

Will The Next Supreme Court Justice Make History?

BY SOPHIE CAMIZZI AND BRENDAN WILLIAMS
Co-News Editors

According to the Associated Press, on Jan. 27, it was announced that Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring, giving President Biden his first court opening, which he has pledged to fill with a Black woman, the first in U.S. history.

"I was really excited because I think this is something that needs to be represented, especially within the justice system," said junior Jaylah Bryant, president of the Black Student Union. "I feel like it enriches the system and promotes more confidence within the court and legitimizes it since there's now someone from a diverse, different background."

While gender and racial diversity in the Supreme Court has remained somewhat stagnant throughout history, it has more recently progressed with the additions of women, Black men, and Latina justices.

According to the Associated Press, "Of the 115 justices in U.S. history, there have been just five women, beginning with Sandra Day O' Connor in 1981. One of the five, Justice Sonia Sotomayor is a Latina. Thomas and the late Thurgood Marshall are the only two Black men who have served on the court."

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential principals," said junior Olivia Delgado, president of the College Democrats. "A lack of proper representation can lead to negative biases and discrimination towards minority groups, especially in the justice system, where too often people are unfairly judged if they don't fit a Eurocentric picture of innocence or value, so witnessing a figure of immense political influence, such as the President of the U.S., using his power to amplify the voices of Black women is absolutely incredible to me."

With Justice Breyer said to retire in the summer, there have been five candidates under consideration, including Ketanji Brown Jackson, Judge Michelle Childs, Justice Leandra Kruger, Judge Wilhelmina Wright and Melissa Murray, according to the Associated Press.

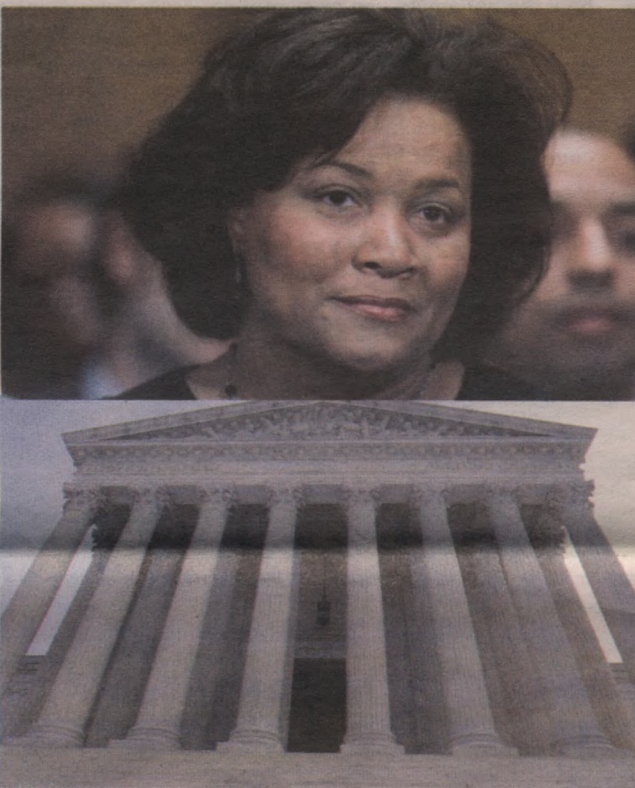
"I think it's even more amazing the fact that they're considering four qualified applicants because in the past, we would have had like a hundred options of white males," said senior Gabriela Dos Santos. "I think it's great we have so many people qualified to take the job and also represent a lot of diversity."

While some students are looking forward to Biden's appointment, other students have concerns about the decision.

"I think by Biden specifically saying he's going to consider someone within these specific groups of Black people and women is not a very good thing," said senior

Ryan Silverstein, president of the College Republicans. "You got picked, not because you were the most qualified but because you fit a certain demographic."

"Considering the federal judiciary was designed to be full of independent and brilliant jurists, picking someone mainly because of the color of their skin and gender isn't really the best idea and I don't know if it would be super



AP News
Judge J. Michelle Childs, a contender for new Justice from Southern California (top). The Supreme Court in Washington D.C (bottom).

relevant to the decisions that these justices render," said Silverstein.

Despite this, Dr. Gary Rose, professor and chair of the department, says that the introduction of the new judge will not make too much of a difference.

"Stephen Breyer's vacancy will be filled by another liberal and it won't make any difference at all in the way that the court will function, because there will still be six Republicans and three Democrats," said Rose.

"There's nothing new about putting people on the court

for political reasons," said Rose. "This has been going on for many years, almost since the court's inception, but takes many forms. You can see old clips of Regan saying, 'We are going to put women on the Supreme Court' and put Sandra Day O' Conner on there. Obama also felt like it was time for a Latina to be on the court, so he put Sonia Sotomayer on there. What separates Biden in this announcement is just how explicit it has been."

While there are varying opinions on the matter, some students feel that the decision to choose a Black woman as justice will allow them to feel more represented.

"It kind of sets an example and can be seen as a role model for other people of different diverse backgrounds, like myself not being able to see a Black female, or really any females in general, in the Supreme Court system," said Bryant. "I feel, especially for younger kids and children of diverse backgrounds, they'll be able to see that and be like, 'I see someone that looks like me.'"

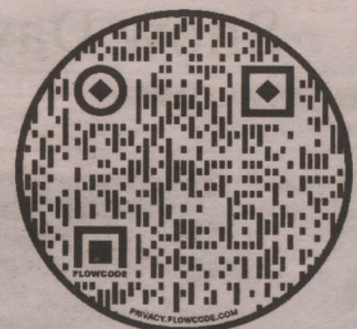
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NEWSPAPER RACK LOCATIONS

Hawley Lounge
(next to stairs)

Student Life
(across from office between doors)

Library
(inside front doors)

West Campus (West Building)
(first floor lobby)

West Campus (East Building)
(outside East Cafe)

Thea's Abbey
(lobby)

Melady Hall
(inside front doors)

Martire
(first floor by the main staircase)

Spectrum Office
(in the SCMA Wing)

Curtis Hall
(inside the front doors)

Linda's
(first floor)

Pitt Center
(inside front doors)

SC Wing
(first floor near 63's and Edgerton)

NC Wing
(first floor near couches)

Snow Day! Winter Weather Blankets the East Coast

BY BRENDAN WILLIAMS
News Editor

On Jan. 22, Gary MacNamera, Executive Director of Public Safety and Government Affairs, sent out an email about the impending winter snow storm that hit the East Coast on Jan. 29 causing residents to be buried in snow.

"The university regularly monitors weather events to evaluate the potential impact and time. In this case, we convened our Emergency Management Team to determine impact," said MacNamera. "Our first priority is safety and student services. Our residential life team was staffed to manage each hall, we worked with Chartwells to ensure food service was provided and made contingencies in case students were unable to travel to the Park Avenue campus for food during the latter part of the day."

The decision to cancel many classes and events was

not made lightly. It was imperative to guarantee the safety of all students, faculty and staff on and off-campus.

"Other departments such as residential life, I.T., shuttle operations, communications, the provost and even Dr. Petillo are all present and engaged in these meetings to ensure operations are being conducted as close to normal as they can be," said MacNamera.

As a result of the storm, some students have faced many hazardous conditions, including issues with ice and snow.

"I think the school could have done a better job at shoveling pathways," said junior Madison Kamme. conditions."

Continued. on Page 2...

News

In with the New Year, Out with the Restrictions

BY MEGAN HARKINS
Staff Writer

On Jan. 27, the Coronavirus Planning Team sent out an email regarding the restrictions that were put into place at the beginning of the semester, as well as some restrictions that are being lifted due to decreasing Covid-19 numbers, both in the Sacred Heart University community and Connecticut.

Some of these changes include an increased number of people in the Bobby Valentine Health and Recreation Center, the shuttle to downtown Fairfield running again, more spectators being able to attend indoor sporting events, food and beverages being allowed at indoor events, and masks allowed to be lowered to take a drink in class.

"What I am most excited about after the restrictions are lifted is having more people pack the indoor sports games," said sophomore Marissa Lavalle. "It really adds to the community when you see full stands, and it keeps the teams motivated."

As the university implements these new policies, questions still arise as to whether cases will continue to stay low.

According to the Sacred Heart website, the first week back to school showed 57 positive cases.

Larry Wielk, Dean of Students, was not expecting any of the policies put in place at the beginning of the spring

semester to be lifted in such a short amount of time.

"We thought the start of the semester was going to be a lot worse than it was, and it turned out better fortunately," said Wielk. "I think the reason it turned out this way is because from the day we left after exams last semester, to the day we started returning and having all students get tested before they came back, over 900 students tested positive."

"They did not come back here bringing Covid with them," said Wielk. "So when we tested everyone that first week of school, we didn't have nearly as many positive cases as we thought we would. One concern is how the university can prevent these cases from going up throughout the semester. Students are still required to wear masks at all times indoors, whether vaccinated or not."

However, not all students are following the masking rules. Some students believe that this is due to the lack of consequences for breaking the guidelines.



SHU students collaborating while staying safe from Covid.

Instagram, @shubigred

"The majority of the school follows the policies implemented," said freshman Haley Loscher. "Yet there are many who don't because they know there is no punishment for it."

According to Wielk, the biggest issue for the university is that there are many students who do not not wear masks correctly in dining halls.

"I think the biggest concern that we have is the wearing of face masks," said Wielk. "Unfortunately, students don't listen to everyone evenly. The biggest issue that we have is in all our dining areas. Many of the Chartwells employees are getting hassled when they ask a student to put their face mask on."

Many students are hoping these new policies will lead to a more normal college experience.

"If cases continue to stay this low, I would love to see more restrictions lifted," said junior Abby Boenig. "I am hopeful for a mask-free senior year if that would even be possible by the fall."

Gary MacNamara, Executive Director of Public Safety and Government Affairs and co-chair of the university's Coronavirus Planning Team, is very hopeful for the future of the school community.

"Over the last two years, we have learned that predictions as they relate to Covid are very difficult," said MacNamara. "However, everything seems to be trending in the right direction. Not only the virus, but also the steps and precautions that we have put in place have allowed us to all trend in the right direction."

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BY BRENDAN WILLIAMS
News Editor

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Xavier Martinez trying to scrape the snow and ice off of his car in Providence, R.I. during the snowstorm.

"I understand it is hard to shovel when some snow is still accumulating, but all of the pathways in the courtyard were snowy and icy which made for dangerous conditions."

Students who live off-campus had more of a learning curve as the first snowstorm of the semester hit their homes.

"Some neighbors did not move their cars and the road in front of our house was not plowed, so we couldn't move our cars to park in the street," said senior Sophia DeFalco.

While Public Safety took many safety precautions for students, they should still be prepared for other weather-related events that may impact travel and be ready for potential power outages.

"Students living off-campus in rental properties for the most part have the facilities to cook and stock up on food," said MacNamara. "We

did remind them to get vehicles off the road if in violation of Bridgeport snow emergency rules. We also did allow a small number to relocate vehicles on-campus if they had no off-road parking."

"When reports come in of potential bad weather, stock up on snacks and ensure phones are charged," said MacNamara. "Also, pay attention to emails and alerts coming from campus in case conditions change, and our response needs to change as well."

Colleen Shaffer contributed to this article.



SHU sophomores enjoying the snow by sledding on campus.

Julie Dunn, Photo Editor



Cars buried in snow on the street in Norwich, CT after the big snowstorm.

Instagram, @nbcConnecticut

Perspectives

Wild About Wordle

BY BROOKE SENDER
Staff Writer

Did you do your Wordle today?

Wordle is a word-game that originally gained traction through Twitter and has now become part of some students daily routine.

"I do it every morning when I wake up," said senior Carly Niemiec. "My friends and I send each other our scores."

Although it was released in Oct. 2021, the game started to take off in November when blogger and creator Andy Baio put a link to the game in his blog. According to CNN, Wordle has recently been bought by The New York Times, and an estimated 3 million users across the world play the game daily.

As described by The New York Times, a player has six chances to discover the word of the day. It starts with the player guessing a random five letter word. After each guess, a green letter signals that the letter is in the word and in the correct spot, whereas a yellow letter signals that the letter is in the word, but not in the correct spot or order. Throughout the game, letters are blocked out if they are previously chosen and not in the word of the day, narrowing the options.

The increasing popularity of Wordle has caught the interest of many students.

"Wordle is challenging and makes me think. I've been telling all of my friends to play it," said junior Anna Richards.

Since the puzzle is the same for all players, many say Wordle also gives people a



Mother and son spending time together while playing on their phones.

Pexels

common interest. Additionally, users are encouraged to share their guesses with friends to compare their daily quest to find the word. As a user only has a certain number of opportunities for the daily puzzle, this increases the competitiveness of the game.

"I think it's so appealing to me because of the satisfaction I get when I figure out the word," said freshman Gianna Servedio. "It's not only challenging and fun, but it makes me feel like I'm learning too."

Some have not been convinced enough to try Wordle.

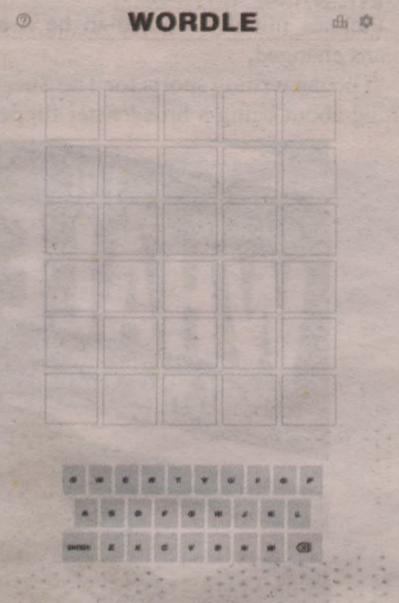
"I haven't downloaded Wordle because I have not felt much pressure to. Even though it's popular I don't think it's as necessary as other apps, such as social media platforms," said sophomore Alexa Lombardi. "Those keep you connected, and up to date with society. I don't think I'm missing out because I'm not much of a game person."

Others say they are just now learning about the game through social media platforms and would consider playing it.

"I don't play Wordle, but I've been seeing it all over Tik Tok and want to give it a try," said junior Julianna Tyznar.

Many say that Wordle also allows players to have fun online without worrying about the pressure of life on the Internet.

"I'm not a big fan of social media because you never know what is real or fake, that's why I love playing Wordle," said junior Emma Tesler. "I save it for a time of the day that I would usually spend on Instagram, but going on Wordle makes me feel more productive."



Brady Dynasty Ends, His Legacy Lives On

BY SYDNEY GIACALONE
Staff Writer



Instagram, @tombrady

Tom Brady announced his retirement on his Instagram and was full of love and appreciation for his coaches, teammates, and the NFL as a whole.

Tom Brady, one of the most well-known football players of all time, announced his retirement from his career as an NFL player on his social media platforms on Feb. 1.

Brady has played a total of twenty-two seasons as the starting quarterback with the New England Patriots and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"Brady's retirement definitely came as a surprise and something I was not expecting at all," said junior Erin Hare.

Before Brady officially announced this news to the public, many speculations were made that left the public questioning if this news is completely true. People began to believe that this information could have possibly been leaked or that it is simply just not true.

Many students considered the news to be true since credited sports channels such as ESPN posted about Brady's retirement 4 days prior to Brady's official announcement on Jan. 29.

"Once I saw ESPN post about it, I immediately believed it, even though it didn't come from Brady himself," said junior Haley Sullivan.

As these speculations started to increase, Brady's father, Tom Brady Sr., made a statement on Twitter that said Brady will not be retiring.

Some students refused to believe the speculations being made in consideration of the tweet Brady's father posted.

"The term semantics could be used here because we really did not know what was true since the statement was not coming from Tom himself," said sophomore Molly Jacob.

After Brady's official statement, many people were sincerely surprised to hear that he will officially retire from his career.

"Brady never seemed like the player who was going to stop until he was all out of steam so to hear that he was done so out of the blue was shocking," said Hare.

On the other hand, others saw Brady's retirement to come soon before he made his official statement.

"He is going to have so many more opportunities to do things with his life. Even if he doesn't want to do anything else, he doesn't have to. He's set for life and will forever be the greatest of all time," said senior Nick Garritano.

Brady has taken home seven Super Bowl wins and has such a large title to his name.

Many students believed it would have been nice for Brady to go for another super bowl win before retiring.

"I think it would have been iconic for Brady to retire after a Super Bowl win instead of after being eliminated," said sophomore Jessica Zarilli.

Although it is believed that he would have wanted another win on his back, Brady still holds seven Super Bowl wins.

"I do think he wanted another super bowl win, but he already has 7 so I think he can retire whenever he wants as the best athlete to ever play a professional sport," said sophomore Jack Sullivan.

For some football fans, Brady holds a huge legacy and impact to the NFL.

"There comes a time to hang up the cleats and I think Tom Brady knew he was ready," said Jacob. "There is no one more mentally strong than him, and I give him so much respect for all that he has accomplished."



AP News

Rob Gronkowski (left) and Tom Brady (right) celebrating their Super Bowl win in 2021.

Features

Alumnus Spotlight: Patrick Pickens

BY ISABEL HAGLUND
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University alumnus Patrick Pickens believes that if not for his time at Sacred Heart and all the work he put into his studies and career, he would not be where he is today publishing his first book.

At Sacred Heart, Pickens was a writer on *The Spectrum* his junior and senior years.

"That was my first writing opportunity," said Pickens. "I think my whole time at Sacred Heart was essential, but especially *The Spectrum*."

Pickens initially wanted to be a broadcaster, but his plans changed.

"I began writing sports for *The Spectrum* and that whole thing about being a broadcaster flipped," said Pickens. "I

decided I wanted to get into sports writing, and it was really sort of learning that this was something I could do and that I had a talent for."

In 2007, Pickens graduated from Sacred Heart University and began working at the *Fairfield Citizen* as the sports editor. While he was there, he covered high school hockey in Connecticut and noticed that fans were wearing Hartford Whalers apparel, even though the team left Hartford in 1997.

"The fans, the kids, the players, they were all wearing Whalers stuff," said Pickens. "It had been 11 years since they left Connecticut, and people were still wearing hats and shirts."

Pickens believed there was a deeper story as to why people were still sporting the team's apparel. He started with little knowledge about who The Whalers were and began researching and gathering information about their franchise.

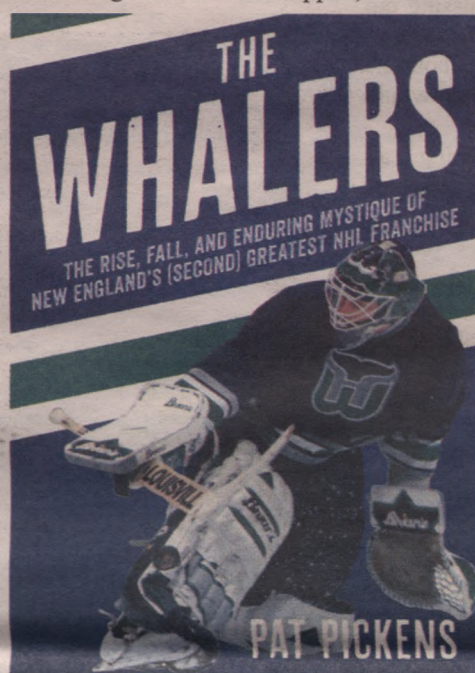
"At some point, it stopped becoming a networking opportunity," said Pickens. "It started becoming a really remarkable story that I knew a lot about and learned a lot about."

According to a press release from Sacred Heart, Pickens left the *Fairfield Citizen* in 2013 and began to work for *The New York Times* doing freelance work with the New Jersey Devils, New York Rangers and the Islanders. Whenever he found free time in his busy life, he was researching and writing about the Whalers.

Pickens wanted this book to be the best it could be and dedicated his energy towards it.

"I knew that I wanted to get anecdotes and stories and comments from as many high-profile people as possible," said Pickens. "And especially people who knew and lived the story."

"*The Whalers: The Rise, Fall and Enduring Mystique of New England's (Second) Greatest NHL Franchise*" written by Pat Pickens was published in Oct. 2021, after 10 years of writing and research.



Cover of Pickens' book "The Whalers"

amazon.com



Sacred Heart University

Patrick Pickens posing in front of a wall full of athletic jerseys.

"I'm really excited about how it came out," said Pickens. "I was so obsessed with doing this the right way for the people that lived it, and then the people that were learning about it could really learn something."

Over the past decade and a half, Pickens has grown into his career and is now achieving his dreams, while giving back to where they first began. Pickens created a lot of his own success, but he believes he owes a great deal of it to Sacred Heart University.

"I went to Sacred Heart and learned a lot of stuff and my career really took off," said Pickens. "I want to give back to the school whenever I can."

SHU's Largest Spring Recruitment Yet

BY VALENTINA MASSONI
Staff Writer

Kicking off the start of the semester on Jan. 18, six of the eight sororities at Sacred Heart University began the Spring Recruitment process.

Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Zeta, Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Delta are all in the midst of searching for potential new members (often referred to as PNMs) to fill any available space in their chapters.

"Any chapter that is below 200 members has the opportunity to participate in the Continuous Open Bidding process," said Nick Frias, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life. "This has been our largest campus total, probably ever."

Campus total refers to the maximum amount of members that each sorority can recruit.

"When Covid hit, a lot of campuses that had sororities saw a decline in sorority recruitment registration and therefore a decline in membership," said Kathryn Ionta, Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

This decline affected how campus total was determined for any participating schools; hence why a majority of the sororities at Sacred Heart were eligible to recruit this spring.

Every fall semester, all eight sororities on campus recruit new members over a weekend with multiple meet-and-greet style events. Recruiting during the spring allows any participating organizations to vary their timeline.

"Spring recruitment is more informal and a continuous process until the sorority decides when they would like to end," said junior Mia DiTizii, Vice President of Membership for Delta Zeta.

Those who were unable to join a sisterhood during the fall semester gain the opportunity to individually build a connection with any organizations that pique their interest. This can last anywhere from three weeks to the entirety of the semester, depending on what the independent organization chooses, or when they reach their campus total.

The Chi Omega chapter at Sacred Heart made an Instagram post on Jan. 29, with a caption reading "Registration to sign up for recruitment is in our bio!" The link led to a form in which PNMs could express their interest in joining the sorority.

Although multiple chapters have had similar interest forms, they still hold individual events to get to know interested students.

"For the most part, sororities will promote on Instagram, at table times, and events to inform people that they are currently recruiting," DiTizii said.

Freshman Lorian Connolly was sent a bid from Alpha Delta Pi in January.

"Besides attending table times, a coffee date, and the hot chocolate night hosted by Alpha Delta Pi, there were no other events I attended during this process. It was really short and sweet," Connolly said.

Although Panhellenic Fall Recruitment is more traditional at SHU, Spring Recruitment is a better fit for some individuals.

"In the spring, because its more informal and it is more lowkey, that entices a whole different group of students that are turned off by the formal, hectic, craziness of a weekend," said Ionta.

The unique laid-back and intimate nature of second-semester recruitment is one of the main appeals to Connolly and other PNMs.

"Coming from somebody who was hesitant about joining a sorority because the fall recruitment process seemed so stressful, I would definitely recommend joining in the spring," said Connolly.



Samantha Ingram, Staff Photographer

The sisters of Delta Zeta working Table Times to meet new faces interesting in learning more about their sorority.



Samantha Ingram, Staff Photographer

The women of Kappa Delta getting in the spirit by working Table Times outside

Spotlight

AUDREY'S CORNER

a place for kindness & reflection

The Future is Bright

BY JILL AMARI
Audrey's Corner Editor

After last week's article about the first part of the Niblo family interviews, this week is more focused on some future plans for Audrey's Corner. While the heart and themes of this section will remain the same, the Niblo family and The Spectrum board have discussed expanding our horizons and the types of media we use to spread the messages of kindness, positivity, self-care and more.

1. The power of social media & "Some Good News"

In our internet and social media-based world, it's essential for any journalist to make her work available online. While Spectrum does have a website, we'd like to spread the message of Audrey's Corner even further than to those who read Spectrum.

One example of how we can positively use the power of social media for Audrey's Corner is by reaching out to already-established works that promote similar themes. A perfect example of this is the YouTube show "Some Good News" (SGN), created by and starring John Krasinski from "The Office."

SGN ran for eight episodes during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, from March 2020 until May 2020, with an additional holiday special in December 2020. Each week, Krasinski would invite special guests—both famous and not—onto the show and ask them to help him spread good news, whether that be celebrating someone's Zoom wedding, interviewing heroes of the pandemic, or inviting the "Hamilton" cast to perform a special show for a fan.

While SGN ended in 2020, its messages of good news haven't stopped. On Instagram especially, SGN remains active (@somegoodnews) and posts a variety of feel-good stories from people around the world.

In their bio, they invite us all to share our "good news story" with them by using the hashtag #SomeGoodNews. Since Audrey's Corner is focused on similar themes, it would be amazing to see our own "good news story" appear on something like SGN's Instagram!

2. Radio shows

Another way to reach a wider community is through the radio. Nowadays, with music online and in apps without commercials, radio isn't as popular as it once was. But plenty of people still listen to the radio when they're in the car—or maybe when their phone battery is running low.

There are plenty of radio shows still airing which are based around sharing good news and uplifting stories. The Niblo family largely agreed that trying to talk about Audrey's Corner on a radio show—perhaps even through WSHU, SHU's own radio station—

would be a great way to spread the word and engage in an honest and positive discussion that reaches a wider audience.

3. Outside newspapers

Audrey was a passionate writer for Spectrum, but even before then, she'd had her share of experiences in the news world. Before college, she was interviewed multiple times by the Greenwich Time, her local paper.

In one particular video interview, Audrey discussed her experiences being bullied and how she dealt with and overcame each experience. Her determination, positive attitude and self-respect clearly shine through this video.

We'd like to spread this type of awareness through other newspapers besides Spectrum, like the Greenwich Time. However, all of these plans are still in the making, and we welcome any and all kinds of support. Whether you're interested in spearheading one of these initiatives, would like to submit your own article, artwork, photography or creative writing to Audrey's Corner, or simply read Audrey's Corner each week, we are grateful for your support.

To end this week's article, there is something Audrey's sister Nicole said during our interview that really struck me: it feels like Audrey's will brought us together. As I write this, I hope Audrey would be happy knowing that we're working hard to continue living out her values and spreading a message of kindness and love.



Fashion: Who Wears the Pants?

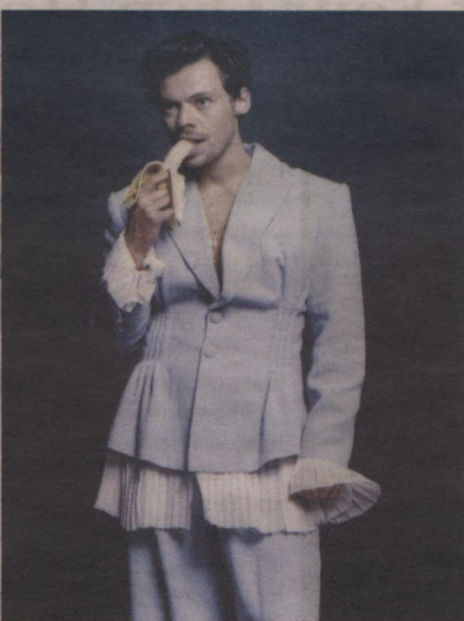
BY MICHAEL MORELLI
Staff Writer

The subject of men's fashion has been a hot topic on many social media platforms recently. Between Harry Styles wearing a dress on the December 2020 Vogue cover and Pete Davidson styling a skirt at the 2021 Met Gala, feminine style worn on men is becoming a mainstream movement.



Twitter, @dazzle666

J Balvin rocked a statement skirt at the Louis Vuitton 2022 menswear show.



Instagram, @harrystyles

Harry Styles promoting the "bring back manly men" fashion movement.

"I think we've evolved into a more unisex style of dressing. By virtue of becoming more casual, we have become more unisex in our dressing," said Dr. Dave Loranger, fashion merchandising and marketing professor at Sacred Heart University. "I think culture has become more tolerant with people experimenting with their style and that is moving the needle overall."

However, not everyone is happy about such change. Some argue against the fluidity of men's style and would rather society stick to more strict gender stereotypes.

Loranger argues that this obsession with basic clothing for men is culturally based.

"I think it's very cultural. If I walk around in a kilt in Scotland, it's very different than wearing it in New York. It's very embedded in American culture to wear garments like pants for men," said Loranger.

Harry Styles, popular musician and actor, has been making strides for men's beauty, as

well as men's fashion. Styles recently unveiled his own beauty brand, Pleasing. With all of the products marketed as gender neutral, Styles seems to be working towards eliminating gender norms in the beauty industry.

There are many students and staff at Sacred Heart who are supportive of this new wave of men's style, casting their appreciation towards mainstream celebrities like Styles who are pushing the trend into the eyes of the public.

"I think it's a great step towards making it normalized in society. I definitely think Harry Styles has been a leader for the movement," said junior Greta Pryce.

"I don't think it's a new thing to inject women's wear into men's wear. David Bowie was doing it, I think it's a new interpretation though," said Loranger. "I wonder if it's more of an attention thing for other celebrities. If it's in earnest they're trying to make a statement about what's considered masculine or feminine, at the minimum it's a fad for press."

Some argue that this isn't so much a new way of dressing, as much as it is a trend.

"I don't think it's going to change men's fashion as a whole. I don't think the casual individual will be as influenced by their statement as someone who is devout to fashion," said junior Mark Smith. "I want to see it progress, and I hope that there's more variety that becomes accepted and leaves room for more individuals to experiment."

Whether a more feminine style of dressing is the new normal or just a fad, there has definitely been a shift in the fashion industry regarding what kinds of clothing are suited for men and women. An increasing number of brands are emerging with fresh new ideas on how fashion is moving towards all-encompassing clothing.

"I think we've evolved into a more unisex style of dressing," said Loranger. "By virtue of becoming more casual, we have become more unisex in our dressing."



Instagram, @jacobelordi

Jacob Elordi covered Man About Town 2021, wearing feminine articles of clothing including dangling earrings and a corset top.

Arts & Entertainment

Three Is A Magic Number

BY CODI LYNDERS
Staff Writer

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) welcomed a new addition to its superhero franchise with "Spider-Man: No Way Home" directed by Jon Watts. The third movie in the series premiered in theaters on Dec. 17, 2021 featuring Tom Holland as Peter Parker.

After his identity was revealed in the last movie, "Spider-Man: Far From Home," Parker turns to Doctor Strange to help make the world forget who is behind the mask. Misfortune strikes, however, and the "multiverse" is destroyed, bringing back villains unfamiliar to the MCU.

With a lull in recent movie releases and the overwhelming support of Marvel fans even before its release, "Spider-Man: No Way Home" has topped box office numbers with Variety calling it "the box office juggernaut that can't be caught."

Forbes reported the movie's domestic income was an impressive \$736.5 million after its seventh week and, as of Jan. 30, it is "the fourth-biggest domestic come ever, behind 'Avatar' (\$760 million), 'Avengers: Endgame' (\$858 million) and 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens.'"

"One of the reasons I went to see 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' when it came out was because of the hype on social media with possible crossovers and Tom Holland reprising his role," said junior Noah Vargoshe.

However, Holland's version of the nerdy web-slinging high schooler turned friendly neighborhood superhero is not the only Spider-Man to be seen on the silver screen.

Tobey Maguire first gave life to this Stan Lee comic book character in May 2002 with the release of "Spider-Man" directed by Sam Raimi. Andrew Garfield took up the role in July 2012 with two reboot films known as "The Amazing Spider-Man" directed by Marc Webb. Both versions saw a high school student gain spider-like abilities after getting bitten by a genetically modified spider.

With the release of multiple films about the same superhero, disagreement about which actor and series reigns supreme is expected.



Twitter, @getFANDOM
Tom Holland, Andrew Garfield, and Tobey Maguire unite their Spider-Man characters.

"Maguire plays a good Spider-Man, Garfield plays a good Peter Parker, and Holland is able to play a mix of both," said Vargoshe.

However, some members of the Sacred Heart University community believe this debate is being blown out of proportion.

"I don't think this debate was as heated after the remake of the first film because there are those who, like myself, were late to the game and had never seen a Spider-Man film prior to the Andrew Garfield remake or



Twitter, @getFANDOM
The cover Spider-Man: No Way Home starring Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Zendaya

Twitter, @PhaseZeroCB
Tobey Maguire as Spider-Man

knew a whole lot about the character of Peter Parker," said Film Club President, senior Luke Mallory.

"On the other hand, I think no one was particularly heated in debate following the first remake because the Sam Raimi trilogy with Tobey Maguire was seen to be this 'holy grail' of cinematic excellence for its time," said Mallory.

If what Mallory says holds true, then is there really any problem with having multiple versions of the same character and storyline?

Prof. Brian Hogan, program coordinator for the Film & Television Master's Program (FTMA), does not seem to think so.

"When it is an adaptation, no matter how you slice it, there is no reason there cannot be more than one way interpret and adapt the work. Look how many times and ways we've adapted Sherlock Holmes, some better than others, but all a worthy artistic pursuit for the creator of that remake or sequel," says Hogan.

It seems that even if fans have their preference over which Spider-Man they prefer, there is enough room in the film industry for multiple actors and movie adaptations of this classic comic.

Even "Spider-Man" director Sam Raimi told Variety that watching "Spider-Man: No Way Home" was "so much fun" and "refreshing."



Twitter, @bvlads
Andrew Garfield on set as Spider-Man.

From the Comfort of Your Own Home

BY STEPHANIE PATELLA
Staff Writer

The 2022 Sundance Film Festival was one of the latest events to turn virtual due to the recent surge of Covid-19 cases around the country. This festival has been held in Utah since 1978 recognizing both American and international independent films.

In a statement released in January, Sundance said, "Our Sundance spirit is in making something work against the odds. But with case numbers forecasted to peak in our host community the week of the festival we cannot knowingly put our staff and community at risk."

Todd Barnes, professor in the School of Communication, Media, and the Arts (SCMA), wrote and directed a film entitled "The Locksmith" (originally "Homewrecker") that was honored at the 2010 festival.

"I got to give a speech on stage. And I keep the trophy in my office to this day. It was a completely delightful experience for me personally," said Barnes.

Even though he was in attendance during a pre-pandemic style festival, Barnes had some mixed feelings about the whole ordeal.

"I can also see how silly the whole thing was. I must admit, I only cared about my own category and left after the announcement," said Barnes.

In addition to film, the music industry has faced some setbacks. The Grammy Awards have now been postponed for the second year in a row due to the pandemic.

The 2021 Grammy Award show, originally set for January, was held in person at the Los Angeles Convention Center on March 14, 2021. Likewise, the 2022 show has been postponed to April 3.

"I feel like postponing it a few months has little to no effect long term. If anything, changing the date of the Grammys would only make consistent audience viewers less



Pexels
Woman with her eyes glued to the TV in anticipation.

interested," said sophomore Kayla Goncalves.

Other award shows have experienced the same Covid-related postponements. The Oscars were pushed from Feb. 27 to March 27, and the CMT Awards from April 3 to an unannounced date.

Many award show fans still crave in-person shows.

"I think the best part is being able to get on a stage and thank everyone you love. And you are so proud of what you accomplished that you just want to show it off," said sophomore Emily Williams.

The shiny trophy is not the only thing celebrities get to show off. A huge element of in-person shows consist of the red-carpet premiere. Stars dress to impress as they strut past flashing cameras, reporters and fans.

Fashion for celebrities at these award shows have looked a little different since the pandemic. With many opting to go virtual, there is less urgency for glammed out wardrobes and accessories.

In an interview with Vogue Magazine, designer Micaela Erlanger said, "Typically, we would be prepping months in advance, working with couture collections or with custom designs, and flying all over the world for fittings. This year, however, that is not the case."

The absence of fashion in pandemic-style shows can certainly dim the interest of viewers.

"In these virtual shows, celebrities are seen from the chest up. So, I don't think that they would be wearing the same outfits to the red carpet as they would to sit on their couch," said sophomore Jenna Seggio.

While the public can look forward to more in-person award shows in the coming months, no one can predict the future of the next few years given the continued uncertainty of the pandemic.

"I don't think it's going to go one way or another. I think it's going to go back and forth for a while. Just look at how many things have changed in the past two years. I mean, anything is possible," said sophomore Hannah Mance.

Sports

Fourteen Pioneers Honored at Senior Day

BY BRENDAN CAPOZZI
Staff Writer



Instagram, @sacredheartwrestling
The Men's Wrestling program poses for a post-practice

"It was great because we had 14 seniors that were honored," said Clark. "It was great to see the amount of people come and watch the match."

One of the three winners of the day for Sacred Heart was senior Nick Palumbo. Palumbo pinned senior Christian Dailey to secure his second win in three matches.

"It helped that the match was at home, and it was senior night which helped me feed off the energy from the crowd," said Palumbo.

Senior Anthony Petrillo acknowledged that his role as a senior and upperclassman is not just to wrestle, but also to be a mentor and leader to younger athletes on the team as well.

On Jan. 30, the Sacred Heart men's wrestling team held their senior day at the Pitt Center before taking on Franklin and Marshall College in their fourth dual meet of the season. Each of the 14 seniors that were honored received a framed red singlet as a reminder of the dedication they have put into the team.

The Pitt Center was filled with fans and fellow teammates all in support of the senior Pioneers. This atmosphere of support for the program is what Coach John Clark has been working on since he came to Fairfield in 2017.

"I think having these types of leaders like us and other individuals on the team lead them on the right path," said Petrillo. "We want them to realize that they should make the best decisions for themselves."

From a recruiting standpoint, the men's wrestling program has expanded exponentially as the team has brought in over 30 new members in this past year. Senior Connor Rossi has been witness to the growth of the team since joining, and he is optimistic that it will only continue to grow after he hangs up his singlet.

"We have all been here for four years, and we are always going to be Pioneers at heart," said Rossi. "We just want to come back and look at the legacy that we left behind."

If there is one element of the team that will stay close to the seniors' hearts, it would be the wisdom brought to them by their head coach. Clark has been a mentor not only from a wrestling standpoint, but in all aspects of life.

"His love for wrestling really rubbed off on all of us, and when I first got here from Buffalo, I did not enjoy wrestling as much," said Palumbo. "However, spending time with the coach and his love for wrestling made me fall back in love with the sport."

The Pioneers will continue their campaign on Feb. 6 in Bloomsburg, Pa. as they face off against Bloomsburg University. The following week Sacred Heart will compete against Hofstra University on Feb. 12 in search of their first conference win of the year.

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



Instagram, @sacredheartwrestling
One of SHU's wrestlers dominating during a match.

Women's Tennis Servin' It Up

BY JENNA LETIZIA
Staff Writer



Contributed by Ciara O'Toole
Ciara O'Toole during her match.

"Losses help us adjust, find new strengths, try new tactics, become more determined and that's exactly how we become better tennis players," said junior Ciara O'Toole. "We now know what to expect and the level of play within the NEC teams."

O'Toole and sophomore Katsiaryna Starastsenka put together a 2-1 record in doubles play this past fall with victories over Monmouth University and The College of Holy Cross.

"I really enjoy playing doubles with Ciara and I think that the most prominent aspect that has led to our success in doubles play is the atmosphere that we create," said Starastsenka. "Since none of us feel pressure of being judged, it lets us take pleasure in our game and go for our best shots."

The return of Coach Mike Guastelle will also be a factor in the team's ability this spring

The spring semester is here, which means the Sacred Heart women's tennis team is back in action as they begin their spring play with a 1-2 record thus far. Their first win of 2022 was against Binghamton University on Jan. 28.

Last season, Sacred Heart finished as the number three seed heading into the Northeast Conference (NEC) championships, but number six seed Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) pulled off a first round upset over the Pioneers. This coming spring, the team is using this loss as motivation to come back stronger.

season.

Following a four-year hiatus, Guastelle returned to the women's program as interim head coach in the fall. He was the longtime head coach of both men's and women's programs until 2017. Guastelle resumed full-time head coaching duties this spring.

"I really missed the day-to-day interaction with the tennis student-athletes the last four plus years," said Guastelle. "I am looking forward to leading the team this year."

Guastelle started the tennis programs at Sacred Heart in 1994. He served as head coach for the men's program through the 2005 season and continued as head coach for the women's program until 2017. Over those years, Guastelle amassed 262 total wins between both programs.

One of the biggest challenges Guastelle faces as he transitions back into a full-time head coaching job is building relationships with his players. Many of his players were not on the team the last time Guastelle coached. The previous head coach recruited most of them.

"I need to build a personal and coaching relationship with those younger players on our team," said Guastelle. "They need to learn what I am all about as a person and a coach, and I need to find out what their goals are and how to most effectively coach and communicate with them."

It will be a busy spring for the Pioneers as they have 17 matches slated in the upcoming three months, including head-to-head bouts with Harvard University, University of Connecticut, and the University of Rhode Island. Their in-conference matches will begin Feb. 18 with a home match against the defending NEC champions, Long Island University (LIU).

"My main expectation is that we put forth a great effort each day at practice and show improvement throughout the semester," said Guastelle. "I think we have enough talent to challenge for an NEC title this year."

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



Contributed by Ciara O'Toole
The Women's Tennis Team.

Men's Volleyball Comes in as Underdogs this Season

BY ALLY BOTTO
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart men's volleyball team has begun their final season in the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (EIVA) 3-0, winning three consecutive games for the first time since the start of the 2020 season. They will switch to the Northeast Conference (NEC) next season.

They ended with a 1-19 record last year and were projected to finish last in the conference this year, according to the EIVA Volleyball preseason poll. This will make them underdogs in their conference but head coach Bob Bertucci is hopeful that his team will outperform expectations this season.

"Our goals range from having a .500 record in overall league and conference play, to qualifying for the playoffs," said Bertucci. "Every one of our players has a role and now must focus on their execution and contribution."

Sophomore outside hitter Patrick Mucherino maintains a major role in the team. In the first three games, he has had a combined 38 kills and 7 blocks. His 38 kills are the most on the team, and his .500 hitting percentage is top in the conference.

"We are a completely different team coming into this season. We have been taunted because of our skills and our record, but with the strong start we are having, we plan on proving everyone wrong," Mucherino said. "We need to focus on one game at a time and not get ahead of ourselves just yet."

Senior outside hitter Ife Loverton is another key performer for the team. He has totaled 21 kills and 13 blocks in the first three games - those 13 blocks good enough for the team lead. His blocks per set mark of 1.18 is also the best in the EIVA.

"Our team is much more cohesive than it has been in previous years, which is going to help us work better together, especially on the court," said Loverton. "I want to

be on an All-Conference team this year. With my work ethic and our team success, I feel that we can accomplish that and become a powerhouse team in the NEC."

Only the top six teams qualify for the conference tournament at the end of the season. The Pioneers have not qualified for the tournament since the 2017 season. This will be their last chance to do so as members of the EIVA. Their next game will be played at the Pitt Center on Friday, Feb. 11 when they begin conference play against Saint Francis University (SFU).

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



Ife Loverton helping to lead his team.

Sacred Heart University

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Life is Better With A Dog

JACQUELINE CHAMPOUX
ASSISTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS
MANAGER

If you had walked into my house 2 years ago, you would immediately be able to tell we don't have a dog...and we never have. I always think about how my childhood would have been different growing up with a furry friend.

My brother, Michael, has always begged for a dog. There was a void in his heart that he has been wanting to fill for years because he has so much love to give. Michael was sure that a puppy would benefit his life, and truly all of our lives.

I am very close with my family, they are my best friends. We love animals, but for some reason my parents have always been against pets! It could be the shedding, or the slight allergy my dad has, or the amount of money, time and attention a dog requires. It just never seemed realistic for the Champoux family to have a dog.

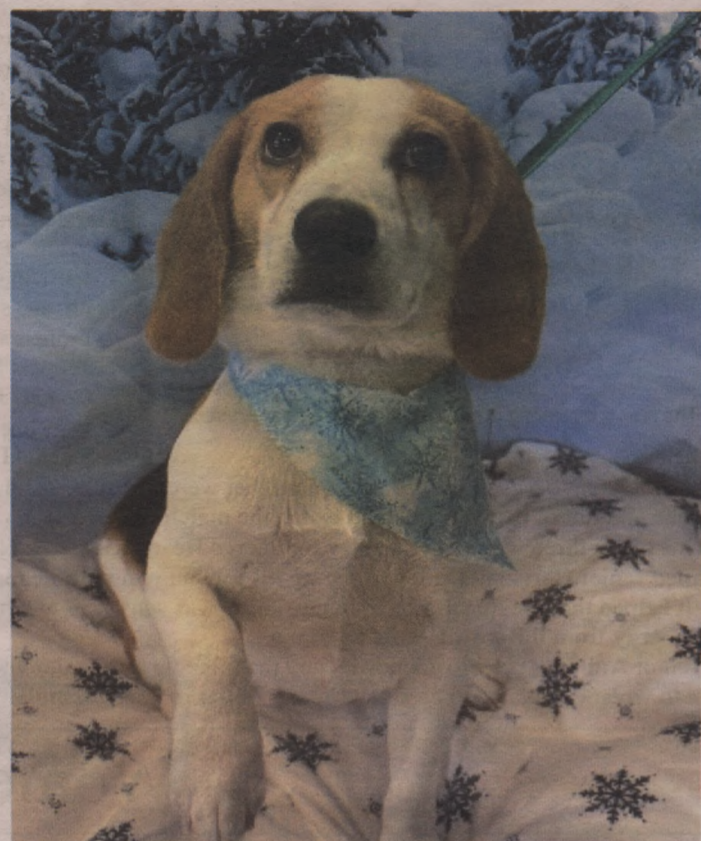
Last February, my brother was very adamant about having a doggie roommate. I was preparing to go back to school for the spring semester when my parents came to me to tell me the most exciting and surreal news I have ever heard. They told me that they APPROVED my brother's request for a puppy. Two weeks later, four-week-old Mac the beagle was moving in.

We took this baby in and the whole dynamic of my household changed. I am now Auntie, my mom is Grandma, and my dad is called Papa. Currently when you walk into my house, you will see Mac's fur, you will see his water bowl, you will see stuffing from a toy that he ripped apart. But we love this new, fast-paced lifestyle.

His floppy ears are so soft and his little smile is so sweet. He can do cool tricks like 'paw' and 'spin' and it blows me away every time. We spoil Mac with love, treats, toys, blankets, really anything he wants. During winter break, the best part of my days were taking Mac on walks and running around in our backyard together.

Mac turned one in November on the same day as his Papa, and my family had so much fun planning this day. It was then I knew that dogs can heal.

There is something about picking Mac up and squeezing him tight to my chest that sends all anxieties away. My brother also became more grounded and focused when Mac came into our lives. We are still baffled that our parents let this happen, but no regrets.



The joy this little beagle brings to my family is unmatched to anything we've felt before. My brother is Charlie Brown and Mac is his Snoopy. Sometimes, we legitimately just stare at him because he is such a perfect puppy. Watching him grow and learn is extremely rewarding, because he pays me back with love and kisses every day.

Life is just better with a dog.

100 Days Until the Rest of our Lives

DEANNA REINHARDT
MANAGING EDITOR -BUSINESS

Last Thursday felt pretty much like every other Thursday before it. Generally speaking, that's how most Thursdays are —unremarkable, except for the anticipation of the much-needed break that the upcoming weekend promises to deliver. Nevertheless, despite having to endure the rigors of a hectic schedule, surprisingly, the weekends roll around rather quickly. I've often caught myself thinking, "Wow, it's Thursday already?" They sneak up on you, and this past one was no different. In fact, it really caught me by surprise and for reasons, quite frankly, I didn't see coming!

I was winding down the hustle and bustle of yet another long work week, when I was taken aback by an influx of social media posts announcing that for the Sacred Heart University class of 2022 there were officially just 100 days until graduation! I've got to say, it made me take a pause. Suddenly, I felt time slipping through my hands and I wanted to tap on the brakes. I guess my fellow classmates felt the same.

That evening, seniors seemingly dropped whatever plans they had and congregated at 'Red's' to toast not only the memories we shared these past four years, but to acknowledge our final 100 days as Pioneers. Honestly, it was bittersweet.

The stark realization of where we actually were on the timeline of our college experience really hit hard that night. I couldn't help but think how significant it was that we should gather on a 'Thursday' —most of the work now behind us, along with most of the memories.

With our heads down and noses to the grindstone, the days and, hence, the years have flown. Already, it's a proverbial Thursday.

It's that same feeling when you are so close to the weekend you can taste it, and although you still have a few hurdles to get through before you can celebrate, you're well on your way to that finish line.

And so, we start to anticipate the reprieve of the weekend, or in this case, the culmination of those irreplaceable moments and valuable experiences that made up our last four years —the ones that tell the world we've accomplished what we came here to do.

100 days until we exhale and revel in our accomplishments proudly receiving our hard-earned diplomas. And then, for a short while, we can bask in the glow of graduation Saturday. Yet, just like any ordinary weekend, it too will pass quickly essentially paving the way for the new 'week ahead' —and whatever new challenges and opportunities that may bring.

It's a melancholy feeling, but it's wrapped in so much hope for what is to come.

In one hundred days we, as a collective, will close one door and open another. And behind this next door lies the rest of our lives. So, as a fellow graduate of the class of 2022, I guess all I can say is that I hope we all make the most of each of these last hundred days; cherish them —because before you know it, it'll be Thursday again...



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