attention away from other things.

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Men's and Women's Tennis Seasons Progressing

BY CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ
Senior Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's men's and women's tennis teams have one month left to go in their seasons and are preparing for their conference matches.

Looking to contribute to the men's team in the latter part of the season is freshman William Wibmer. Wibmer has earned Northeast Conference (NEC) freshman "Rookie of the Week" twice in two consecutive weeks this month.

"It is a huge honor and a joy to be recognized for the achievements from the hard work set day to day," said Wibmer. "The two weekly awards made me really happy, but at the same time there's still training to do to be even better."

Wibmer is from Maldonado, Uruguay and has been gaining more confidence as the season has progressed. He has won both of his singles conference matches.

"My season has been going really well, it took me a bit to get adjusted to the surface and playing indoors, but luckily game by game I have gained more confidence and that earned me a nice set of wins," said Wibmer.

The men's team has an overall 4-10 record. They're 1-1 in conference matches.

"So far our season has been going well in my opinion. Definitely the highest level we played since I came to the school," said junior Omar Abdo. "Maybe the results aren't so great, but we are there in every match, which gives us a lot of confidence for what really matters which is the NEC matches."

The men's team next match will be on March 30, when they visit Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey. After their match at Monmouth their next three out of their four final games are in conference matches.

"We are a very united team that has demonstrated this season that we can compete against teams better than us on paper. To finish this season strong, we have to keep training and have confidence in each teammate to be at 100 percent at the time of competition," said Wibmer.

The next home match will be an in conference one vs Fairfield Dickinson on Thursday, April 4 at the Tennis Club of Trumbull. They later wrap up on that week against Mount St. Mary's University with the match taking place at Yale University.

On the other hand, the women's team also has an overall record of 4-11, and are 0-1 in conference play. They began their conference matches this past Sunday, falling to Bryant. Junior Adrienne Alfonso picked up the lone victory for the Pioneers coming back after losing the first set, according to Sacred Heart Athletic Communications.

The next match for the women's team will be on Wednesday March 27 when they visit Providence College. In April, the team will have five consecutive home matches including four conference ones.

The women's tennis team will begin their home-stand against Fairfield Dickinson University on April 4 at the tennis club of Trumbull. Their next four games after that will be played at Yale when they match up against Wagner, Saint Francis University, Mount St. Mary's, and LIU.

Men's Club Soccer Spring Season Underway

BY JACK RAVITZ
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University men's club soccer team opened their spring season with two straight wins. Their wins came earlier in March. They defeated Fairfield University and the University of New Haven on March 9, by scores of 3-0 and 3-2 respectively.

In the first two games, the offense scored a combined six goals. That has been a focal point for the team in practices, working on becoming an efficient scoring team.

Senior captain and starting left winger, Alex Angelescu, emphasized understanding the importance of each drill during practice, since they've benefited the team's offensive so far.

"A lot of drills we've been working on are focused on finishing in front of the net and being strong with the ball," said Angelescu. "We've also stressed the principle of working on our tactics and formations with and without the ball."

Other drills the team has worked on have focused on maintaining possession of the ball throughout the course of a game. These drills include getting the ball to midfield and up the field as quickly as possible.

The defense has also contributed to the two wins. Senior goalie Christian Rodriguez, who is a senior staff writer for Spectrum, has anchored the defense and has been a leader for the team.

"Christian has been such a key component to the club soccer program," said Angelescu. "Having a veteran like him in goal is a tremendous relief and the rest of the defense feels very sound and confident."

Head coach Kenneth Strachan credited the wins to the training and confidence in each teammate to be at 100 percent at the time of competition," said Wibmer.

The Sacred Heart tennis teams have about a month left in their regular seasons and the men's team next match is on March 30. Pictured above: Francisco Del Valle, Graduate.

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The Sacred Heart University Women's Rowing Team competed in a scrimmage against Stetson on Mar. 9 and 10, finishing in second in two races and racing uncontested in a third.

THE SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ROWING TEAM COMPETED IN A SCRIMMAGE AGAINST STETSON ON MAR. 9 AND 10., FINISHING IN SECOND IN TWO RACES AND RACING UNCONTESTED IN A THIRD.