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COVID-19 Prevention Tips:

- Wash your hands
- Wear a face covering
- Keep your distance (At least 6 feet)
- Disinfect frequently touched objects daily
- Feeling sick? Stay home!
- Limit interactions with people

Pope Francis Talks Friendship

VINNY LA VIA | NEWS EDITOR



Pope Francis, whose encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” was released in October 2020 | angelusnews.com

The last few issues of the Times have contained many long news articles, which we understand are not ideal for readers, but when a good story comes along, we always try to cover it in as much detail as possible.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit back in March 2020, many of us did not expect it to last as

long as it has. We assumed that after a few months, the virus would no longer be an issue, and that life could be taken off of hold. Obviously, things are still not back to normal.

We all wonder to this day when things will “return to normal, whatever that means for each of us,” as Cole Johnson, SNC senior, brought up in his in-

roduction speech to the latest panel discussion hosted by the Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice and Public Understanding on Wednesday, March 10.

The discussion concerned itself with St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis.

More specifically, it concerned itself with Pope Francis’s recent encyclical

“Fratelli Tutti,” which speaks of unity and friendship, amongst a host of other concerns facing us in the pandemic era.

Pope Francis believes that this pandemic can be a time of great change for our society, a time that will

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The End of Globalization?

JESSICA MAGALSKI | NEWS CORRESPONDANT

On March 17, Dr. David Coury of UWGB and Dr. Daniel Stoll, associate dean for global affairs here at SNC, welcomed Dr. Arthur Cyr to the virtual Great Decisions Lecture Series.

Dr. Arthur Cyr is the director of the A.W. Clausen Center for World Business and a professor at Carthage College.

Prior to his employment at Carthage College, he served as the president of the Chicago World Trade Center.

With his expertise and outstanding experience in the subject, Dr. Cyr discussed the significance of globalization and its history

to give context to the United States’s current involvement with other countries.

The issue of international relations reemerges when there are shifts of power in the United States.

With the recent transition in the White House from Donald Trump to Joe Biden, the United States has politically restored the alliances from which the Trump administration withdrew.

Within the last four years, the U.S. has withdrawn from groups including the Paris Climate Agreement, the Iran Nuclear Agreement and began to leave the World Health Or-

ganization.

During his campaign, Trump consistently stated that “America must come first.”

He believes that the United States is frequently taken advantage of by other nations.

This type of action on Trump’s behalf worried many into thinking that he was going to ruin many of America’s international relationships.

Despite all of this, Dr. Cyr insisted that because Trump did not withdraw the United States from NATO

SEE GLOBALIZATION-Page 2 >

Dr. Arthur Cyr | carthage.edu



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MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Norbert Times strives to be an informative student-run newspaper that acts as a balanced and accurate source of news about St. Norbert College, as well as the world around it. In the spirit of the Norbertine tradition and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Times will encourage and defend the principles of free inquiry, vigorous debate and the pursuit of truth.

In the spirit of the Norbertine tradition, we embrace the following credo:

“Almighty Father, the scriptures inform us that:
‘THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!’

- Free from compromising principles
- Free from being self-serving
- Free from suspicion
- Free from prejudice
- Free from intolerance
- Free from fear of retaliation
- Free to be courageous and bold
- Free to be honest and forthright.”

“Bless those who speak, promote and value the truth. Bless those who have made and continue to make the St. Norbert Times a vehicle for honesty, truthful and courageous information, who make it a beacon for the enlightened progress of St. Norbert College, protecting it from half-truths and misinformation. Help the staff know that they are called and chosen to be that voice crying in the wilderness, especially for the students whom they enlighten and inform, helping them to take up the banner of truth courageously and openly for their welfare and to help St. Norbert College be the shining beacon it is called and destined to be.”

Rev. Rowland De Peaux, O.Praem.
 St. Norbert Times Banquet
 April 30, 2008

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or the UN, America’s commitment to globalization is a constant.

Although many Americans have doubts about the sustainability of our international relationships, Dr. Cyr argued that our country is nowhere near returning to isolationism.

He discussed the significance of 1942 and 1952 regarding the majority opinion on the United States’s role in international affairs.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chicago Council took a public opinion poll on whether the United States should take more or less of a role in international affairs.

Dr. Cyr claimed that nearly ninety percent of Americans preferred to stay out of world affairs.

Shortly afterwards, the United States entered World War II and turned the tide in one of the bloodiest wars in world history.

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prevent many things from returning to normal as they once were.

You may ask, why would Pope Francis want things to change forever and not return to normal?

Pope Francis, like many of us at SNC, believes that it is necessary for marginalized people to be seen, heard and loved more than they are in our current society.

This type of change is at the heart of his theology and is also at the heart of his message to the public in “Fratelli Tutti.”

Before we dive into the pope’s most recent encyclical, let us set a bit of background by going through the discussion that took place.

To kick things off, Dr. Karen Park, associate professor of theology and religious studies here at SNC, spoke of St. Francis of Assisi, the man from whom Pope Francis derives his name.

Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, Francis came into the world in the late 12th century. He was born in the Umbria region

When the same poll taken in spring of 1942, immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, there was a great change in opinion.

The majority preferred to take a more active role in international affairs, as they saw the impact the United States was having in World War II roughly a year after they decided to join the fight.

A decade later in 1952, a shift in opinion on globalization occurred again, but regarding political personalities and leadership, rather than political trends.

Eisenhower was nominated for the Republican Party and turned America toward being committed to internationalism by supporting NATO and the Marshall Plan, for example.

Eisenhower’s focus on international relationships is crucial in understanding the history of America’s role on the international stage, as if it were not for him, many of our modern policies on international re-

of Italy in the beautiful yet small town of Assisi.

He was a raucous young man who, as a child of wealth, indulged in parties quite frequently. He had little to no regard for much else other than himself and all of the pleasures in life.

He engaged in violence as a young man as a part of a series of battles between neighboring villages in Italy, enlisting in a military endeavor against Perugia, the capitol city of Umbria, around 1202. This endeavor ultimately landed him in prison as a captive of those he fought against.

He underwent a mental breakdown that shook up his life forever while in captivity.

After being released in 1205, he traveled to the Apulia region of Italy in hopes of enlisting in the army of Walter III, Count of Brienne.

During his travel to Apulia, he ended up turning around after receiving a vision that something was not right, so he went back home to Assisi.

Upon returning to Assisi, Francis stopped by the nearby San Damiano chapel, in which he had a vision of a crucified Jesus

lations would not be what they are today.

If William Howard Taft were nominated instead of Eisenhower, international involvement would have been much less prioritized.

Finally, from a modern perspective, the global system today facilitates internationalism.

Without an interdependence on other countries, we would not be see the free flow of information and trade that we do today.

The reliance on technology has positively impacted the consequences of the COVID-19 virus.

We are able to work remotely, shop remotely and still do a lot of what we were able to do pre-pandemic.

For perspective, during the Hong Kong flu in 1968, working remotely was not an option as the internet as we know it did not exist.

Furthermore, globalization is part of the reason why the world has been able to do so much to ad-

Christ telling him to repair that chapel, which ended up proving unsuccessful. He hid in a cave near the chapel for about a month after this moment, frustrated at his inability to make something of his life.

He eventually returned to Assisi, a shadow of his former self, and was immediately punished by his father for his decision to fight in the army. He was made a public spectacle of humiliation by his father in his home village, during which he decided to strip down naked in front of the onlookers.

After this moment, Francis of Assisi devoted his life to Christ, focusing less on himself and more on others, aiding and bringing up those who were impoverished and less fortunate than him.

Dr. Park spoke at length about Pope Francis’s decision to take St. Francis of Assisi’s name as head of the papacy, trying to provide context for such a decision.

Her explanation was pretty straightforward: Pope Francis’ decision was rooted in his deep respect for St. Francis of Assisi’s belief in friendship, that we

dress the virus, like creating the vaccine in a relatively short amount of time.

In total, globalization is crucial to the United States to maintain a strong economy.

International affiliations like trade allow the U.S. to maintain its position as a world power by means of wealth as the most efficient producer.

Not only that, but globalization also allows for the free flowing nature of immigrants into our country, who have a great impact on our culture, economy and overall nature as a nation.

The Great Decisions Lecture Series invites students and faculty to listen to scholars as they discuss and answer questions on current global issues at the forefront of our society.

The next event is on Brexit and the European Union today, March 31st! Be sure to check it out at snc.edu/greatdecisions.

should all live in unity with a mutual respect for one another.

After being introduced to a bit of context from Dr. Park, Dr. Thomas Bolin, SNC’s own Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, came in to explain the history and purpose of encyclicals.

Encyclicals were originally designed to be letters read by all Bishops of the Catholic Church, but their purpose has changed immensely over time.

Encyclicals first shifted in meaning when Pope Pius IX started using them as a means of communicating to both the church and a wider audience outside of the church back during his tenure as pope from 1846 to 1878.

According to Dr. Bolin, Pope Pius IX transformed the encyclical from a document limited to interpretation by Bishops of the Catholic Church to one meant to be “used as a vehicle for the church to comment on the wider world around it.”

The encyclical is still used to this day by the

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head of the papacy to convey messages to the world at large, and, in the case of “Fratelli Tutti,” Pope Francis is not pulling any punches when addressing the public.

Speaking of other broad reaching encyclicals, Dr. Bolin touched on Pope Leo VIII’s “Inscrutabili Dei consilio,” or “On the Evils of Society,” an encyclical that addressed the outside world in a radical new way for the time.

“Inscrutabili Dei consilio” addresses human oppression rooted in the spread of misinformation, a phenomenon that is eerily similar to much of what is still occurring in today’s world.

This just goes to show that many encyclicals across different periods of time are meant to address issues not specific to any one time period, but rather specific to the human condition as a whole.

“Encyclicals are an expression of the ordinary papal magisterium,” according to Dr. Bolin, meaning that they represent an idea for how the Pope sees and comments on the world at large.

The pope’s encyclicals will change in accordance with his beliefs depending on the type of person he is.

Historically, not every encyclical has had a message of unity. In fact, many encyclicals with such a message have only been in circulation since the 19th century.

Due to the pope’s unique position in society, he usually has a lot of insightful things to say about the world around him that may oftentimes be missed by folks just trying to go about their everyday lives, without much consideration for the head of the Catholic Church.

While not every encyclical is built the same, they are all still worth reading and considering at the very least.

Dr. Bolin noted that it is necessary for us to read encyclicals such as “Fratelli Tutti” outside of the context of a twenty-four hour news cycle.

The nonstop broadcast of information from media outlets tends to misconstrue what is actually being said or done in a particular scenario.

We must consider deeply thought out messages from the Pope and let our own minds be the judge of what is being said.

After all, we as humanity are the audience of the encyclical and are thus responsible for shaping it and using it to transform our world in meaningful ways.

While not every encyclical may be built the same, we must still ensure that we understand what it is trying to tell us.

“Fratelli Tutti” is an encyclical addressed to us all, and it calls upon us to look forward to a post-pandemic world in which the issues that have existed since pre-pandemic times are met with great change.

It is very unique to the times we currently live in, times that do not often come around, with the COVID-19 pandemic being the only time we have all experienced a worldwide pandemic in our lives.

Dr. Bolin went on to note that the footnotes of an encyclical are where all of its rich detail can be found. Within the footnotes, the author of an encyclical—the pope—continues a dialogue with the past while still pushing forward into the future, striking a fine balance between what once was and what currently is.

Pope Francis’s footnotes in “Fratelli Tutti” are extremely interesting. In one instance, he cites a recording of a Portuguese Samba, something which has never been done before in an encyclical. He also cites much more than just a Samba, also citing his papal predecessors, ancient Jewish texts and certain philosophers.

Think of a paper you may have had to write recently in which you had to cite sources in a bibliography. This is the same thing the pope is doing, and he does it to connect wisdom from the past to the present while simultaneously looking forward into the future.

Dr. Bolin connected Francis’s diverse citations in the encyclical to the geographical locations he has

spoken at throughout his tenure as Pope.

Pope Francis has spoken all over the world and has made an effort to go into the margins and speak to those who are often overlooked by the Catholic Church.

Dr. Bolin noted how profound it is that Pope Francis has done and continues to do this, as he is bringing marginalized voices to the center of the discussion in the Catholic community.

Pope Francis’s decision to travel the world and speak to people from all corners of the globe is rooted in his connection to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The parable of the Good Samaritan tells a story of a Samaritan man who helps a near-dead Jewish man on the side of the road after a Jewish priest and Levite both pass him by.

This story is famously told by Jesus in the gospel of Luke, where he encourages his followers to be kind and charitable to others in need no matter who they are.

Pope Francis uses this parable in more ways than one, connecting it to current affairs in “Fratelli Tutti.” Within, he notes that “we were created for a fulfillment that can only be found in love.”

Dr. Bolin expanded on this, saying that Pope Francis is trying to get us to be more attentive to those living in the margins by referencing this parable in “Fratelli Tutti.”

Many of us tend to ignore people on the margins in our daily lives, as we exist within bubbles that do not expose us to people who are worse off than us.

We need to be able to apply this parable to economic, social and political aspects of our society, where we invite all of the great people of the human race to the center for consideration and appreciation.

Given recent news of the pope muddying his stance on same-sex marriage, saying that it is not fully supported by the Catholic Church, this statement renouncing the Catholic Church’s previous stance on slavery came as a shock.

Clearly, the Church still has a long way to go in accepting folks from the LG-BTQ community, and this was not lost on the panelists during this discussion.

Following Dr. Bolin, author of SNC’s own Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, Dr. Howard Ebert, came into the discussion to discuss “Fratelli Tutti” even further.

Dr. Ebert referred to “Fratelli Tutti” as a “tapestry” that he has taken a long time to get lost in and admire.

He drew a connection between the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis’ encyclical, as both of them address people of all goodwill: essentially, all of humanity.

The Second Vatican Council lasted from October 1962 to December 1965 and addressed the relationship between the modern world and the Catholic Church.

The purpose of “Fratelli Tutti” is to encourage respect, dialogue and inclusion; it is meant to inspire a conversation between all people regardless of faith.

Dr. Ebert described this insight as a belief that the grace of God is found within all on this planet, it can be seen in all corners of the globe within all communities of people.

In order to recognize this grace of God, we must get back to the basics, as Pope Francis writes so elegantly in “Fratelli Tutti,” “We must put human dignity at the center, on the pillar of which we will build our human structures.”

We oftentimes forget that humanity and that which is living is at the center of everything important on this planet.

We have become so consumed with the abstract and the artificial that it has become easy for us to overlook our fellow humans.

We must be willing to have conversations regarding human issues. We cannot turn away from them

any longer.

Pope Francis believes that human conversations such as these are prevented by extreme individualism.

Because of this, we have strayed far from our communal roots and now live in a society that tends to discredit, undermine and undervalue healthy human communities in which conversation occurs.

Extreme individualism has done much more than discourage community; it has also disillusioned people from their roots, from the rich history of their past.

We tend to largely ignore our past in today’s world, acting in ways that are inconsistent with the trajectory of humanity.

Alongside extreme individualism, Pope Francis cites our extreme fixation on economic markets as a large reason for forgetting our roots, going as far as to say that if capitalism is left unimpeded, then we will implode on ourselves.

Dr. Ebert went on to note that, “Our market mentality, where we see ourselves as investments, is what is ultimately distracting us from being good human beings to one another.”

We get lost in economic and ideological abstractions that try to sway our opinions on marginalized groups of people, when we should really be focusing on human rights and needs before anything else.

Pope Francis wants us to shift our focus towards the real and the concrete, which many of us in today’s world seem to be shying away from, especially in the era of the pandemic.

The pandemic has separated us and made isolation the new norm for too many people.

Unfortunately, extreme individualism has also prevented the pandemic from ending sooner, as numerous people in the United States refuse to abide by scientifically-proven methods of preventing the spread of COVID because they do not seem to seriously consider the advice from fellow human beings.

The moral here is that we must abandon the ideal of extreme individualism if

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we are to live in harmony with one another.

Dr. Ebert went on to speak of his love for “Fratelli Tutti.”

His love for the encyclical is rooted in Pope Francis’s ability to speak of personal conversion and structural reform as complex yet possible feats that we as humans must strive for.

Speaking in such a way, Pope Francis touches on New Evangelization’s influence and how it must shape culture in a positive way.

New Evangelization is a term that was coined at the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, and it simply refers to the new way in which baptized members of the Catholic Church are called to evangelize, that is, to preach the gospel with the intention of sharing the message and teachings of Jesus Christ.

In many instances, New Evangelization is falling short of its original mark, as many Catholics are still promoting the ideals of Jesus Christ in a way inconsistent with his beliefs.

When done incorrectly, New Evangelization is a major player in the whitewashing of Jesus Christ in the western world. Many New Evangelizers tend to distance themselves from who Jesus actually was, a poor man of darker skin complexion who existed to serve the poor.

In order for New Evangelization to shape the culture in a positive way, Catholics (and, for that matter, all humans) must be willing to look into the eyes of a complex, uncertain and ambiguous world and not shy away from it.

We must recognize that we are all human at our very core, we are all in this together and we must attend to the ordinary, where we may find God’s grace.

SNC’s Divisional Dean of Humanities, Dr. Jennifer Hockenbery, came in last to inform us of the importance of diversifying our lives, of talking to people we would not normally talk to, those who may not speak English, of getting outside of our comfort zones and trying to better our communi-

ties via inclusion.

It is seemingly difficult to do such a thing at SNC, as the obvious fact of the matter is that the majority of our campus population is white. However, when faced with the opportunity to diversify those who you speak to, it is vital that you do not shy away from these situations and instead embrace them with open arms.

We tend to forget that for humanity to flourish, all of us must be included in the conversation and shown off in the spotlight.

After the main discussion, Cole Johnson kicked off the Q&A section of the event, where he asked the panel if the panelists could recall a difficult or challenging part of their SNC experience that presented itself to them as a situation that required them to respond to it from a position of love.

Dr. Park noted a time back in 2016, when then-presidential candidate Donald Trump came to the SNC campus to speak. Rather than getting hostile and raucous, the students who were protesting his visit remained civil, calm and vigilant while making a powerful message condemning his visit and his candidacy. Dr. Park saw this as an example of students choosing love over hate, of speaking out against something disagreeable in a fashion that is deeply humanistic.

Dr. Ebert spoke of the college’s adaptation to the pandemic in which the faculty, students and staff of

the college have all very successfully adapted to the changes that have been made across campus to allow us to remain in person. Such flexibility to change and adaptability on behalf of all members of the college community is an example of love across campus.

Dr. Bolin believes that the genial discourse across campus is rooted in mutual respect and love for one another, and is able to carry out the duties of his job in such a manner due to the jovial nature of our campus. He noted that our campus community should look closely at St. Norbert of Xanten’s ability as a peacemaker, as he sees this as being closely related to the general campus atmosphere.

We often forget that St. Norbert was, at his very core, a legendary peacemaker who was able to bring together people from across the aisle. By studying Norbert in such a way, we may find new insight into the fight for equality which can only be achieved through peacemaking.

After discussing Cole’s question, Alex Gruber asked the panel a brilliant question. His question was, “What is the importance of pilgrimage, margins and decentering (physical and ideological) in Pope Francis’ theology and this encyclical in particular? Does his upbringing in Latin America have any influence on an attention to movement and margins?”

Dr. Park noted that Pope Francis washes the feet of people from all different backgrounds and walks of life on Holy Thursday, where he welcomes all into his community in a way that is loving and non-judgmental.

Pope Francis’s theology is rooted in this method of inclusion, as even on one of the most holy of Catholic holidays, the Pope Francis still invites those from all religious backgrounds into his midst.

Dr. Ebert calls on all of us in privileged positions to make an effort to ground ourselves just like Pope Francis so that we do not become trapped in social structures and institutions that have so heavily shaped many of us in industrialized countries.

If we do not ground ourselves, we become less human and less focused on those in the margins; we become victim to the abstractions and artifice of modern life that was touched on earlier.

Dr. Bolin noted that missionaries such as Pope Francis have a belief that one cannot love others if they cannot see their faces in person; without seeing their face, there is no other way to see someone as human and understand and respect them on a basic level.

This is why Pope Francis travels worldwide and meets with so many different people. He understands that this is of fundamental importance if he is to love all of humanity.

In the era of the pandemic, it is difficult to do this the same way as before, but the hope is that eventually we will be able to travel as we once did and that we will all use that opportunity at some point in our lives to make a difference in the lives of those we may not normally communicate with.

To conclude, Cole mentioned the idea of private property that Pope Francis touches on in “Fratelli Tutti.”

Pope Francis speaks of the idea that we need to make an effort to create shared spaces where all people can live in harmony and receive life’s necessities.

He asked what this type of speech regarding private property says about American society, one in which we see extreme levels of poverty and place such an emphasis on land ownership.

Dr. Bolin responded, talking about the type of reflection that must be done by many so-called Catholics in America.

Many Catholics need to take a long, hard look at themselves and the ideas they promote, especially Catholics that are comfortable molding religion to their whim and living within a bubble of privilege that allows them to not worry about the plight of those who are less fortunate than them.

All of us at SNC should evaluate our beliefs and how we uphold them on a daily basis so that we do not fall into the same trap.

Ultimately, this encyclical by Pope Francis calls us all to step outside of our comfort zones to create a deeper and more richly connected community in which all of us are respected and serve a meaningful purpose.

We must center our lives on understanding, love and inclusion of all of humanity, and make ignorance and hate a much lesser issue.

For more information on future events held by the Norman Miller Center, please visit www.snc.edu/millercenter/events.



The Safety of Our Campus

EMILY BUELLESBACH | OPINION COLUMNIST

Shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday, March 21, a St. Norbert College student was approached by an unknown male on College Avenue, near Wilson Park. This unidentified male appeared to have a handgun as he demanded the student's money. Luckily, the student fled the scene and arrived safely at their campus residence. St. Norbert College is a safe and positive environment for students; however, this incident is an extremely scary, unusual situation for the college. With this being said, a lot of students feel concerned about their safety on campus once it becomes dark.

The following morning, after the incident happened, the college community received an email stating nothing but the details provided above. It is currently Tuesday, March 23, and there has still not been additional information released to students. I feel that this is alarming considering the magnitude of the

situation and knowing that it occurred next to several campus residences. Hugh Hall, Prémontré, Xanten, campus-owned houses and others are all near College Avenue. In addition, the majority of students who live in any of these residences walk down College Avenue to get to campus. Students are exposed to this area every day from where they live and by the route they take to get to the heart of the campus.

I believe that St. Norbert College should release more information about the incident, considering there was a deadly weapon involved. Students need to know the description of the male so they can be aware of what to look out for. Sunday's situation added to this makes students even more alarmed about having to walk past the area. Campus Safety needs to communicate with the student body better and release more details. The only other time that something this serious



Saint Norbert College Arch | fineartamerica.com

has occurred on campus and involved a non-SNC personnel (to the best of my knowledge) was in 2018 with the physical assault of a student. The student was grabbed by a man driving a van and fought back in order to escape. When this occurred, Campus Safety provided a description of the vehicle, location and suspects. However, the college has not been given any additional information in regards to what happened Sunday. I feel that students should be given as much transparency on the situation as possible since they

all have to live on campus near where this happened. Students also do not know if there has been anything done about the incident; they are simply left in the dark wondering.

With this unexpected incident happening so close to students' homes, there have been calls for changes to increase students' safety. I believe there should be two shuttles running. Currently, there is only one shuttle that runs from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. every night. The majority of the student body would likely agree that it would be beneficial

to have two shuttles available for students to use at night, especially after this past Sunday's news. Sometimes waiting for the shuttle does not seem appealing for students, and if there were two running at night, then more students would be able to take the shuttle rather than walking. This suggestion would only make our campus safer and would make situations like the one on March 23 slightly less likely.

Trump's Legacy

JARED GARTZKE | OPINION EDITOR

Thinking about Trump's presidency in the past tense has been one of the subtly nice things about the past few months. But now he is out of office, and I no longer have to think about how the crazy things he said yesterday will affect what crazy things happen today. The immediate consequences are now a thing of the past, but that has opened up space to see what the lasting effects of his presidency are. In due time I'm sure that lot's future political problems will be tied to his legacy but even today it has already had an effect.

After only being out of office for a few months the political landscape has readjusted, in some sense, to having a normal politician in the White House. Mostly, this is coming from the democratic left, who have turned into the new presidential fan club. Democrats are no longer Trump bashing machines but content people who once again have faith in their gov-

ernment. The right however hasn't readjusted and instead are continuing down the track they have been on the last four years. They are steamrolling ahead to make sure they make as much progress as they can, to prevent any progress from being made. This is what I think the immediate legacy of the Trump administration is, and it is most identifiable in how the right continues to speak.

During his presidency Trump had a huge effect on widening the gap of political polarization. But it is not something that stopped at the end of his presidency. This problem is going to continue to get worse, and right now I think one of the driving forces is that the right still talks like Trump. What I mean by this is that America used to have a sense of what our communal conversations should look like. People had a sense of politeness of what should and shouldn't be brought up to cashiers or at family gatherings. In order to talk about politics, people either had to be inti-

mately aware of the politics of the people around them or just have one too many drinks, in either case it still ended up being a touchy subject. Today, however, this etiquette has disappeared. Now anything from talking about the price of rent to putting up a fence has the potential to create political contention.

Even worse is that now not only will people interject their political thoughts into anything, they're no longer even opinions. At this point people don't have thoughts about balancing the budget or their qualms about our foreign policy. Now everything is just a trigger for a poorly thought out talking point, which was widely present in Trump's presidency, but particularly noticeable in his debates and his later interviews. The point of this is to say that now a huge part of the right now talks about anything political with the same insanity fueled incoherent gibberish that our last president did.

Inside of their own circles the only harm this causes is to

the future of the party. In social reality, I think this will be a huge source of political division between our citizenry. I think most people in America still believe that there is some kind of road to take to work things out and to get onto the same side. But when the opposition starts ranting about Benghazi because I mumbled when I was talking about ice cream, I become skeptical that there is a road for any forward movement at all.

This is a strange political problem to say the least. In

my eyes, it is a pressing political issue, though. If we are supposed to live in a nation together and settle our political decisions together, how can we possibly do that when part of the country believes everything is a political issue and the best way to solve it is nonsensically rambling to their neighbor. At this point, I have no idea how to fix this issue. I don't know how we can get all these people to once again change the way they talk, other than electing another fascist.

Capitol Building | nytimecom



Supporting Others with their Mental Health

CRYSTAL SCHUSTER | FEATURES EDITOR

Do you or someone you know struggle with mental health? Jessi Beyer, an award-winning author and mental health advocate, spoke about how to safely and successfully help support someone who's struggling with mental health in a virtual event held on Wednesday, March 24th on Zoom from 7:00-8:15 p.m. A short presentation on resources available at St Norbert College followed her presentation. During the presentation, Beyer discussed with students about what you shouldn't say to someone who's struggling, as some of the most common things we think of to say are actually the most hurtful, and how you can support someone, as well as what resources you can connect them to. Topics such as how to keep yourself safe while supporting someone else were also covered in Beyer's presentation.

Although Beyer has a passion for mental health and advocating for the availability of its resources,

she hasn't always known that she wanted to be in this role. Beyer studied psychology at the University of Minnesota, and while there, she planned on entering the military as an Air Force Pararescueman, which is a Special Operations career field that's a mixture of a trauma paramedic and a search and rescue specialist.

Unfortunately, she was ineligible for military service because of her previous mental health history, but she says "I definitely fell into the career field I'm in now. My passion for mental health advocacy stems from that same personal history, and because of a combination of my ambition, independence, and lack of a clue of what else to do, I started writing and speaking on mental health." Beyer had some experience speaking and has been writing since she was a little kid, but did not have professional experience. Her first college speaking presentation was at Mis-

souri State University, and since then, she has had the opportunity to speak at nearly two dozen colleges and a handful of conferences, as well. Six months after her presentation at Missouri State, she published her first book, titled "How To Heal: A Practical Guide To Nine Natural Therapies You Can Use To Release Your Trauma."

It reached the #1 best-selling position in nine categories, and since its release, Beyer says, "I'm honored to say that I've reached thousands of readers in nearly a dozen countries." The proceeds of her book also go to a great cause: Fifty percent of the profits are donated to the Pararescue Foundation, so Beyer can still support the career field she was ineligible for back in college. The bulk of her mental health advocacy work is done through presentations like the one she held for St. Norbert, but Beyer has also spoken on various podcasts and has provided her insights as quotes for articles about mental health. She also coordinated a fundraiser for a group called What's Left, which is a traveling art exhibit that raises awareness of suicide and mental illness. Finally, she is a K9 search and rescue handler and an EMT, where Beyer says she has "often found herself in mental health discussions with teammates."

Individuals can get involved in a variety of different ways to contribute to the cause of mental health advocacy. The biggest piece of advice Beyer has for students considering a similar career path is to "think outside the box. Anyone can become a therapist, and therapists are so incredibly needed, but what else can you do in the field of mental



Jessi Beyer | Ashlie Behm

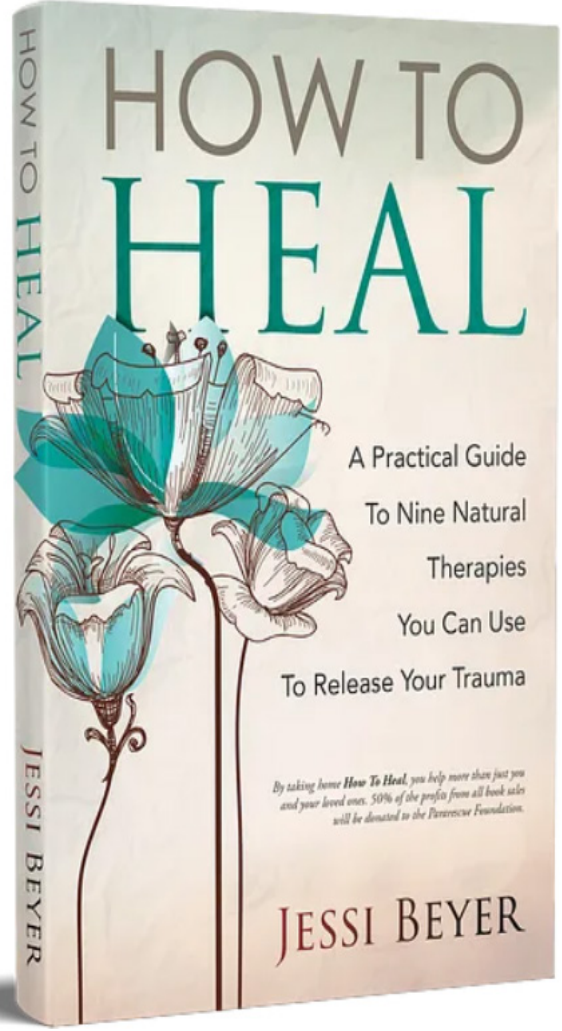
health? Can you work for a non-profit like NAMI? Can you host a podcast interviewing survivors of trauma and mental illness? Can you work in the legal system to advocate for those affected by mental illness? Don't disqualify yourself just because you don't want to be a therapist." Prioritizing your own mental health and continued personal development is still a key component, even if you're seeking to help others, though.

Beyer says, "A second piece of advice I have is to continually work on yourself. You'll be a better practitioner and a better human if you prioritize your mental health, but that doesn't mean you have to have all of your own mental health ironed out either." Overall Beyer works to educate individuals on how they can safely and successfully support those who struggle with their mental health, but she also seeks to emphasize the importance of individuals recognizing the nature of their own mental illness as well.

"Those who struggle with mental health should not simply write off their illnesses because many such illnesses have observable physiological

causes and symptoms, such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and more, to name a few. But it is also important for individuals to understand that their mental illness is not a weakness or simply all in their heads," says Beyer. Therefore, as friends, loved ones, classmates, teammates, and neighbors of individuals who struggle with mental illness, we can all play an important role in being there for others, but it is important for supporters to understand what that role is: Beyer says, "your job is not to 'fix' your loved one or be their therapist; your job is to hold the space for them, be there for them, and never judge them along their journey." For more information on Beyer and how to connect with her, you can visit the website link: <https://jessibeyerinternational.com/>, watch the replay of her presentation, or purchase a copy of her book at <https://amzn.to/3jZooPX>.

SGA is also working on housing the presentation on their website under a new "Resources" tab.



"How to Heal" | Published Book by Jessi Beyer

The Human Library

MAEGHAN SHLEY | FEATURES WRITER

In our community, every person has a unique story to share. The Human Library event was a chance for the community to come together to hear stories and experiences of others through interaction and discussion. The Human Library event was held March 15th through March 19th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. During this time, students could “check out” others, like they would check out a book at the library, and hear their unique story about a particular theme. On Monday, March 15th the theme was Random Acts of Love. This night was all about the different ways that strangers have shown random acts of love, such as through being an organ donor that saved someone’s life. The next theme was Animal Lovers on March 16th, which had stories such as adopting a dog during the pandemic. Following our four-legged friends edition was the theme of Friendship on March 17th, which featured stories about how some friendships can turn into family. Students discussed the theme of family on March 18th, which included stories, such as how families stick together during hard times, and the Human Library event finished out with the theme of Romance on March 19th with stories, such as how to navigate a relationship after a life-altering change. Each of these themes had three different books

that connected to the theme for students to listen to and interact with. The themes for this event were chosen with the intent in mind to provide a space for compassion, connection, and fun during difficult times.

Sarah Titus, the Librarian for Archives and Special Collections says, “The Human Library has always been about highlighting stories in our community, but this time, we really wanted to focus on the heartfelt ones that keep us all going in hard times. What were the stories that shaped people’s lives but that they never get a chance to share?” Additionally, there are many different ways that love and connection can be expressed, and the Human Library event capitalized on this opportunity to help students explore love for others and their neighbors through new perspectives and unique stories.

Ivy Summers, the Library Operations Coordinator says, “We wanted folks to understand that love for yourself, strangers, animals, family, friends, and yes, romantic partners, are all important and beautiful ways to connect.” Through this event, the planning committee aimed to share this love for all by making it an opportunity that was accessible to all and by providing an environment where moments of connection could be built, as well as an opportunity for the community to have a chance to come together and grow through each others’ stories.

Titus says, “This has been such a hard year—a hard couple of years—and making space to really see and hear each other is so important, especially in hard times.”

Overall, the Human Library event was a way to promote dialogue and create more

understanding between people. Every person has had different life experiences, and by listening to stories about different perspectives, individuals were able to find common ground and understand and reduce any prejudice that may exist towards others’ experiences, through a fun and positive atmosphere.

The Human Library provided a way for students to connect with others regardless of whether or not they have experienced something similar in their own lives.

For example, Meghan Schmidt ‘22 went to the Animal Lovers night and learned about what it was like to grow up having pets: Schmidt says, “I learned a lot about how big of an impact having a dog can have on someone. I grew up not having pets, so I could not relate to their experiences, but hearing their stories was really

inspiring.”

On the other hand, student Jaclyn Freimuth ‘22 who has been an avid dog owner for her whole life, found that she could really relate to the experiences of the speaker: Jaclyn says, “I could relate because the speaker talked about how dogs have an impact on your life, which I totally agree with since my dog is definitely my best friend.”

Through the Human Library event, students were able to learn more about experiences, while gaining insight and empathy for others through thoughtful conversations, one “book” at a time.



Student Spotlight

Oliver Dressel '22 | Eco Club

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY ANNA VANSEVEREN | ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



Major(s)/Minor(s): Environmental Science and Organismal Biology / Chemistry

What is Eco Club? What does this organization do?

Eco Club is our campus's student organization that is all about how we as students, and the college in general, can lead environmentally sustainable lives. We have revamped Eco Club this year in order to make more of a difference. In part, this meant expanding our membership, including more frequent documentary and discussion events and having more of a presence on social media. A larger project we took on this year is implementing ways in which students have access to environmentally friendly products. At the beginning of the school year we were so happy to be back on campus, but we noticed the large quantity of plastic waste that we were generating as a byproduct of SNC's efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. So we took initiative and started selling travel kits of reusable wooden utensils to provide an alternative to the single use plastic utensils the college had switched to. The sale was a success, and after winter break we started the conversation about selling more environmentally friendly products through the convenience store here on campus, Phil's. Currently we have four products: laundry detergent sheets, a zero waste shampoo/conditioner sample kit, reusable bamboo cotton makeup removal pads and reusable silicone food storage bags.

What is the best part about being in this organization?

The best part of Eco Club is that it is not just a club for natural science majors! In fact, we have emphasized the importance of having people from a variety of areas of study working together against climate change. It is in a liberal arts approach that novel ideas provide solutions for problems that another person may have never thought of. For example, at our first documentary night of this semester we watched "Chasing Coral," which is about the alarming rate at which coral reefs around the globe are experiencing bleaching events.

The main character did not come from a background in the natural sciences, but from advertising. He approached the problem with a perspective that had never been considered before; coral bleaching is an advertising problem. Through making a documentary, the issue of coral bleaching has gained the attention of the public eye and is receiving a more appropriate response.

What is your position in this organization?

President

Why did you become involved with Eco Club?

I became involved in Eco Club because environmental stewardship has always been a part of who I am. I grew up in rural western Wisconsin, and my family raised pigs, chickens, hunted for meat, made our own maple syrup and had a garden. My dad's friends all call him the "hunter-gatherer" type. So living off the land and appreciating nature's gifts was the way I was raised. In high school I started to learn about this thing called climate change, and that if we keep living how we are living now, there will be a time when nature's gifts will be few and far between. I started an environmental club in my hometown my senior year of high school, and as I transitioned to campus life I found myself missing the club back home. I signed up for Eco Club at the involvement fair and now cannot imagine not being in the club.

Why is this organization important on St. Norbert's campus?

Our climate is changing, and it is up to people alive today to ensure a safe tomorrow. Eco Club is doing important work educating students about climate change and how they can lead lives with minimal detriment to the planet.

Favorite Movie: "Interstellar" or "Ice Age"

Favorite documentary: David Attenborough's "A Life On Our Planet" 10/10 would recommend to everyone

Favorite Book: "Drink" by Daniel H. Pink

Favorite show: "The Office"

Favorite music artist: Bon Iver, Paul McCartney or Earthgang

Hogwarts house: Gryffindor

Favorite fictional character: Sid the Sloth

LGBTQ+ Musician Spotlight

TALEISE LAWRENCE | ENTERTAINMENT COLUMNIST

Welcome to this week's LGBTQ+ musician spotlight! This week I will be discussing Ezra Furman, Brendon Urie, Halsey and Mj Rodriguez.

Ezra Furman is an American musician and songwriter. They have eight albums, three EPs and six singles. Although they used to be part of a band, Furman is now a solo act. Furman and her band created the soundtrack for the popular Netflix series "Sex Education." Furman has won AllMusic's "Favorite Indie Pop and Indie Rock Albums" twice, once in 2015 and once again in 2018.

Ezra Furman is trans and bisexual. The pronouns used by Furman are she/her and they/them. Some people can find this confusing and decide to just use one or the other to make their own life easier. Do not do this! It is incredibly rude to disrespect something as basic as someone else's pronouns.

I love Furman's music, though I do not listen to it often. My younger sibling introduced me to her music, so it holds a special place in my heart. It is great for listening to on a night time car ride; it has a nostalgic feel while also making you think about the future.

My Ezra Furman song recommendation is "Driving Down to L.A." from the album "Transangelic Exodus." The actual musical component of this song is so interesting, with the verses being more guitar and bass while the chorus is a lot of synth and drums. The lyrics are also two-sided, much like the melody. They talk about the feeling when "everything looks beautiful and you feel so happy you don't care if you die." The lyrics shift from talking about beauty and feeling content to a more sinister feeling of not caring if you live or die.

Brendon Urie is an American singer, songwriter and musician whose music generally falls under the broad category of pop. He is a member of the band Panic! at the Disco, though he is the only current member. He has six albums, and he appears on six other artist's singles. He has won one AMA, four Billboard Music Awards, two Teen Choice Awards and sixteen other miscellaneous awards.

Urie came out as pansexual in 2018, after saying he was straight in 2013. Though he is married to a woman, he still publicly came out. I think these are both great things. People change,

and therefore identities will change throughout one's life. Whether that is with your sexuality, gender identity, political ideology or anything else, it is important to remember you can always change. You do not have to believe what you always have. I remember someone asking my sexuality in my junior year of high school and my response was, "Straight, as far as I know." That is not my answer anymore. Things can change, and it is important to realize that there is nothing wrong with changing. On the flip side, it is okay to think you are LGBTQ+ and then realize you are straight. Not knowing your sexuality does not make you a bad person, and neither does changing your mind.

I also think it is great that Urie came out despite being happily married to a woman. Some people think that sexuality does not matter once you are with someone, but that is not true. A person's identity is so important, regardless of who they are dating or married to. Sexuality is not just who you want to have sex with; it is a part of you.

While he makes excellent music, I am not a huge fan of Urie. I was obsessed with P!ATD when I was younger. Once I started reading more

about him though, what I found was upsetting. Some heavier topics will be listed ahead, so if that is triggering, feel free to skip to the song recommendation portion. Urie has been accused of sexually assaulting a minor and his former bandmate, and he has a history of being racist, ableist, misogynistic, transphobic and touching people without their consent. While people can always grow and learn, it does not seem like Urie is trying to grow as a person. Considering that a large portion of his fanbase is young, it is discouraging to see the nasty things he has said as recently as 2020.

My Brendon Urie song recommendation is "Northern Downpour" from the album "Pretty. Odd." The entire album is very similar to some of the Beatles' albums. This is likely because the members of Panic! at the Disco were on drugs a lot of the time spent writing this album. I particularly like this song, because it feels so comforting. It reminds me of watching rainstorms when I was little, looking out the window while cuddled up in a blanket with my sister. The song is about former band member Ryan Ross' ex girlfriend and their relationship.

Halsey is an American singer and songwriter, with three albums and appearing in three films and eight TV shows. She has won an AMA, two Billboard Music Awards, two Teen Choice Awards and twelve different other awards. They have had two songs reach number one on the "Billboard Hot 100" chart.

Halsey is bisexual and uses she/they pronouns. Though they have been talking about their sexuality since 2015 or earlier, she announced that she uses these pronouns only this month. One thing that I love about social media is how easy it is to find out more about sexualities and gender identities if you look for it. I know a lot of people that realized they were not straight or cis during the pandemic, when a lot of people had plenty of time to reflect on themselves. It is heartwarming to see people feel like they have words to describe how they feel for the first time in their life, and that they are not the only one who feels this way.

I do not have any strong feelings for or against Halsey. Like anyone who listened to the radio in 2016, I know all the words to "Closer" by the Chainsmokers, which she was featured on. I have not

listened to much of her other music, though, so I do not know much about her.

My Halsey song recommendation is "New Americana" from the album "BADLANDS." This song is about how the US is different and more accepting than it used to be. They talk about how music has exposed them to "different cultures, different walks of life [and] different ideas," resulting in being less scared of differences and being more open to diversity. She thinks that this generation has been impacted similarly because of music. The song is really cool to think about: a world where everyone is accepted and encouraged to prosper.

Mj Rodriguez is an American actress and singer. She has been in six films, five television shows and six theatre productions. She has won a Clive Barnes Award and an Imagen Award, and she has been nominated for three other awards.

Mj Rodriguez is a trans woman. She knew when she was three years old that she was a girl. Some people might not realize until later in their life, and that is okay! If you feel like you did not always know, that does not make you any less queer.

I love Mj so much. Her performance on "Pose" is beyond words. The amount of emotion and empathy you feel for Blanca, Rodriguez's character, is phenomenal. It is super cool to see trans women playing trans women in "Pose." Many times cisgender men will be cast as trans women, which is a poor casting choice in my and many others' opinions. Mj is on Instagram and is very vocal about supporting her communities, whether that is the Latino, Black or LGBTQ+ community.

My Mj Rodriguez song recommendation is "Condition of Love" from the album "Saturday Church (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)." Though I am not entirely sure what happens in this film, the song speaks for itself. It talks about losing someone you loved, and how much it hurts. Mj's voice is amazing; it is quiet in some areas and powerful in others. The song is relatively short but packs a punch.

That concludes this issue's installment of LGBTQ+ musicians. Read next time to hear about Moses Sumney, Claud Mintz, Phoebe Bridgers and Hayley Kiyoko.



Above: Halsey and Brendon Urie | nme.com

Below: Ezra Furam | nme.com



Weeb Corner: Shows Coming in the Spring Anime Season

SARA DILLON | ENTERTAINMENT COLUMNIST

The end of March brings about the beginning of the 2021 spring anime season. Unlike the Winter, there are few big name series releasing new seasons, probably due to “My Hero Academia” (“Boku No Hero Academia”) airing its fifth season, starting Mar. 27. “My Hero Academia” is one of the biggest anime internationally and is considered to be one of the new staple shonen anime. Trying to compete with that for views is like having the same time slot as “Game of Thrones” when it was big. The only title able to do that is “Fruits Basket,” airing its final season Apr. 6. However, the lack of big name titles does not mean the season will be a bust. I have compiled a short list of anime that I or my friends are excited to watch.

“Haikyuu!!” season four wrapped up in January, and “Sk8 the Infinity” is scheduled to end the first week of April,

meaning the sports anime void needs to be filled. There are two candidates: “Burning Kabaddi” and “Bakuten!!.” “Burning Kabaddi” is about a first year high school boy who has fallen out of love with sports but is recruited by the Kabaddi club. (Kabaddi is a contact sport that originated in Ancient India). “Bakuten!!” has more hype around it and is about a high school boy who loves rhythmic gymnastics.

“The Way of the House Husband” is a comedic slice of life anime coming to Netflix. It is about a ruthless Yakuza member who leaves the seedy underworld to be a stay-at-home husband for his working wife. The manga is popular, and people have high hopes for the anime airing Apr. 8.

I am excited for “Shadows House” because it is being animated by CloverWorks, the studio that did “Wonder Egg Priority,” my favorite anime

from the 2021 winter season. “Shadows House” is a supernatural slice of life anime about a bunch of living dolls who clean and tend to a mansion.

“Mashiro no Oto” is a dramatic music anime likened to “Given” and “Your Lie in April.” It is about Sawamura Setsu, who was taught by his grandfather to play the shamisen, a traditional Japanese musical instrument. After his grandfather dies, Sawamura drops out of high school, moves to Tokyo, and becomes a drifter. His rich mother then comes back into his life and enrolls him in high school again. There his love of music returns.

Like the season of spring, the anime premiering stray away from the hyperactive violence of shonen (besides My Hero), and focus more on slice of life, comedy and drama anime. It will be a gentle and emotional spring in 2021.

Book Review: “Lovely War” by Julie Berry

ANNA VANSEVEREN | ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It is 1917, and World War I is at its peak when Hazel and James first catch sight of each other at a party in London. She is a shy and talented pianist; he is a newly minted soldier with dreams of becoming an architect. When they fall in love, it is immediate and deep. Unfortunately, their time together gets cut short when James is shipped off to the war.

Aubrey Edwards is also headed toward the trenches. A gifted musician who has played at Carnegie Hall, he is a member of the 15th New York Infantry, an all-African-American regiment being sent to Europe to help end the Great War. Love is the last thing on his mind, but that is before he meets Colette Fournier, a Belgian who has already survived an unspeakable tragedy at the hands of the Germans.

Thirty years after these four lovers’ fates collide, the Greek goddess Aphrodite tells their stories to her husband, Hephaestus, and her lover, Ares, in a Manhattan hotel room at the height of World War II. She seeks to answer the age-old question: Why are Love and War eternally drawn to one another? But her quest for a conclusion that will satisfy her jealous husband uncovers a multi-threaded tale

of prejudice, trauma and music and reveals that War is no match for the power of Love.

I have read two of Julie Berry’s other novels, “The Passion of Dolssa” and “All the Truth That’s in Me,” but “Lovely War” is by far my favorite. If you are an avid reader of the Times, you will know that my favorite book of all time is “The Song of Achilles,” and “Lovely War” reminds me quite a bit of that book. Of course, Julie Berry’s writing style is different than Madeline Miller’s, but the idea of interweaving the lives of the Greek gods and goddesses with the historical facts of WWI is so new and interesting. (Also, without giving away any spoilers, the ending of “Lovely War” is much happier than the ending of “The Song of Achilles.”)

I found Berry’s ability to transport the reader back in time to be incredible. The omniscient narration of Aphrodite, Ares, Apollo and Hades will make you feel like you are watching the action from above, but at the same time, the descriptions of war and the interactions between the characters will make you feel like you are right in the thick of the action. Sure, the story takes place decades in the past, but the depiction of

love is very much timeless. The characters are very much likable, and I really appreciated all of the Classical music references. As someone who plays the piano, Hazel was a really relatable character for me.

Part of the reason why “Lovely War” does such a good job of pulling the reader into the story is because of the emotions all the characters deal with. I mean, this book really has it all: fear, regret, hopelessness, joy, anger and disappointment. Even though the gods and goddesses telling the story are not human, the characters very much are. Readers really get a sense of what it was like during that time period when it was impossible to know whether your loved ones at war were safe or not.

Julie Berry does such a fantastic job with this novel, and I highly, highly recommend it. I cannot think of a bad thing to say about it.

Favorite quote: “Let them start their dreadful wars, let destruction rain down, and let plague sweep through, but I will still be here, doing my work, holding humankind together with love like this.”

Rating: 5/5

Coming Soon to Netflix



April 1: “Worn Stories” tells personal stories of people who have close attachments to special items of clothing. | lofficielusa.com



April 2: “Madame Claude” is a biopic about an infamous Parisian woman who ran a business of call girls for high profile clientele in the ‘60s. | imdb.com



April 9: former BFFs team up in “Thunder Force” when a science experiment goes wrong and gives them superpowers, making them the sole heroes who can save their city plagued by supervillains. | imdb.com

Below: Julie Berry’s “Lovely War” | sheafandink.com



Junk Drawer: Favorite Comedian

Anna: Daniel Sloss

You might have heard about Daniel Sloss from a clip that has been going around recently about his well-done discussion of sexual assault during one of his comedy specials. If you saw that video and wanted to look up more of his comedy specials, this is your sign to do it. If you have not seen that video, watch it, and then look up more of his comedy specials. I discovered Daniel Sloss during quarantine last year when I needed a good laugh to get me through the spring semester. What I did not expect to get from Daniel Sloss' comedy was a whole new outlook on romantic relationships that nearly threw me into an existential crisis. More on that in a bit. First, some info about Sloss. He is a 30 year old Scottish comedian who became the youngest comedian to perform a solo season at London's West End at the age of 19. Two of his comedy specials, "DARK" and "Jigsaw," are available on Netflix, and his most recent special, "X," is available on HBO.

The biggest reason why Daniel Sloss is my favorite comedian is because of how different he is from other comedians. His shows are not just comedy shows; they are a weird blend of comedy and Ted Talks. He is guaranteed to make you laugh, but have tissues nearby, too, because he also might just make you cry. Sloss has been praised for his discussion of sexual assault and the treatment of disabled people during his comedy specials, but the one that hit me the hardest was his discussion of romantic relationships in "Jigsaw." "Jigsaw" is notoriously known for having ended countless relationships and marriages due to Sloss' blunt wisdom and advice. I highly recommend you go and watch this special as soon as you can, but I will give you a quick run-down. Basically, Sloss says that we are trained from a young age to believe that we need a partner in life to be whole, that we are not enough on our own. Because of this, we try to force and shove people into our lives just to have someone, never minding if they are actually good for us or not, for the sole purpose of not being alone. One of my favorite lines he says is, "People are more in love with the idea of love than the person they are with." He explains all of this using a jigsaw metaphor that is so wonderful and hilarious, so please go check this special out if you have not yet. Another one of my favorite bits Sloss does is about religion and the audacious belief that Jesus was white; you can find this clip on YouTube along with many other hilarious bits that are not in his comedy specials.



Above: Daniel Sloss | discover.ticketmaster.co.uk

Taleise: Bo Burnham

I generally do not enjoy comedians or their shows. I think a lot of them are boring or not fast paced enough for me. Vine and TikTok really ruined my video watching attention span. It is also hard for me to watch comedy shows from years ago, because the world changes so quickly. Jokes that may have been acceptable ten years ago will not fly today. It is great to see comedians nowadays who can be funny without being hurtful or bigoted, but I cannot seem to find many I like. All this being said, Bo Burnham is my favorite comedian.

The thing I love most about Burnham is how his shows are not structured like a typical comedy show. Most comedians just stand in front of a crowd and deliver their jokes. There is nothing wrong with this, but Burnham takes a more theatrical approach to his shows. The jokes and songs performed are all coordinated with lights and different stage techniques. My favorite scene from his Netflix special "Make Happy" is at the very end. The song "Can't Handle This (Kanye Rant)" is so beautiful and well choreographed that it makes me cry every time I watch it.



Above: Bo Burnham | netflix.com

VCU Forced to Forfeit

SAVANNAH GRASS | SPORTS EDITOR

The Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Rams were forced to forfeit on Saturday, March 19, as the team had multiple COVID positive members. The Rams were supposed to take on the Oregon Ducks in the first round of the NCAA tournament but were forced to forfeit due to COVID protocols, as they did not have at least 5 available players to play. The Ducks coach stated that this was not the way that they wanted to advance and that they wished the Rams the best of luck, as no team wants to go through what they did. This caused a problem for everyone who had the Rams beating Oregon in their bracket.

The Rams coach stated that this is not the way that the team was hoping their tournament would go as they have traveled all the way to Indiana to play but instead had to forfeit for unseen reasons. The coach also stated that the team and staff had no idea where they

got COVID from, which could have been anywhere from the hotel to the arena. The coach stated that he did not know that if it was players that originally got the virus or if it was the coaching staff that did; either way, their tournament run was cut way shorter than they ever thought. The Rams will now travel back home, as they did not have enough players to compete.

This unfortunate turn of events shows that both players, coaches and other personnel on the team need to be taking the necessary precautions to make sure that, during their time in the tournament, they do not contract the virus. However, even if they do, they could end up like the Rams and have to forfeit from the tournament, because they did not have enough players left to play. This makes it so teams really take the virus seriously and will help ensure they will follow the guidelines put in place by the NCAA and their coach-

ing staff at all times. Another positive thing is that the Rams were just grateful to be even given a seed in the tournament, as they had to compete against many other teams for the spot. The Rams were cut short of their time spent in the tournament, but they were grateful for the experience and still got to enjoy the atmosphere that comes with participating in the tournament. The Rams will look forward to a new season next year with hopefully more fans and less COVID, and who knows, maybe another chance at participating in the tournament with the best of the best in college basketball.

As you can see, there are many reasons why teams need to take precautions in tournaments, especially large ones like the NCAA March Madness. However, even if teams take the necessary precautions, there may be still a chance that they could end up like the Rams, who un-



VCU Basketball | twitter.com

fortunately got the virus from an unknown source. This is a good lesson for all of the teams that are still in the tournament. The teams that are left need to take extreme precautions so that they do not put themselves or their team at risk of having to leave the tournament due to COVID. On the other hand, the teams that are left look to a brighter future, as they hope to be the ones who capture the title and are crowned champions. The tournament runners dream of a future where they do not have to worry about

COVID or being extremely cautious when it comes to where games are held or making sure that all players can play by taking a test twice a day. They also look forward to the day where the stands can be filled to the brim with fans and that the true atmosphere of the tournament will return.

Trans Women in Sports

SARA DILLON | SPORTS COLUMNIST

Earlier in March, a group of about 550 college athletes created a petition directed to Mark Emmert, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), encouraging the NCAA, him and the association's Board of Governors to oppose transphobic laws that prevent transgender women from participating in sports alongside cisgender (cisgender refers to someone whose gender correlates with their birth sex) women. Some athletes are specifically asking for the NCAA to refuse to host tournaments in the 23 states that have passed bills banning trans athletes or that require trans athletes to test their testosterone levels to see if they fall within an acceptable range. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) requires trans women to have testosterone

levels of less than 10 nanomoles per liter. There are no requirements for trans men.

The concern about trans women competing in sports alongside cis women stems from the physiological differences between the sexes. Male individuals have higher levels of testosterone, which supports bone and muscle development, causing a 10 - 12% difference between male and female athletes, according to Eric Vilain, a professor of human genetics at UCLA and a consultant for the IOC. Scientists then conducted experiments on how taking estrogen supplements with testosterone blockers impact a trans woman's body, specifically muscle development. A study released by the British Journal of Sports Medicine in Jan. of 2021, stated that after approximately two years, the

difference between a trans and cis woman's athletic ability has decreased greatly. That means that after enough time with hormone treatment, the physical debate becomes mute.

Outside of the physical differences between sexes, the longtime relation with sex and gender has also made an impact. A 2011 essay published in Womens Health Issues, "Fitting Fitness into Women's Lives: Effects of a Gender-tailored Physical Activity Intervention," found that socio-physiological expectations may play a role. The idea is that societies' standard for female individuals pressures them to stay away from extraneous physical activity. The expectations for female individuals to be caretakers and/or homemakers do not necessarily require physical strength.

There are also the physical expectations for female individuals to be petite and delicate, which does not send the message to young cis girls to go out and participate in sports. Female individuals report frequently running into barriers when it comes to partaking in physical activity whether it be playing sports or going to a gym.

I played sports from the time I was about 7 to the age of 18. Co-ed baseball and soccer lasted until about the age of 11 because 10-12 is when children go through puberty and the physical difference between male and female begins. However, I cannot help but wonder if I would have been a little more confident and physically fit, if the split did not happen until later.

Ultimately, I think laws banning trans women

and men from competing in sports are excessive and based solely off of fear, hate and ignorance. If high school, college and professional leagues feel compelled to place restrictions, it should be a league decision. I think people see sports as a sacred activity, and I understand that fairness in sports is important, but if the athletes do not mind competing against trans athletes, then it should not be an issue.



Stanley Cup Odds

SAVANNAH GRASS | SPORTS EDITOR

The team that is favored to win the Stanley Cup is a team that would not normally come to mind unless you are a fan of that team. The team that is predicted to win is the Colorado Avalanche. They have had the highest prediction percentage of winning the Cup all this year in the hockey world. Typically we would not think of the Avalanche as the team to win the cup. Normally, we may think of teams such as the Chicago Blackhawks, Washington Capitals or the Tampa Bay Lightning to win it all. We typically think of these teams because these are the teams who have been fortunate enough to win a Stanley Cup, sometimes more than once if they are really talented. This year, however, is the year for the Avalanche, according to the predictions.

The Avalanche has one of the best teams that its franchise has seen in a while, considering the fact that they have one of the best players in the league, who goes by the name Nathan Mckinnon. Mckinnon is one of the leading scorers on the Avalanche, he plays

every game and is one of the many reasons why the Avalanche are favored to win the cup. They are also favored because the league is set up differently this year due to COVID protocols. Each team is set to play its opponents a set number of times, which allows the formation of rivalries.

However, there are a few others that may try to make it to the championship this year; those teams are the Calgary Flames and the Vancouver Canucks. Both of these teams have a shot this year because the reigning champion, Tampa Bay Lightning, has lost one of their key players. This in turn opens the door for other teams to take their shot at winning a cup during these weird and unpredictable times. The Canucks have a chance as they have a decent offense and defense as well as a decent goalie. However, the team has not been performing its best every night, which could be a problem in the playoffs, as every team the Canucks face will always be playing at their top level, and the Canucks have to be as well if they want to be con-

sidered the best team in the league.

The Calgary Flames are in a similar situation; they have a decent offense, defense and goalie. Their main struggle is sometimes finding a way to come from behind. The team plays really well when they are winning, which is good, but when they are losing, they struggle to find the momentum they need to keep going. If the Flames can figure this out, they will be on their way to possibly winning the Stanley Cup, which the city of Calgary has not seen in quite a while. In fact, if either the Canucks or Flames win the cup, the country of Canada will be happy, as it is one

trophy that they do not get to see very often, despite the fact that their country is known for hockey.

As we can see, there are many teams that are in the top predictions this year for winning the Stanley Cup. Any team that wins this cup is considered one of the best teams in the league. This trophy, especially this year, shows that the team has made it through a whole season with minimal injuries as well as players adhering to COVID protocol. And even if they had the top players under COVID protocol, the team was deep enough where they will have players who can quickly fill in for a short period of time

or longer if needed. The Stanley Cup, in general, is typically known as the most elusive trophy in the sports world. With this being said, the team that will raise it has got to have a lot of grit, talent and overall a pretty good and healthy team that was able to come from behind when losing and was not too cocky when they were winning or had a winning streak going. This trophy represents a lot, and any team that raises it is pretty talented, which is why each team in the league, no matter how good or bad, tries its best to win it, doing whatever their team can to do so.

Stanley Cup | nhl.com



Fox 11 Bracket Challenge

SAVANNAH GRASS

Fox 11 is back with another fun challenge for all the sports fans out there. This challenge relates to the NCAA men's basketball tournament. In order to win, you must login or sign up on the Fox 11 website. The rules are that you must choose who you think will win each round by the time of tipoff in the first round of play. The person who has the perfect bracket wins \$1,000,000. That is a lot of money! So go play now for your chance to win. There are other prizes that are being offered as well for those who have a good bracket, but did not predict all the teams correctly. This challenge ends when the tournament ends on April 3, 2021.



Fox 11 Bracket Challenge Logo | fox11online.com