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Saint Mary's College of California

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The Collegian

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Plumb: Done. Time for President Thirty-one



President Plumb pictured at his inauguration, April, 2022.
(Image Courtesy of stmarys.edu)

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
Editor-in-Chief

Two years into Saint Mary's thirtieth presidency, and it is time for another one. Just one short year after his campus-wide inauguration, Saint Mary's President Richard Plumb announced that he would be stepping down from his role.

On March 30th, Plumb sent an email titled "My Departure" to the campus community. In this email, he said that after a discussion with his family and the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees, he had decided to step down.

He credits his proudest accomplishments in his role as president as; establishing a new senior leadership team, helping to guide the school through the coronavirus pandemic, working with facilities and the board of trustees to modernize the buildings and grounds, working with Enrollment Management to increase applications for the 2023-24 school year, and collaborating with the Faculty Senate to increase communication between faculty and staff.

Some Saint Mary's community members have expressed a desire for the school to include more diversity initiatives in the search for a new president.

Plumb declined to comment on the search or efforts to recruit a successor. Santa Clara University, a similar private Catholic college inaugurated its first female layperson as President last year. A 2017 National Catholic Recorder article, found that at the time, out of the 220 Catholic colleges in the U.S., 46 had female lay presidents, a 137 percent increase since 2000, with male lay leadership increasing 38 percent over the same time period.

According to the Saint Mary's website, the Board of Trustees will

... Article continued on page 3.

A Farewell From The Editors

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz and Ryan Ford
Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief

To the Saint Mary's Community, We are so honored to have had the opportunity to take the helm of this incredible publication. The Collegian has been a staple of Saint Mary's student life for almost 120 years, and it was truly a privilege to be able to shape some part of this great legacy.

Our time with The Collegian has been a challenging and rewarding experience. Navigating student journalism in a pandemic, and through school scandals, censorship, and a societal shift to digital

news has provided us with numerous opportunities for learning and growth. After surviving the past four years, we are confident this publication is here to stay!

The Collegian has been an incredible space for personal growth and career development. There is no better way to learn the ropes of the journalism industry than to be thrust straight into it and learn to navigate running a paper along with your peers. The experience we have gained in this newsroom has been truly invaluable. Later in our careers (hopefully both in journalism!), we will definitely look back fondly at our fulfilling, fun, and often-

times chaotic years with this publication.

We are so grateful for the continued support of SIL, the Communication department, the SMC administration, and our readers on and off campus. A special thanks to our advisor Nolan Higdon. Having a seasoned journalist like him guide us was indispensable. We look forward to reading The Collegian for decades to come, and wish Madison Sciba and Lillian La Salle the best of luck as they take over the leadership of this incredible paper. We hope you like this issue, and we are thrilled to see our names and articles in print one last time!

Note from Kiera:

As an aspiring journalist, working with The Collegian the past three and a half years has been incredible. I am endlessly grateful to have had the opportunity to lead this publication. In my time writing for The Collegian, I hope I was able to bring some attention to the issues facing the SMC community. Whether you loved or hated my articles, thanks for reading them!

Note from Ryan:

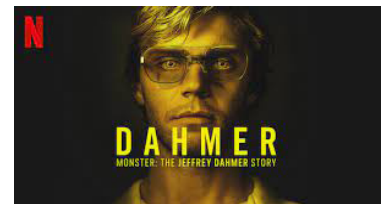
I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to serve as Co-Editor-in-Chief at The Collegian this past year. After joining as a sports writer last year, The Collegian helped me realize my passion for journalism. Thank you to everyone who read any of our articles over the past two years, I will always look back on my time at The Collegian with the fondest of memories.

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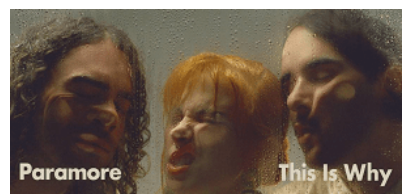
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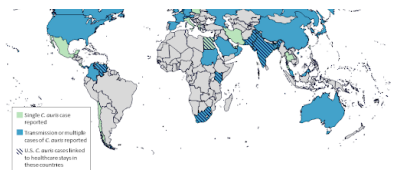
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The Collegian

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Faculty Advisor



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“To act upon one’s conviction while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn’t available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice-”
-Ted Turner

Meet the 2022-23 Staff!



Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
Editor-in-Chief
Senior, Communication Major
Favorite Collegian memory: Meeting Mahershala Ali last year!
Post-grad plan: Work in journalism



Ryan Ford
Editor-in-Chief
Senior, Communication/ Music Major
Favorite Collegian memory: My very first print article! I gave it to my family!
Post-grad plan: Work in sports-journalism



Madison Sciba
Associate Editor
Junior, Communication Major
Favorite article: True Crime



Lillian LaSalle
Culture Section Editor
Freshman, JCL/ TRS Major
Favorite Collegian memory: Working with the other writers!



Brooke Haggarty
Opinion Columnist
Senior, Women & Gender Studies Major
Favorite Collegian memory: Finding friends and community
Post-grad plan: Gap-year and Law School



Andrew Martinez Cabrera
Culture Columnist
Sophomore, JCL Major
Favorite article: Asian representation in Hollywood



Julian Villegas
Culture Columnist
Senior, Communication Major
Post-grad plan: Escape Room Game Master



Remy Zerber
Culture Columnist
Senior, Communication Major
Post-grad plan: Starting a company with my mom and sister



Joshua Suhaimi
News Reporter
Senior, Psychology Major
Favorite Collegian memory: Club Fair
Post-grad plans: Travel



Ryan Ford
News Reporter
Junior, Politics Major
Favorite Collegian memory: Exploring all the events on campus.



Vivian Hill
Sports Reporter



NEWS

Student Spotlight: TK and her Candles

By Madison Sciba
Associate Editor

What started off as a way to make money during quarantine is now a successful small business. Graduate student and softball player, Taylor Keinath, or TK as she prefers to be called, created her small candle business, TK's Candles, in her apartment in April 2020. Being a one-woman show, Keinath makes the candles, runs the website, and ships out the products all herself.

Taking us through the process of running her business, Keinath describes what she does once an order is placed through her website. "Once I get the order I print it out so I have a list of what it is that I need to pack." She explains, "The candles are already made so I go to where I have them on my shelf, take one of those, wrap it up in a cute honey-comb wrap and add a bow. Then I place it in a box with a thank you card and a TK's Candles matchbox." Keinath makes all of the products herself, making them in bulk batches so they are ready to ship once she gets an order.

In describing her goals for her business, Keinath explains her desire to expand her audience on social media, especially on Instagram and TikTok (links below). She currently sells her products at farmers markets but wishes to attend more markets and fairs to expand her reach. Increasing her website traffic and trying to get her candles in stores are also top priorities for Keinath and her business.

"My end goal is to hopefully open up a storefront," Keinath says, "I plan on expanding past



candles, probably soaps and fragrance sprays as well."

Keinath is currently a PMBA candidate studying Business Administration and Management at SMC. As a full-time student and athlete, she says that time management is an essential part of balancing school, practices, and running a small business. "Time management is just a skill that I have now," She explains, "My business is a passion that I have outside of my sport and something that I enjoy when I have free time. It gives me some piece of mind. It is a hobby and a business."

She hopes that her story and her experience as a student-athlete and a small business owner can empower other women who wish to start their own small businesses and follow their dreams.

(Image Courtesy of TK's Candles)

announce its Interim President in the near future. The Board says it "plans to launch a national search for the College's next President and form a search committee that will include trustees, Christian Brothers, faculty, staff, and student advisors."

In a statement on the college communications website, Chair of the Board of Trustees Eric Flowers praised Plumb for his leadership during the pandemic saying, "While higher education struggled through a pandemic that took a toll on faculty and students, we're grateful that President Plumb guided the College in substantive ways." Flowers went on to wish both Plumb and his wife Mary, the best in the new chapter of their lives.

Plumb became the 30th president of Saint Mary's College in July 2021. He previously served as executive vice president and provost at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota and nine years as a dean at Loyola Marymount. Before his role as an administrator, Plumb was a professor of engineering and Computer science.

President Plumb will be stepping down as President of the College on June 30, 2023. Reflecting on his time as President, he describes the two years as some of the most enriching and rewarding experiences of his life. He also expressed gratitude for the community he found on campus, saying simply, "I feel deeply indebted to so many of you for making my and Mary's time at Saint Mary's full of joy and love."

Plumb: Done. continued from front page.

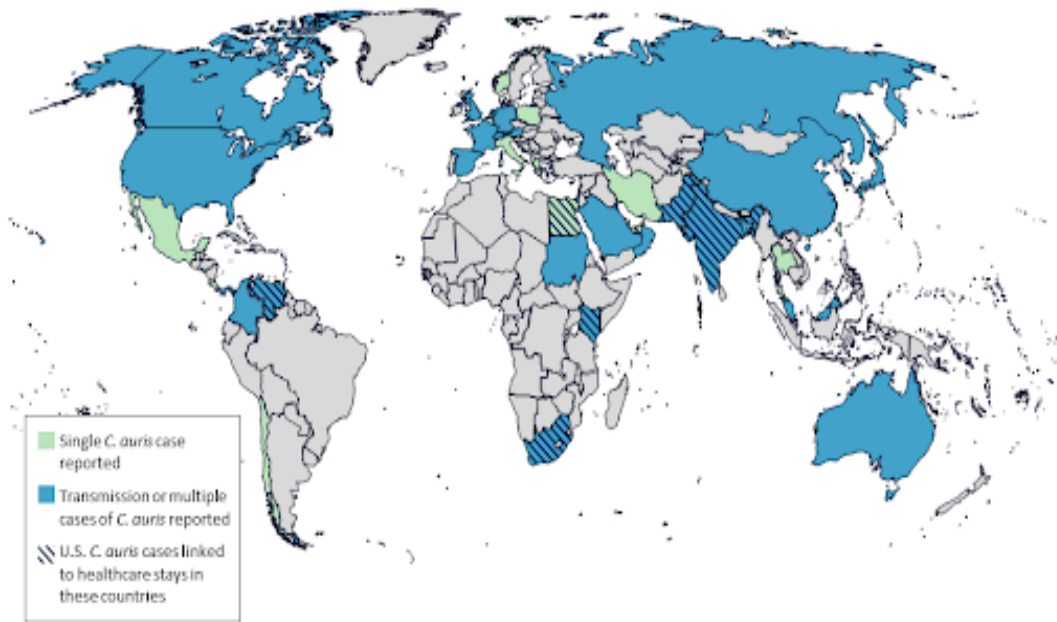
Candida Auris: The Next Pandemic?

By Jenevieve Monroe
News Reporter

In March, the Centers for Disease Control released a statement concerning an emerging fungus described to be a "serious global health threat." Known as *Candida auris* or *C. auris*, the fungus is reported to be multidrug-resistant, highly infectious, and difficult to test for in standard laboratories. *C. auris* is a yeast that doesn't always cause symptoms; however, the fungus can lead to blood infections, wound infections, and ear infections in patients with weak immune systems.

In less than a year, infections of this yeast have nearly doubled across the United States (CDC). The CDC has documented a mortality rate in the U.S. to be between 30 to 60 percent in many immunocompromised patients. Similar rates have been documented on a global level. According to Ronald Rhodes, a clinical laboratory science professor at Texas State University, the fungus has spread to over 30 different countries. The European Center for Disease Control has been monitoring their cases closely; over the span of 2013 to 2022, they have conducted several surveys to determine the control efforts and preparedness of their healthcare facilities. The study showed that *C. auris* has been

steadily increasing in the EU/EEA since 2020, leaving many health facilities unprepared in controlling outbreaks. Germany and Denmark were countries that opposed this trend and were able



(Image Courtesy The CDC)

to detain the fungus from further transmission. Overall, the study emphasizes a need for continued research on antimicrobial transmissions and multidrug-resistant fungal infections.

The transmission rates of *C. auris* have alarmed many global health agencies. As we still experience the COVID-19 Pandemic, international economies are shifting their fear toward a potential new threat. Germany's largest bank, Deutsche Bank, dropped in shares by 11 percent in March (WSJ). The credit portfolio manager of Deutsche Bank commented on the sudden withdrawal of

investors, saying "People want to avoid anything that could come under focus." The Wall Street Journal has speculated that the German stock market has stumbled due to global contagion fears. Since Deutsche Bank is vital to both Wall Street and the global economy, investors are left wondering whether their investments are safe anymore.

According to the International Monetary Fund, some key warning signs that an epidemic may negatively impact an economy are the disruption of product and supply chains, the decline in consumer spending and investment, the increase in healthcare costs, and the disruption of financial markets. One example of this disruption was during the SARs outbreak; stock markets in countries affected by the virus experienced significant declines "due to fears of the economic impact" (IMF).

Although concerns are being voiced across the United States, statistics on local medical cases are limited. The Saint Mary's Health and Wellness Center has yet to report on the emerging pathogen, but ABC 7 Bay Area news reporter Mary Kekatos has covered some key points regarding the spread. According to Kekatos, "There's not much that can be done on an individual level to stop the spread of the fungus, but the experts recommend avoiding patients with *C. auris* infections and that people practice proper hand hygiene when visiting at-risk populations."

CULTURE

Plan your visit to the CWAC Center!

Located on the bottom floor of De Lasalle 110.

By Lillian La Salle

Culture Section Editor

What is CWAC? Have you ever been to CWAC? And no, it is not just the fabulous sound a duck can make, but one of the most important educational resources on Saint Mary’s campus. CWAC, the Center of Writing Across Curriculum, is for all students and is open to everyone for assistance on any subject for any assignment at any stage of the writing process. This center has a distinctive writing method called post-outlining that teaches student writers how to write for life, not just for their upcoming assignments. CWAC’s writing advisors are equipped to assist writers in taking agency and pride in their work. Dr. Joe Zeccardi, Director of CWAC, describes this method used by all writing advisors as the magic that makes CWAC work the way it does. What is post-outlining? This reliable method used by CWAC, post-outlining, is what guides writers and allows writing advisors to help all students, no matter their skill set or subject. Post-outlining is used by the writing advisors in CWAC to help students think about their writing. This process creates a space for the author to revise their writing and collaborate with a peer advisor to form new ideas, while confirming with the advisor that they are getting their points across. For post-outlining, authors will read their papers out loud, highlight their key ideas and how they function in the paper, and make sure their paragraphs all support the



May 13, 2016 Gerard Serrano (SMC College Communications)

main goal of the essay. How does this work? Post-outlining deals with the structure of the text and how it supports the author’s overall purpose. Advisors have their students begin by reading aloud and then selecting their main ideas and phrases in each paragraph. Reading aloud helps the writer’s process their ideas and identify what they want to focus on in their papers. The peer advisor will then give the writer space to look over their paragraphs to consider how they contribute to the function of the paper. The advisor will then tell the writer what they understood from the writing and see if it lines up with the author’s intentions. Finally, the writer will look at how their key phrases and sentences function in the piece as a whole. Do the author’s thoughts support their overall goal for the paper? After the post-outlining process, the CWAC advisor’s understanding should match up with what the writer wants to demonstrate

in their paper. “The whole process is a collaboration”, describes Professor Zeccardi, “and the advisor aims to engage the author as a peer reader, not as an editor of their work, or another author. Magic happens here during post-outlining. We practice this method, and unexpected things happen.” What’s the purpose of CWAC on Campus? Well, the purpose of a writing center might seem self-explanatory, to create better writers, and that is exactly what CWAC aims to do. CWAC focuses on how the writer can articulate their ideas more clearly to their audience, and this in turn makes better writers. Professor Zeccardi describes the purpose of the center as support for students by students. He appreciates CWAC for being the organization most synonymous with the values of St. Mary’s Lasallian Service because students are wholeheartedly helping other students strive for their potential as writers.

Harry Potter TV Show Reboot

A Controversial Topic

By Remy Zerber

Culture Columnist

The Harry Potter Special pHBO Max just announced that they are rebooting the Harry Potter franchise and making a TV show. This announcement was made on April 12 with a video posted on their Youtube channel. HBO also announced that they are doing a rebrand and calling themselves Max. People have many opinions on the show, especially on the casting of it. Although the characters have not been casted yet because Max just announced the reboot, people already have opinions on the casting and idea of a reboot. People don’t think anyone can replace the original actors who played Harry, Ron and Hermione (Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson) in the original movies. Although I love the original three actors, I think they should focus on making the new cast as book accurate as possible. That way the reboot won’t be compared to the original eight movies. The original actors aren’t getting any younger so they can’t come back and play kids again. I would love for them to play other roles like the parents of their original characters. Having the old Harry Potter actors come back

would increase the likelihood of old Harry Potter fans watching because it would increase the nostalgia for them. Tom Felton, the actor who played Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter movies, said he would love to come back in the reboot and I think he should play Lucius Malfoy. He is much closer in age to Lucius Malfoy now and if he were cast as the father of his original character, he would be a series regular which would be really nostalgic for Harry Potter fans. I think Ralph Fiennes should play Voldemort again. He has said he would be disappointed if he didn’t get asked to come back, especially since his performance in the original movies was really good. Harry Potter fans would be excited



(Image Courtesy HBO Max)

to see him come back, especially after seeing his performance in the original movies. People clearly care a lot about the casting of the reboot because they want it to be perfect. Many people have strong opinions on the reboot, especially the trans community as J.K. Rowling is involved. The trans community started a war on Twitter where they attacked the controversial author. Alex Paez on Twitter wrote, “I am a Mexican and I do not support transphobic trash like J. K. Rowling.” The trans community is trying to organize a boycott of the new Harry Potter show, and in response J. K. Rowling tweeted that she doesn’t care what they think. Rowling tweeted, “Dreadful news, which I feel duty bound to share. Activists in my mentions are trying to organize yet another boycott of my work, this time of the Harry Potter TV show. As forewarned is forearmed, I’ve taken the precaution of laying in a large stock of champagne.” Many people, especially the trans community, are angry about the Harry Potter reboot because JK Rowling is going to be involved. They are mad at her because she has said some transphobic things in the past. Some people want to boycott the show but she doesn’t care. Max and JK Rowling are still going to make the show even though there is controversy.

Give a Second Chance to Fifty Fifty

By Julian Villegas

Culture Columnist

“I gave a second chance to Cupid.” Is an infectious hook to an already catchy song sure to get stuck in your head. “Cupid”, by the group Fifty Fifty, was released on February 24th, 2023. Upon release, they created 2 different versions of the song. The original version, which is sung in both Korean and English by all members of the group, and the Twin version, which is sung all in English by 2 of the members (Sio and Aran).

Since release, this song (more specifically the Twin version) has blown up in popularity due to it becoming a one of the most used audios on Tik Tok. One of the more common uses of the song is when it’s paired with a clip of John Cena dancing with headphones on. Since then, it’s spread to other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. Due to its recent popularity, “Cupid”, has charted on the Billboard Hot 100 in the past several weeks and is steadily rising higher and higher.

But who is Fifty Fifty?

Fifty Fifty is a Kpop group that debuted on November 18, 2022. Their 4 person lineup consists of members: Saena, Sio, Aran, and Keena. A lot of Kpop groups that get really popular in the West such as Blackpink or Twice tend to come from bigger companies who have the money and materials to help them make it big. It’s not the same when it comes to Fifty Fifty who debuted under ATTRAKT, a small company which currently only has 1 Artist to their name...Fifty Fifty. Due to the company’s small size and reputation, they experienced more hardships in the beginning such as the CEO having to sell his own car in order to fund their debut. But now, with more eyes on them due to the success of “Cupid,” things could be finally looking up for Fifty Fifty. And with them charting on Billboard, they officially became the fastest group to chart on the Billboard Hot 100.

Personally, I really like Fifty Fifty, and if you’re a fan of “Cupid” , I would highly recommend checking their other music out. They released a mini album titled “The Fifty” as their debut album back in November of last year which featured 4 other tracks. I’d say all of those songs are worth a listen to, but in my personal opinion the best songs are “Tell Me” and “Higher.”



(Image Courtesy Genius)

CULTURE

Paramore is back after 6 years!

And Their New Album is Here to Tell You Why

By Molly Baziuk
Culture Columnist



(Image Courtesy Spotify)

Paramore’s most recent album *This is Why* is the band’s big comeback after a 6 year hiatus and two solo albums from the band’s lead singer, Hayley Williams. So the question is: did the new album make the cut?

This is Why seems to be exactly what today’s youth needs if they’re looking for an angsty way to kickstart 2023. It’s true, punk is back and Paramore has delivered. While the album isn’t perfect by any means, you can be sure there is plenty of that classic Paramore punk sound sprinkled with the typical daring vocals of Hayley Williams.

This is Why is clearly different

from other Paramore albums, but has taken inspiration from their previous works reminiscent of their 2007 album *Riot!* and self titled 2013 album, *Paramore*. The one thing that seems to set it apart from the other albums is the maturity felt from the band who started when Williams was just 16 years old. With a now 34 year old lead singer, things are going to sound different. In general, the album is a bit more grounded in its sound. This can be construed as both a positive and negative aspect of the album as one of Paramore’s notable qualities is Williams’ manic vocal technique. The grounding of the album sees Williams’ voice on the backburner with more focus on the music’s complicated and creative instrumentation. The change has caused a degree of backlash towards the band with reviewers stating Williams had “monotone” of “boring” vocals in several songs. What it really comes down to is the fact that the band has matured and is digging into more serious and grounded topics causing less need for the flippant vocals that once defined their sound.

With topics ranging from current world crises to existentialism and presence, the band has delved deeper lyrically than ever

before. This is not to say there aren’t lyrical mistakes. In the second track “The News,” Williams is almost too direct with lyrics talking about war and technology topics that have been echoed far too much by other artists especially since 2020. It becomes a bit unoriginal, but not to Williams’ fault, the world is clearly in crisis and it should be sung about, just maybe with a bit more tact. On the other hand, their fourth track “C’est Comme Ça” seems to sprinkle in more original ideas with lyrics depicting social angst and aging. At one point in the song, Williams describes her social life as a “chiropractic appointment.” This felt fresh, and the spoken verses gave off an almost Talking Heads-esque feel to the song. On their penultimate track, “Crave,” lyrics depict an existential angst that is all too relatable to listeners. It speaks authentically about what it means to desire true presence and the pain of being stuck in the past. The complicated ideas of the track really make it feel very original and emotional.

Instrument-wise, there are some serious show stoppers on the album with guitarist Taylor York and drummer Zac Farrow really showing creative direction. When it comes to most creative instrumentally and vocally, the three star tracks on the album have to be the titular track, “This

is Why,” and their sixth and seventh tracks “You First” and “Figure 8.” “This is Why” is the band’s first single and is conveniently placed as the first track on the album. It sets the scenery for what the rest of the album will express, the fear of leaving one’s comfort zone and trying to manage life in a world full of fear and noise. The lyrics coupled with a surprising alt-rock chorus definitely make the track worth a listen. “You First” and “Figure 8” go very well together as well with Zac Farro really shining in both tracks. The complicated instrumentation of both songs give the whole album a more creative backdrop with “You First” probably being the catchiest most classic Hayley Williams chorus on the album and “Figure 8” giving a familiar sound reminiscent of Paramore’s Fifth album, *After Laughter*. The track is the most instrumentally creative on the album and actually gives the listener a feeling of spinning in a figure 8.

This is Why is fresh. It has everything listeners need to feel validated about world crisis and angst with catchy riffs and a classic Paramore feel. If you are looking for a more alternative punk vibe with creative direction, this album is for you. It is not perfect and there is nothing insanely profound about it, but Paramore succeeded in originality and will surely create an even greater influx of punk buzz in 2023.

Student Spotlight: Julian Villegas

Sports Band & Collegian Senior Julian Villegas and his Love of Community

By Lillian La Salle
Culture Section Editor

As May is coming to a close and we say goodbye to our beloved seniors, the Collegian has a send-off piece for Culture Columnist Julian Villegas centered around his time spent with his Sports Band community. Julian and the band had a jam packed year spent playing for the men’s and women’s Basketball teams in the Las Vegas West Coast Conference and at the men’s team March Madness tournament in New York. They concluded a wonderful season of basketball, and a year full of musical preparation for the St. Mary’s community to celebrate.



(Image Courtesy Julian Villegas)

Julian Villegas has one of the most uplifting attitudes in any community he is a part of and is a real impactful presence in the St. Mary’s community. This stellar saxophonist is here to expand on some of his favorite experiences from his 4 years spent in the band.

Julian has been playing his alto-saxophone for a little over 13 years and was unsure whether to major in music when he was met with the opportunity to be in the Sports Band.

Julian begins by describing a personal experience, “Picture this. It is 2019, and freshman Julian is wandering and sees the sports band booth with the former president and other exec team members. I had wanted to play an instrument even though I was unsure about majoring or minoring. I really enjoyed meeting everyone and we got really close as time went on, and the band became a nice creative outlet.

I had a space where I got to play sax and I genuinely love the band and the people.”

Julian kept up his enthusiasm for the band and was excited to spend the next four years working with the SMC community. After his first year bonding with the band, he enjoyed getting to help out new and returning bandmates after getting a better understanding of how the band operated. During and after SMC went online in 2020, Julian experienced such a welcoming environment in the band that he wanted to stay for the lasting connections he had made.

Julian described some of his favorite experiences in the band as not just the actual music-making element, but the great bonding time he experienced as well.

“It’s always nice to see everyone all together. Sometimes we have a formal night and go get dinner as a group, and we also have a tradition

where we all go bowling with the rival band teams. Overall my favorite part of the band is meeting kids and learning what their interests are. Getting to know the rest of the band is really important because we all usually have very busy lives, and it’s hard to connect sometimes because we sit in our different instrument sections.”

Speaking of some of Julian’s favorite parts of being in a sports band. Traveling with the band definitely struck a chord in him and kept him coming back year after year for the experience of traveling with his music community around the U.S. As a Sports band veteran, Julian describes a day in the life of the band when they are traveling around the States.

“We wake up around nine o clock, and I start my remote work for the admissions office. After a few hours, I start my zoom classes and meet with my professors to ensure

I stay up to date with the assignments. After classes we’ll get food and work on some homework until our call time at 4:45. We all meet in the lobby and head to the stadium to set up our instruments and get tuned up while the rhythm section plays a quick tailgate. After the tailgate we’ll head back down to tune for the game and play in between the timeouts. A lot of time is spent convincing our band director to play jungle boogie!”

From the sports band perspective, the basketball games are super energetic and leave the fans feeling thrilled with the SMC team and their ability to play well together and keep the crowd engaged. Julian enjoys seeing the other bands perform because some will have stunt and dance teams as well. After the games, the band gets to decompress together and rest up before playing another game or heading back home to Saint Mary’s.

All in all, Julian’s experience in sports band was made possible by all the wonderful people he got to meet. Like Julian, we all have a community of individuals who keep us excited about the college experience and coming back for more.

Follow us on our social media platforms!

Instagram: @smc_collegian
Twitter: @smc_collegian

Questions? Reach us at:

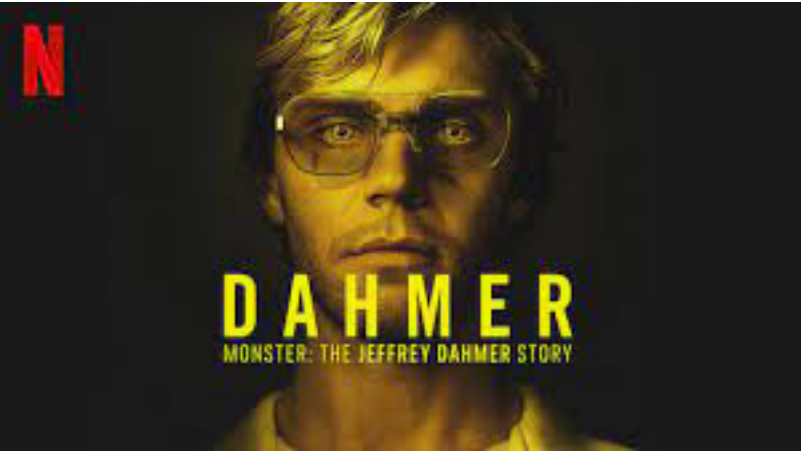
smccollegian@gmail.com

OPINION

True Crime:

Innocent Interest or Troubling Infatuation?

Is the growing obsession with true crime getting dangerous?



By Madison Sciba
Associate Editor

True crime podcasts have become the most popular genre of podcasts on Spotify, with many true crime podcasts ranked in Spotify’s top 10. The Netflix series *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* quickly rose to the top of the site’s popularity list, eventually becoming Netflix’s number one show across the world. This caused an influx of interest in the infamous Jeffrey Dahmer, but not in a good way. Halloween 2022 saw people actually dressing up as the man who killed 17 men between 1978 and 1991. To glorify or emulate someone who committed such atrocities is wildly unacceptable. Netflix is being blamed for profiting off the horrors that Dahmer caused, while many of the families of Dahmer’s victims are speaking out against the show. Which raises the question: Has society’s obsession with true crime gone too far?

Unlike the Dahmer series, most true crime documentaries are meant to bring awareness and knowledge to a crime or event. Another Netflix original is the docuseries *Keep Sweet, Pray, and Obey*. This docuseries focused around the events and experiences of former members of the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (FLDS), a polygamist fundamentalist branch of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints, more commonly known as Mormonism. The series focused on the experiences of the children, many being young girls, who were exploited and mistreated in the FLDS church, specifically by the church’s “prophet” Warren Jeffs. In this series, unlike in *Dahmer*, it is not a dramatization of the ongoing events in the FLDS but includes interviews by actual victims and survivors who are now able to tell their stories. It told of women who survived child marriages to much older men, women who lost their children and families to the church, and of men who lost everything because they dared to question the “prophet”.

These docu series and documentaries, like *Keep Sweet*, are vastly different from the dramatizations of crime as was such in the Dahmer series, as well as many others. Another Netflix show, *Netflix: Unsolved Mysteries* strives to bring awareness to cold cases (unsolved crimes that are no longer being actively investigated), again involving the family and friends of victims, hoping that bringing their loved one’s case into the public view will help solve it. Such is not the case of drama series and movies like the 2019 film *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, a dramatized telling of the crimes and trial of serial killer Ted Bundy. He was convicted of sexually assaulting and murdering women in the 1970s. Bundy gained many female fans following his arrest in the 1970s, and then gained even more after the airing of the Netflix film. For years deranged admirers have proclaimed love for the charismatic killer, and the numbers of fans only increased after the attractive and popu-

lar actor Zac Efron portrayed Bundy in the film.

Behaviors like this and like those who dressed up as Dahmer as a Halloween costume



is unacceptable and disgusting. It is unknown exactly how many women Bundy murdered. He was an evil man who targeted and victimized vulnerable women, and he should never be admired.

This is why there is a fine line in true crime between what is acceptable content and what is not. Documentaries and docu series that aim to bring awareness and involvement of victims and their families bring a larger sense of realness to true crime. Recreated dramatic films and series tend to distance the viewer from the reality of the crimes and almost glorify the villains by using attractive actors in a traditional Hollywood style setting. Most true crime podcasts have the goal of bringing awareness to crimes as well as to personal safety. One of the most popular podcasts, *Crime Junkies*, aims to tell their listeners of unknown crimes while the hosts frequently bring up what us as individuals can do to try and prevent these horrific things from happening to us. Through their “Crime Junkie Rules” of “Be weird, be rude, stay alive!” hosts Ashley and Britt encourage listeners to learn from these horrific stories and to do their best to stay safe and out of danger.

Images: Netflix (left) and <https://crimejunkiepodcast.com/> (right)

Does SMC Make It Easy to Graduate Early?

One SMC Senior Shares her tips for fulfilling graduation requirements ahead of schedule.

By Brooke Haggarty
Opinion Columnist

I have known since I enrolled in SMC back in 2019 that I wanted to graduate early. As someone who has jumped through hoops and now knows the in’s and out’s of graduating early, I can tell you for certain that it can be pretty easy, but there are plenty of steps and obstacles along the way depending on your personal circumstances. First things first, you need to pick your major, and luckily, for you, so many courses overlap in terms of core requisites that you have leeway to explore and become inspired before picking it. Though I must say, it is best to work with your FYAC (First-Year Advising Consorts) if you are still deciding, and then once you decide, you should talk to a professor of your choice, an assistant assigned to your major, or the head chair of your major about advising you.

Next you should look at your academic evaluation found on GaelXpress where you can check what credits that you have before and during your time at SMC. If you previously took AP classes or community college courses, those credits may have transferred and translated into credits applied to your SMC requirements. It may even be possible to apply those towards major or minor requirements or prerequisites for upper-division courses. Another thing that you can do to graduate earlier is take summer courses. Though they might not always be an option as you may not be financially able to afford the hefty cost of those 4 to 8 week courses. SMC offers many courses like Jan Terms, cross-listed courses that apply to your major or minor, and core requisites classes. Many local community colleges also offer classes that can be transferred to SMC, though many require prior approval by SMC professors and adminis-

trators. My final piece of advice is to be constantly communicating with your advisor, reviewing your academic evaluation, and keeping up with any possible changes to your major’s requirements that should be posted on GaelExpress and the SMC website. With all that said, graduating at SMC can either be easy or a nightmare. Take it from me as someone who knows both versions as I once was on a 3-year track to graduate. I ended up taking up two semesters off, and one was involuntary as I was stuck waiting until this spring, to write my thesis in class. It can be frustrating that some courses are not offered when you want to take them, so make sure you keep up-to-date about course offerings. Whatever your reasons for wanting to graduate early, best of luck to you!

OPINION

A Substitute for Seminar

Should students have the option for a more practical life skills class at SMC?

By Lillian La Salle
Culture Section Editor

Saint Mary’s is one of the few schools on the West Coast to offer a seminar course which some students adore and others despise. It’s understandable to dislike seminar, especially if you had a subpar teacher who didn’t know how to get that one kid with a few too many opinions to read the room and finally stop talking. We’ve all been there. Luckily, for the rising sophomores and future Gaels, they only need to take 3 seminars instead of 4. However, these core classes take up a lot of SMC credits that could go to taking some much-needed courses in the upper division major requirements.

What if instead of having us take one of these courses and learn not one, not two, but 5 or more different philosophical concepts that are too dense for any sane person to understand, we learned about some necessary skills that would help us after college?

What if instead of having multitudes of extra career courses, financial planning, and mental health gatherings, SMC actually put its efforts into creating a student improvement course to replace one of the seminars?

After two seminars, the whole reading and discussion with your fellow peers who probably also didn’t do the reading becomes very repetitive, and our time could be spent learning about what an ROI and 401K are, or how to not get conned when we have to take out more student loans to continue to go to SMC. Don’t get me wrong, I love seminars and think that we learn very valuable communication and close reading skills in this context, but like I said earlier, how different will our third or fourth seminar be from our first or second? Meanwhile, we are floundering after college to try to invest in the right accounts so we can possibly support our family, buy a house, and pay for our kids’ college, even though these three goals seem mutually

exclusive nowadays.

We need to learn not only about the great texts but about what life experiences have shaped us as humans and what we don’t like about ourselves and what we want to change about ourselves. SMC is good at shaping our identities in a very hands-on way, but it causes students immense stress to cope with self-discovery, friends, academics, activities, and all the other programs we need to complete in order to be eligible candidates for a successful career in the future. We can’t be left on our own to fit all the important parts of adulthood into the cracks of the already bursting schedule filled with parents, advisors, and friends’ expectations of us. We need the seminar to become a course that helps students understand how to lead a productive and successful life after college and gives them all the proper financial and social skills we need to know how to use in order to accomplish our goals.

Hopeful, Not Optimistic: A.I. and Art

A conversation with Britt Royer, a self-proclaimed non-expert on A.I., about A.I.

By Andrew Martinez Cabrera
Opinion Columnist

My preconceived notion about A.I. stems from movies, where it is portrayed as maniacal machines bent on replacing humans, often seeking to eliminate us in the wake of their lethal sentence. The more realistic version is the looming threat of automation.

Workers ranging from copywriters to screenwriters wonder if their time is up, as businesses seek to expand onto non-human workers rather than properly compensating employees. I am more familiar with artificial intelligence from the cinematic front and therefore, I’m mostly unfamiliar with other artistic spheres. I wanted to explore A.I. in a creative space in which I had briefly dabbled, so I talked with Britt Royer, a curator at SMC’s Museum of Art (MoA), about her concerns and musings about the possible implications of artificial intelligence in the art world.

In its current infant state, A.I. art is unregulated. In this newfound democratization of art, A.I. image generators currently pull existing images off the internet and base their machine-engineered creations on stolen work, without crediting the original artists. Royer points to the negative reaction of artists as rightfully understandable.

“With any form of new technology, especially in terms of thinking about artwork development, there’s always this fear of what are the proper ways to navigate this new tool.” Royer adds that “new

technologies force us to rethink the difference between a tool and an outcome of art.”

As an art historian, Royer points out that the conversations about A.I. parallel other advents of technological innovations. In the beginning, there is a lack of ‘cultural understanding’ of these new technologies. Corporations introduce technologies that propel artists to question it, understand it, and then adapt, despite an artist’s reservations about it.

“Inherently, there’s conflicts of interest that build up... there’s this control of what type of work is created through that lens of the power of resources.” That conflict also stems from intent, where artists seek “to critique and have dialogue with what’s happening in our [world],” whereas businesses seek to gain profit. The underlying issue, for Royer, is not A.I. art generators themselves, but how it is appropriated by corporations, tech spaces, and online trolls.

When asked if A.I. art can package intent, Royer said: “I don’t know. It’s such a new technology and I think in a lot of ways, A.I. is becoming a tool. There’s a lot of fear associated with it, because then where do we divide our own creative energies compared to what a tool does? There’s just so many unknowns still in the air.” Because it is in its infancy, people who have access to A.I. image generators can either make things for fun or with the intent of misleading people.

Royer is quick to categorize A.I. as a tool because of how many technologies, which were

seen as threats, are now frequently used in the art world, such as Photoshop, zero graphs, and digital photography. “I think there’s a mobility that artists have to take. In a direct sense, it will take a specific job away but I think it’s going to create a different avenue as well, and there’ll be a different kind of counter-reaction that comes out of it too.”

Last semester, the MoA had an exhibit entitled “Fake It Till You Make It,” which explored the minting process of NFTs and if it had any authenticity or artistic merit. In a smaller capacity, the MoA explored A.I., defining it as a tool with a lot of rough edges. In just a short amount of time, NFTs have faded as a trend and A.I. has advanced dramatically, both technologically and in popularity.

“The technology always moved faster than the reactions to it.” Royer guesses more policies will be enacted against regulating A.I., as well as checks of power against tech spaces. On a more inspiring note, Royer doesn’t see A.I. art replacing physical art altogether.

“There is this kind of pull for physicality because there are always going to be artists working through something that’s really about a physical space and a physical experience, as opposed to something that’s created digitally.”

When asked if she is optimistic about where A.I. art is heading, Royer responded: “I’m not optimistic, I’m hopeful.”

SPORTS

Is this year’s Stanley Cup the New March Madness?

By Vivian Hill
Sports Reporter

With the second round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs halfway through, there appears to be a repeat pattern from this year’s March Madness. Even though that was basketball, most if not all, perfect brackets for the Stanley Cup have been eliminated. In the first round, the teams favored to win, the Boston Bruins, New York Rangers, and Colorado Avalanche have all been eliminated. This trend follows the upsets that happened back in March with the NCAA college basketball tournament when San Diego (5) knocked out Alabama (1) in the Sweet 16. Even with those top-seeded teams being knocked out, anything and everything happened this year. So it will be no surprise if this transitions to the NHL playoffs.

Bruins had the best season in NHL history, therefore making them the predicted winning team. Somehow they are taken out in the

first round by the Florida Panthers. The number one-ranked team in the NHL is knocked out by the fourth-ranked team. The second team that was predicted to win was the Colorado Avalanche. They also had an amazing season, but somehow also were beaten out by the Toronto Maple Leafs. With these top teams out of the running for the Cup, there is no telling who will win it all.

So the question remains, will there be new rising champions out of Florida, Canada, or Washington? The Florida Panthers have yet to win the Cup, and the last time they made it to the playoffs was back in 1996, only to lose it to the Avalanche. The predicted team out of Canada, the Toronto Maple Leafs, make their way to the stage. Trying to reclaim a Cup for Canada, they have been striving for the coveted trophy for the past 50 years. The final team, the Seattle Kraken, is making its way into the playoffs after a victory in knocking out the



(Image Courtesy of Writer)

2022 Stanley Cup Champions, the Colorado Avalanche. The Kraken have not won a Cup since 1917, and the last time they made it to the playoffs was only back in 2020.

The Cup is now up for grabs for the remaining teams, with each one having a chance of winning since the major contenders are out. What will be the next moves for all teams? The upsets are still on the table

and only four real perfect brackets remain. The clock is ticking and after this round, there may be more surprises. The pattern may continue through the rest of the Second Round and into the rest of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Will the rest of the tournament be predictable or will the trend of upsets continue?

2022-2023 Gael Highlights

Exploring the epic highs and lows of the SMC Mens Basketball Season

By Ryan Ford
Editor-in-Chief

November 10, 2022
Saint Mary’s defeats Vermont in the second game of the season, setting a school record for consecutive home victories with 20 in a row at UCU Pavilion.

Final Score: 79-53
Standout Performer: Senior Guard Logan Johnson with 15 points, seven rebounds, and two steals.

December 10, 2022
Saint Mary’s defeats San Diego State at a neutral site game as part of the Jerry Colangelo Classic in Phoenix, Arizona. SDSU was ranked 22nd in the country at the time, and went on to make the NCAA Men’s National Championship.

Final Score: 68-61
Standout Performer: Freshman Guard Aidan Mahaney with 20 points in his second game as a starter.

January 28, 2023
Saint Mary’s defeats conference

rival Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, as freshman guard Aidan Mahaney hits the game-winning fadeaway jumper to keep the team’s undefeated conference record alive. It was also Saint Mary’s first game being ranked 22nd in the country by the AP Poll.

Final Score: 57-56
Standout Performer: Junior Center Mitchell Saxen with 11 points, 10 rebounds, four assists, and two blocks.

February 2, 2023
Saint Mary’s defeats conference opponent San Francisco at home as Head Coach Randy Bennett earns his 500th win as coach of the Gaels. Bennett is one of only 25 coaches in NCAAM history to reach 500 wins at one school.

Final Score: 68-59
Standout Performer: Senior Guard Alex Ducas with 18 points, eight rebounds, and two blocks.

February 4, 2023
Saint Mary’s defeats conference rival Gonzaga in overtime after trailing by as much as 11 points to

the 12th ranked team in the country. Freshman Guard Aidan Mahaney led the comeback, with 16 of his 18 points coming in the second half and overtime. With the victory, Saint Mary’s was ranked 15th in the country by the AP Poll, their highest ranking of the season.

Final Score: 78-70 (OT)
Standout Performer: Freshman Guard Aidan Mahaney with 18 points and three assists.

February 23, 2023
Saint Mary’s defeats conference opponent Pacific on Senior Night to clinch a share of the West Coast Conference Title, their first time accomplishing the achievement since the 2015-16 season.

Final Score: 83-52
Standout Performer: Senior Guard Logan Johnson with 29 points, seven assists, three rebounds, and two steals.

March 17, 2023
5-seed Saint Mary’s defeats 12-seed VCU in the West Region First Round of the NCAA Men’s Tournament, their second straight season

advancing to the Round of 32 in March Madness.

Final Score: 63-51
Standout Performer: Senior Guard Alex Ducas with 17 points, eight rebounds, five steals, and four assists (played all 40 minutes).

March 19, 2023
5-seed Saint Mary’s falls to 4-seed UConn in the West Region Second Round of the NCAA Men’s Tournament, ending their historic season. UConn would go on to win the NCAA Tournament, and their 15 point victory over Saint Mary’s wound up being their closest margin of victory during their championship run.

Final Score: 55-70
End of Season Awards: Randy Bennett, WCC Coach of the Year; Logan Johnson, WCC Defensive Player of the Year.