

## Saints danced the night away at the annual winter ball

**Amanda Chappell**  
*Section Editor*

On Dec. 2, Saint Martin’s Campus Life hosted their annual winter ball. The dance took place at the Thurston County Expo Center, and was adeptly decorated for a winter wonderland. Students danced the night away, ate delicious food, posed for many pictures, and walked away with a free SMU mug. This semi-formal ball was a wonderful way to take student’s minds off the ending of a semester, and to get into the holiday spirit.

Last year, the ball had an “Olympus” theme and was held at the Capitol Building in Olympia. The venue was beautiful, the dance floor centered with an enormous, Christmas tree littered with ornaments galore, and the multiple-leveled building provided for several places to watch the dancing from one of the many balconies. The food, while sparse, was delicious and provided more energy for those who wanted



Photo courtesy of Amanda Chappell  
Saints hold up their free Let it SMU mugs from the winter ball.

to shimmy and shake around the Christmas tree. DJ Rad had a stage set up to work his magic, and he had the crowd on their feet the whole time.

This year, the venue, while vastly

diverse from previous years, offered a warm environment for classmates to dance together and mingle amongst themselves. The many tables were offered for those who just like to sit and observe, or even

to enjoy the food that was available for consumption. Saint Martin’s own DJ Rad once again kept the students moving by choosing upbeat songs to everyone’s liking.

The food this year had a variety of options, from mini cheeseburgers to cheesecake, the dancing fuel just kept on coming. Campus Life did a wonderful job of making sure that once one item of food ran out, they restocked it within minutes.

When asked about students’ experiences at the ball, Salma Raponi, sophomore, said in a text, “[the dance] was awesome. I got to see my friends and spend quality time with them. The food was great, and the photo booth was a great idea. Providing a shuttle for transportation was a smart idea. I was happy to be part of it all.” Ian White, also a sophomore, said “my favorite part was definitely the DJ. Radrick is really good [at his job]. The overall atmosphere was great.” One of the most popular aspects of the ball

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## A true atomic narrative: an interview with Julie Coryell

**Jessilyn Dagum**  
*Staff Writer*

Saint Martin’s has been known to host a wide range of spectacular individuals, each with their own story to tell. I had the honor of sitting down with one of our campus guests to learn about her father’s contribution to the creation of the atomic bomb, as well as her experience growing up in a culture of secrecy.

“My name is Julie Coryell. I was born on Christmas Eve, 1943 in the secret, segregated, dry city of Oakridge, Tenn. Oakridge was the site of three big projects that were geared to find a way to process Uranium to make fuel for the atomic bomb.” Julie Coryell is a guest speaker in Saint Martin’s University’s Atomic Narrative class. Her father, Charles Coryell, played a significant role in the chemistry behind the atomic bomb. “The chemist’s story is less well known than

the physicist’s story,” says Julie. Their role in the Manhattan Project was equally as important.


Julie’s father accepted a position in the Manhattan Project in 1942, for which he was Chief of the Fission Products Section, both at the University of Chicago and at Clinton Laboratories. Coryell, along with his group, was responsible for characterizing radioactive isotopes created by the fission of uranium and for developing a process for chemical separation of plutonium. Julie went on to tell me, “I was the first child born in X ten of the Clinton Labs. That was the pilot reactor for the reactor at Hanford.” It was at the Clinton Laboratories, where Julie’s father, along with Jacob Marinsky and Lawrence E. Glendenin, discovered the previously undocumented rare-earth element 61, which her mother would go on to name. “One day the scientist said to my mother, ‘Grace Mary you’re a poet. What should we name this

new element?’ and my mother said to them, ‘Well it’s been awhile since I’ve taken chemistry, remind me, what’s an element?’ and they told her, ‘it’s something from the earth that hasn’t been discovered before’ and she said to them, ‘it reminds me of Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods and was punished for the act by Zeus. I think you’re playing with fire.’ Thus, element 61 was named Promethium: A name coined from her mother’s poetic mind. Julie shared with the Atomic Narrative class a poem her mother wrote about the first colored photograph of Trinity Bomb test in Los Alamos.

“I don’t always understand the chemistry, but I know the language. My mother was a poet and my father was a chemist.” Julie went on to explain what it was like growing up in the Atomic age so close to the creation of the atomic bomb. “A child is always wondering but also scared too of imagined and real implications of parental work.” When

asked what her experience was like growing up, Julie replied, “It was a very cosmopolitan experience. My father was on a first name basis with some of the major scientists of his time. He once had a stunning battle with Glen Seaborg, the Nobel Prize laureate.”

One of the most memorable things Julie said to me during our interview was, “My father learned that the notion that’s really important in science is: you’re important by the ideas you produce. Not our age or your status or your extensive experience. He took to the Manhattan Project a very egalitarian and trusting attitude to the young men he hired. Many had been his students in California. He felt that if you outlined what you were doing as best as you could, people engaged, and they often produced. People rose to the occasion.”





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*The adviser is a journalist, educator and manager who is, above all, a role model. The adviser’s ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.*



Hello readers,

As we are wrapping up the semester and studying for our finals, we at The Belltower are excited to produce one last issue for the 2017 year. This year has been hectic from start to finish, both in our local community and around the world, and I am personally anticipating what the new year has to offer.

December is a busy month, with the emerging holidays and overwhelming exams, but it’s also an important time to reflect on the months prior. In this issue, we highlight some of the events that have occurred throughout the year, as well as current events, such as the mosque bombing in Egypt. While these events may not be the most uplifting to read about, it’s important to remember the spirit of holidays as well. From the history of Black Friday and of Christmas, this issue is sure to inform students of some the traditions they have been participating in for years.

Along with world news, we highlight some of the amazing opportunities Saint Martin’s has to offer, such as the short study abroad trips this summer, as well as student experiences with the famous Black Friday.

I am both thrilled and honored to join the editorial team as the features editor, and I am looking forward to the spring semester. Thank you for picking up a copy and supporting The Belltower. Happy holidays, Saints, and good luck on your finals!

Sincerely,

Amanda Chappell, Features Editor

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*Winter Ball, from cover*

seemed to be the photo booth set up in the foyer of the expo center. Campus Life provided a multitude of props for students to use in their photos, and the touch-screen system was easy to operate. The ring light produced spectacular lighting, for the pictures came out looking professional. As there were several pictures taken, and a long queue of them printing, any of the leftover pictures are available in the TUB to pick up. At the end of the dance, campus life handed out free “Let it SMU” coffee mugs, a great holiday gift for the attendees of the ball. These mugs are the perfect way to celebrate the winter season with a little SMU pizazz. Also, they can make a great last-minute Christmas gift to parents or relatives of the student who received them.

As this is annual Saint Martin’s campus life tradition, those who may have missed the ball this year, should make sure to attend the next one, because there is no better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to dress in formal attire and dance the night away with some of your closest friends.

**“Murder on the Orient Express” mystifies viewers**

**Breanna Brink**  
*Staff Writer*

There has been a lapse in proper murder mystery performances on the big screen, and since Britain seems to produce some of the best source material, what a better way to remedy that by adapting Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie’s novel “Murder on the Orient Express.” This novel is not the first mystery written in her backlog, but is perhaps one of her most popular works revolving around her fictional detective Hercule Poirot “hold the e” Poirot. While the film has been receiving neutral reviews from American critics, fans of the movie will be happy to know it has more than doubled its production value, which was primarily spent on having a big name cast and beautiful set work. With that in mind, Poirot, portrayed by Kenneth Branagh, can be expected to potentially continue his on-screen mysteries in the future.

The IMDb basic summary holds no spoilers, but is an accurate description of the film, “A lavish trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard a train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, the world’s greatest detective -- Hercule Poirot -- arrives to interrogate all passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again.” This discussion

will be kept spoiler free, because even if this is based off a book, they are not as popularized as Sherlock Holmes. With a spectacular cast consisting of Branagh, Penélope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Josh Gad, Derek Jacobi, Leslie Odom Jr., Michelle Pfeiffer, and Daisy Ridley, there is no short in talent. Unfortunately, with so many big names, sometimes it feels as if characters are underdeveloped, or shoved into places they don’t belong. This is likely the result of a short runtime, not a problem with the casting or the source material.

Christie’s novel is one of many she has written. She is well known as an English crime novelist, short story writer, and play-write. She was elevated to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her contributions to literature, so it’s about time her 66 crime novels began to get some recognition. Though it isn’t as if “The Orient” has been left in the shadows. There has been a radio show, two films made in 1974 and 2017 respectively, three separate television shows produced by different countries and a point and click video game. Despite all of these installments, “The Murder on the Orient Express” still holds the power to surprise everyone who saw it in theaters.

Rohan Naahar from the Hindustan Times had a proper take on the film. Discussing issues American

audiences had with the film and pointing out our unnecessary need for constant action over thought provoking character discussion, “Branagh retained the old-world charm and the exotic romanticism of Christie’s novels, he has found dimensions to the Dame’s stories that I – despite having read all her books to the point that they were under physical threat of disintegration – had never expected, and honestly, never even thought of.” He proceeds to discuss something that some movies neglect to attempt to achieve, humanity in their detective characters. “Branagh begins his deviation from tradition from the first scene of the Murder on the Orient Express, in which he establishes a new sort of Hercule Poirot. One that is a real human being.”

In addition to having a great cast and a set that’s real and begging to be interacted with, the most prominent theme of the movie is the mystery and the reveal at the end, which is arguably the most important part of any mystery film. This movie is asking you to theorize, think over the clues, and come to a personal conclusion. Vox gave the film a stellar review, saying, “The murder solution in ‘Orient’ is so elegant, neatly crafted and inevitable-feeling, and yet so surprising at the same time, that it has become a byword. It’s its own trope now: You can say, ‘It’s a “Murder on the Orient Express”-style reveal,’ and



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org  
Promotional ad for “Murder on the Orient Express.”

it means something.” The solution in the end will require you to look at your own personal values and ideas of what it means to be right or wrong. Depending on if you enjoy the ending, or find it convoluted, the idea is still undeniably interesting and a discussion on the inherent evil of human kind. This is the perfect example of a who-done-it done right, and even if the movie sometimes struggles to include all the important plot points, you can always read the novel and see the story in its full glory.

**Netflix original “The Crown” debuts second season**

**Gretchen Allen**  
*Staff Writer*

With America’s infatuation of the British royal family, it’s no surprise that fans nationwide were anxiously waiting the season two arrival of Netflix’s “The Crown” on Dec. 8. Centered around the current monarch of The United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II, the series chronicles her reign.

Peter Morgan’s drama does not boast a lot of big name stars, but Queen Elizabeth (Claire Foy), and Prince Phillip played by “Doctor Who” alum Matt Smith, fill their roles with what seems like effortless sophistication. The show begins in 1947 with King George VI (Jared Harris) in power, but coughing up blood. His health is declining and Elizabeth (Foy), newly married and barely thinking of the crown, is soon atop a tenuous British monarchy after the death of her father. As Elizabeth navigates her way to being The Queen she will become, Prince Phillip is also a man in flux. His insecurities foreshadow tensions that are a theme throughout the first season. We also see how the show gracefully tiptoes around mentions of Winston Churchill’s international policy. Instead, he is portrayed as a passionate, tragic figure who was simply misunderstood because of his brusque manner. Stretching only through 1955, “The Crown” can be a bit slow-going for those who like an action-packed drama. However, it is a well-written story that will walk you through an enjoyable history lesson. While the characters portray real people in



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org  
The Netflix original “The Crown” tells the story of Queen Elizabeth’s II reign.

actual situations, there was also a bit of artistic liberty thrown into the mix. It’s a show that covers so little that is new, but is executed very well.

“The Crown” is touted to be one of Netflix’s most expensive shows with a two-season budget of 100 million dollars. Its breathtaking costumes reportedly employ a team of more than 50 people to make custom looks. Costume designer Michele Clapton blended research from photographs and footage of the royal family during the early years with her own idea of what they would’ve worn. Season two promises to continue to center around Queen Elizabeth II, but expect to see more of the men in her life. With rumors swirling after season one of whether Prince Phillip’s alleged affair will rear its head, the show’s creator, Peter Morgan’s lips are sealed. What

we can anticipate is learning more about Prince Phillip in this next season. More about his past, traumatic childhood, and maybe a sordid affair. His mostly dutiful husband façade changes in the second season. Becoming a frustrating pain in the rear, this season will explore Elizabeth and Phillip’s complicated marriage in greater detail. Ultimately, the show is about a woman persevering at all costs, even when the men she loves fail her.

Nov. 20, 2017 marked the 70th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip.

Wed at Westminster Abbey in 1947, they are the longest-married couple in British royal history. At 91 and 96 years old respectively, they are finally starting to scale back their responsibilities due to age. Despite earning their platinum milestone, they chose only to celebrate with a photo shoot. The couple released their first anniversary portrait, shot by British photographer Matt

Holyoak, taken in the White Drawing Room at their home of Windsor Castle.



## Clint Dempsey and Jordan Morris nominated for Player of the Year

**Vanessa Kuffner**  
*Staff Writer*

Seattle's own Clint Dempsey and Jordan Morris have been nominated for the 2017 Male Player of the Year. Voting closes on Dec. 12 and the winners will be announced throughout the month of December. Dempsey and Morris are also competing against Toronto FC's Michael Bradley and Jozy Altidore for the title, who they will be taking on in a rematch of the 2016 MLS Cup Final game on Dec. 9 at BMO field in Toronto.

Dempsey came back to the U.S. national team after he was gone for seven months with an irregular heartbeat that put him out of commission in August of 2016. During his first game back, Dempsey scored a hat trick to help win the game 6-0 against Honduras in the FIFA World Cup qualifying game. He scored a team-high of 12 goals for the Sounders and was named 2017 MLS comeback player of the year. Dempsey is also a three-time winner of the U.S. Soccer Male Player of the Year (2007, '11, '12).

Morris had his moment in the spotlight when he scored the 88th-minute game-winner over Jamaica in the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final game. During his club season he played with an ankle and hamstring injury, but was still one of the best young talents of the U.S. men's pool. Morris was also nominated for the 2016 Young Male Player of the Year last year, but the award went to Christian Pulisic. After three months, Morris returned from his injury and finished the regular season with three goals and an assist.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Sounders played Toronto on Toronto's home field. The last time these teams played was the 2016 MLS Cup where the Sounders took the victory in an intense match. The match went to a shoot-out when neither team could score in over time. Eventually the game ended 5-4 in the shoot-out when Justin Morrow's kick for Toronto hit the crossbar of the goal, which gave Roman Torres the opportunity to take the win for Seattle. Torres drilled the shot down the middle past Clint Irwin who had dove to the left. It was an unlikely win for the Sounders, because they set the MLS low in total shots

(3) and shots on target (0) according to Sports Illustrated's Grant Wahl. Early in the game, Toronto had a chance to take the lead when Sebastian Giovinco passed the ball to Jozy Altidore, who barely missed a shot on goal in the second minute of the half. In the 30th minute Toronto had another attempt on goal, but goalkeeper Stefan Frei was able to save it. The second half was similar to the first, with some success on goal but all of the Sounders shots were off target. The game ended at 0-0 and went into overtime, where once again neither team could put the ball in the back of the net. Finally, the two teams went into a penalty kick shoot out where Seattle took the Cup for the win.

With the rematch on Dec. 9 The fans were extremely excited on both sides, the Sounders fans have even created fan hype videos that are posted on the Sounders website for viewing.

## Johansson and Simpson-Patu driving forces in Saints success

**Lauren Allison**  
*Staff Writer*

Senior forward Elin Johansson and freshman guard Saniah Simpson-Patu have been driving forces for the women's basketball at SMU during the first part of their 2017-2018 season. Johansson, who was selected this season to the GNAC Preseason All-Conference Team, finished last year leading the Saints in points per game with 13.2, rebounds per game with 6.1 and field goals made with 137. She was ranked seventh in rebounding in the GNAC, ninth in scoring and field goal percentage and eighth in conference for blocks with a total of 23. The Saints finished last season with a record of 5-23 with one conference win. This year the team is under new head coach Christy Martin who looks to turn this season around. "I believe the adjustment of having a new coach with a new program was a big challenge, especially in the beginning of the year.

Since there are many returners we completely have to change old habits and our mindsets. It is probably not ideal to get a new coach your senior year, but both Coach Martin and Coach Foster made the transition easy for all of us," commented Johansson when asked about the biggest challenge this season.

Johansson scored 30 points in their first non-conference home opener against Pacific University, adding 11 rebounds, four assists and no personal fouls. Simpson-Patu contributed to the win with 13-point, 14-rebound double-double. She commented on her successful night by saying, "It was definitely a fun way to start off the season. We came out ready to play, and just had fun playing together. And I can never take the cred for a high scoring game, there's always four other people on the court who made the scoring possible. my teammates helped me out, and gave me the right touches. The energy we had as a team was great, and I hope to



*Photo courtesy of SMU Athletics*

**Freshman Saniah Simpson-Patu has been a key component in Saints success.**

keep that up through the entire season." SMU was able to walk away with another win for the season against Biola University due to the tremendous effort once again by the senior forward and freshman guard, Johansson record 22 points and 12 rebounds while Simpson-Patu recorded 16 points.

Johansson, who has been a leading scorer for majority of the games this season so far, recorded another career high with 27 points while Simpson-Patu added 15 against

Academy of Art which ended in an 82-61 win for the Saints. In their most recent game, Saniah recorded a career high of 23 points, 6 rebounds and four assists while Johansson recorded 19 points, four rebounds and three assists in their latest game against Concordia. This season Saniah is "looking forward to shocking everyone, this team is special and we're going to wake a lot of people up this season." The Saints are off to a great start holding a record this season of 1-1 and overall 5-4 which currently seats them in seventh place overall, 4 places up from the preseason rank in the 11th spot. According to Johansson, "Season so far has been good. we have lost some games and won some games, but we have been making progress in every game which has been exciting." Saniah also concluded that, "Season is going great I love my coaches and my teammates." SMU played their next game at Seattle Pacific University Dec. 9 at 2p.m.

## While most students return home for break, basketball season continues

**Eric Parks**  
*Staff Writer*

Any college student partaking in athletics knows that their commitment to their team is substantial. The amount of time practice, games, and training requires during their season makes time management especially difficult for student athletes. The basketball players, however, have a special commitment due to the timing of their sport: a large portion of the basketball season takes place during winter break. While most students go home over the break (after all, they don't have much of a choice: the dorms close over break), the basketball players continue to practice and compete as normal.

With six games over winter break, the men's team will remain very occupied during their rest period. With only four of the team's 15 players from Washington, the majority of the group will have to stay on campus for break and won't get to visit their families nearly as much as everyone else. Their schedule allows for an eight-day break between their Dec. 19 game against Evergreen State University and their Dec. 28 tilt against Simon Fraser University, but doesn't let up after that.

Thus far, the men have been enjoying a productive season. After close exhibition losses at the University of Washington (87-91) and Washington State University (74-85), the Saints are 6-2 on the season while playing just one game at home. While only two conference games have been played (in which the Saints are 1-1), Saint Martin's has a competitive overall record. Starting over break, the Saints face only conference opponents for the remainder of the season including a trip to Alaska to face the University of Alaska-Anchorage and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in early January. Perhaps a quiet campus and a break from academics will help the team focus on basketball and bode well for the fate of the team, despite their inability to spend significant time at home with family.

The women's team faces a similar situation as the men, with five games of their own to keep themselves occupied over break. While the team is comprised of a higher percentage of Washington natives, the women's team has their share of students who won't be able to spend much time at their out-of-state home this break either. The women, however, will be presented with their own unique challenge. While the men's team is mostly made up of students who are juniors

or seniors, only five of the women's fourteen players are upperclassmen. The break could be a blessing in disguise for a young team looking to build chemistry for this season and beyond.

With a record of 5-4 and a conference record of 1-1, the women are also holding their own in competitive play this season. Earlier in the year, the women had a four-game winning streak with each victory coming by double digits. Additionally, the women get two days longer between games over Christmas than the men. They do, however, travel to British Columbia for a Jan. 11 game at Simon Fraser and have a game in Bellingham, Wash. only two days later. Hopefully the team will be able to build upon their successes and impressive individual performances by team leaders Elin Johansson, Saniah Simpson-Patu and Makenna Schultz. With both Men's and Women's Basketball among the most popular and successful sports at Saint Martin's, it will be exciting to see how both teams fare over winter break and the remainder of the season.



## Men's basketball moves up in national poll after big win

**Lauren Allison**  
Staff Writer

The Saints traveled to California over Thanksgiving break where they went 3-0. The first game against California State University Monterey Bay on Nov. 22 ended in a 73-70 win for SMU. It was a tough battle with both teams struggling to hold the lead the entire game. Junior transfer Luke Chavez recorded 14 points and four assists, while Jordan Kitchen ended with 13 points and seven rebounds. Following was freshman Tavian Henderson who recorded 10 points and Matt Dahlen with nine points. As a team the Saints shot 51.7 percent from the field, 41.2 percent were beyond the arc and 44.4 percent from the free throw line. Two days later, the Saints turned around to play Academy of Art, which ended in a 77-67 victory. The game started out with a 17-0 run for the Saints. Chavez ended with an impressive career-high of 26 points, four rebounds and three steals. Ej Boyce finished with 13 points, Tavian Henderson added eight points, nine rebounds and five assists. Head coach, Alex Pribble commented on the successful week saying, "We're very excited about the progress we've made so far. These guys really came together on the Thanksgiving road trip to California. They're building a brotherhood, building trust, and

that is paying off on the court. Everyone on the team is finding a way to contribute, finding a way to make their teammates better."

SMU continued their winning streak against number seven nationally ranked Cal Baptist with a 93-88 victory over the Lancers. Five Saints ended with points in the double-digit including Jared Matthews (19), Dahlen (16), Chavez (17) and Kitchen (14). The team shot 54 percent from the floor, 55 percent beyond the arc and 63 percent at the free throw line. "Beating Cal Baptist will be one of the historical moments for this team this year. It was so much fun knowing what we are capable of and are going to continue to fight each game. We were jumping around and throwing water everywhere and were all thrilled to get that [win]." commented sophomore Cam Chatwin on the big win. After the successful week in California, the Saints were named Men's Basketball GNAC Co-Team of the week. Along with this honor, Chavez was honored as GNAC Player of the Week. During the week, he averaged 19 points per game, 2.3 rebounds, and 3.3 assists while shooting 54.5 percent from the floor and 56.3 percent beyond the arc.

Following the 3-0 week in California, the Saints jumped up in the national poll rankings for Men's basketball. Earning eight



Photo courtesy of SMU Athletics

**Men's team preparing for first home game introductions**

total votes, they jumped the highest in the National Association of Basketball Coached poll, putting them in 35th overall. The team also earned recognition in the Division II Conference Commissioners Association poll, receiving two votes and ranking 38th overall. Junior Robert Little commented on the ranking saying, "It's great to have that in the back of our minds, but the main thing is to continue getting better each time we go out, and not letting stuff like national rankings cloud our preparation each game." The team was able to celebrate the victories and honors briefly while preparing for their next match against Central Washington. The Saints traveled to the Wildcats

home court on Nov. 30, where they walked away with yet another win ending with 80 points compared to their opponents 75. Chavez led SMU once again with a career high of 30 points. "The GNAC is very tough this year, and we will be in for a battle every single game. We really hope the Saints community, and our students in particular, will be at the home games to give us an edge," according to Pribble.

The Saints played at Northwest Nazarene on Dec. 2 where the winning streak ended. The Nighthawks had a very successful shooting game, four NNU players were in the double-digits which ended the game for the Saints with a 67-92 loss.

## An overview of the Saint Martin's athletic department

**Eric Parks**  
Staff Writer

With a total of fifteen intercollegiate team sports on campus, the athletic department staff plays a vital role at Saint Martin's. While we celebrate the success of our athletic teams, it is important to understand how the department operates and strives to succeed. The athletic staff consists of coaches, directors and others who are hired on to manage SMU athletics and help students reach their full potential in sports. Austin Byrnes is one of these individuals who works in the department as Sports Information Director.

Byrnes joined Saint Martin's University in early 2017 after spending half a year at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. As the Sports Information Director for SMU, Byrnes has several different responsibilities. He operates the Saint Martin Saints website and social media profiles. He also works in statistics, announcing, and video production. Byrnes writes all athletic articles for the Saints website, including post-game, achievements and everything else. When Byrnes was a student at Carroll College, he worked in a similar role as a statistician and website developer. Saint Martin's University does not have anyone else in the athletic department operating in a similar role, which makes his contribution to the department incredibly valuable.

The athletic department administration consists of Bob Grisham, the athletic director, Chris Gregor as Associate Athletic Director, Alice Loeb sack as Assistant Athletic Director and Abbey Bergquist as Program Specialist. As Associate Athletic Director, Gregor also oversees internal operations which includes fundraising as well as

coordinating game management for several different sports. Loeb sack works in training, while Bergquist is the department's financial manager. Bergquist also manages the department schedule and events. The group as a whole is responsible for fundraising, team management, budgeting and other administrative responsibilities.

Another important division of the athletic department is the training staff. Led by Loeb sack, who is assisted by Matt Rausch, the training staff is focused on maintaining the health of student athletes as well as working toward improving their peak competitiveness. Loeb sack's profile states that "As an Assistant Athletic Director, she works with student-athletes in a variety of areas to enhance their understanding of diversity and gender issues. She helps to develop the student-athlete's understanding of how they fit within the larger athletics, university and greater community." Rausch is also employed as a trainer, having joined at the beginning of this academic year in 2017. In addition to his training duties, he is publishing research on the use of virtual reality to help aid balance assessment. Together, Loeb sack and Rausch play a vital role in athletic safety and improvement.

The last subsection of the department (and by far the largest) is the coaching staff. Saint Martin's employs forty coaches including eleven head coaches. While the specific requirements for each coach is different, they generally work one-on-one with their team to improve all aspects of player and team performance, including team chemistry, morale, skills development and team management. Head coaches also report to department and university administration regarding recruitment, equipment needs and team



Photo courtesy of SMU Athletics

**Associate Athletic Director Chris Gregor has been with Saint Martins for 13 years.**

performance.

Saint Martin's strives to staff each department with highly qualified professionals, and the athletic department is no different. Many coaches and staff have incredible qualifications and experience that help them ensure the success of their team and SMU athletics in general. Every member of the department, from administration to the coaching staff, fills a vital role that is necessary for the continuation of Saint Martin's athletic excellency.



## Spend two weeks in the UK this summer with your fellow students

**Amanda Chappell**  
*Section Editor*

The week following spring finals, two faculty from the English department are leading a group of students on a two-week study tour in London, Oxford, and Edinburgh. On this trip, students will have the opportunity to explore many of the wonderful literary landmarks that the UK has to offer. From visiting the historic campus of University of Oxford to hiking the highlands where movies like “Lord of the Rings” and “Harry Potter” were filmed, students are guaranteed the opportunity of a lifetime.

In Oxford, where the tour will begin, students will get to visit one of the most prestigious universities in the world – the University of Oxford. The historic campus is full of beautiful architecture, loaded libraries, and a history museum like no other. During the walking tour of the college, the group will also get to visit Christ Church, the ornate cathedral on the massive campus.

While on the trip, students will get to attend not one, but two plays at London’s Globe Theatre, a modern reconstruction of the famous

Shakespeare playhouse built in 1599. The now-standing structure was built about 700 feet from its original site, in efforts to give the audience the experience of attending the theatre in its prime. Attending a play here is a must for every thespian, and this study tour can make that dream a reality.

Also, while in London, students will be able to walk the streets of London to visit some of the cities’ most famous shops, pubs, and locations where popular authors conceived some of the most successful books to this day, as well as visit sites where some of the movie adaptations of these stories were filmed.

After the week spent in England, travelers will then take the train to Edinburgh, Scotland, for some more sight-seeing and adventuring. While in Edinburgh, there will be a walking tour of the historic Edinburgh Castle, which is believed to be first inhabited around 2 A.D. This castle is just one of the many in Europe, but this one in particular makes the Edinburgh skyline stand out.

Despite the wonderful pre-planned activities and sight-seeing adventures, students will have

plenty of time to explore on their own. During leisure time, travelers will have the opportunity to visit historic libraries and museums of their choice, and in Europe, there is no entry fee for museums. This way, students can tailor the experience to their own liking and make the journey unforgettable in their own way.

One of the most appealing aspects of this specific study tour is the concentration on literary works of the region. During the spring semester leading up to the trip, students will read the works of Shakespeare, Stevenson, Tolkien, Rowling, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Burns. The class required in order to get academic credit for the trip is offered in three different course numbers – ENG 210, 220, and 397 – where students can choose the exact course number needed for their academic plan.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity for students to not only travel beyond our borders, but learn the history of some of the greatest writers to this day. The trip still has many available slots open, so if interested, please contact either Mead or Chavez, as they will be able to answer any questions concerning the study abroad adventure.

## Saint Martin’s students discuss Christmas traditions

**Julia Lucas**  
*Staff Writer*

Christmas is just around the corner and magic is all around the Saint Martin’s campus. Students are decorating their dorms and RA’s are decorating the halls. There are ugly Christmas sweater parties being thrown, and eggnog is being served at Monk’s Bean. The Christmas cheer can be seen all over campus, even with dreaded finals coming up soon. Luckily for everyone, finals will soon be over, and we will all be able to go home and spend quality time with the people we love around Christmas. The countdown until Christmas Day has started, and everyone is starting to reminisce on previous year’s traditions.

Typically, on Christmas Day, families wake up early and open presents, listen to Christmas music, and have a big feast for dinner. While

most Saint Martin’s families may partake in these fun, but typical traditions, many students find themselves thinking outside of the box. Senior Paige Miller has an intense Christmas Day filled with Gingerbread house building competitions. Miller says that the competition is serious with scorecards and judges. Last year, Miller said her team won by making a mansion made completely out of gingerbread cookies and icing. She said it took her team 13 whole hours to finish it.

Devyn Connolly, freshman, also has an intense Christmas morning with a wrapping paper fight. Connolly says that every year after all her family members are finished opening their presents, they take all of the wrapping paper and crumble them into balls and start throwing them at each other. These are the kinds of traditions that you partake in when you live in an athletic

household. While these Christmas traditions are fun and different, many Saint Martin’s students have their own traditions that do not involve scheming against one another.

Freshman Emery Norwood and sophomore Hanna Hoffman are both able to open one present the night of Christmas Eve. Norwood always gets an ornament to add to her tree, and Hoffman is always given a new set of pajamas to wear that night. Hoffman also reflected on her favorite part of the holidays; putting up her Christmas art work from when her and her siblings were younger. She says that the art work takes up an wall in their house, and it makes the entire Christmas season feel very nostalgic.

Freshman Adrian Madrigal talked about his family’s Christmas and said that his entire family participates in secret Santa. This fun Christmas activity involves people

picking a name from a hat and giving a gift to the person they pick. Madrigal has a huge family, and this is not only a fun way to spread Christmas cheer, but also a smart way to save money by not purchasing everyone a gift. Some families may make Christmas a huge deal, but others may enjoy a more down to earth day with not a lot of activity.

Kamryn Tiunulu’s family takes Christmas as a day of rest and simplicity rather than a huge celebration. Her family goes to a different movie every year and enjoys their feast of popcorn and soda from the concession stand. Christmas may be celebrated with large family gatherings with secret Santa, intense gingerbread competitions, crazy wrapping paper fights, or even just watching a movie, but everyone is still spending time with the people they love.

## The spirit of Christmas

lives, as we all have been given many talents and opportunities. Remember, a thankful heart is a happy heart.

As you gather with your family members and friends over Christmas break, remember the true meaning of the holidays, considering thankfulness. Junior Michaela Baker reflects on some of the blessings she is most thankful for and states, “This Christmas, my family will be all together. My sister is coming back over winter break, so we will be together for Christmas. Also, there is a friend from high school that I haven’t seen in a year, and we have plans to go to Christmas Eve Mass together. I am very excited for that.”

In the Gospel of Luke, (Luke 17:11-19,) there is a beautiful story that perfectly connects to the meaning of gratitude. Jesus journeys through Jerusalem and encounters ten men with leprosy. He then proceeds to heal all ten, yet only one of the individuals returns to thank Jesus for his healing. Jesus says in reply, “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” At times, perhaps we too are like the nine lepers, who were given an abundance of blessings, yet never gave thanks for such gifts. Jesus invites us to live with a spirit of gratitude and recognize the beauty and talents in our lives.

Simply put, St. Gianna Beretta Molla states,

“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what he is sending us every day in his goodness.” May you and I approach this Christmas season with a heart of gratitude and spirit of thankfulness, and be like the one individual in the Gospel story above, who gave thanks to the Lord for the healing he received. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Kianna Garmanian**  
*Staff Writer*

Tis’ the season! With Christmas now approaching and the holiday season in full swing, it is important to reflect on the meaning of gratitude in each of our lives. Often, while getting caught in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, shopping sprees, and last-minute rushing to the stores to purchase gifts, it is very easy to forget what matters most. Thankfulness is a gift, and often, we forget to give thanks for our daily blessings.

An athlete who is battling with a back injury probably never appreciated their back so much until they became injured. Injuries allow athletes to develop a new approach on the functionality of their bodies, and gain a mindset of thankfulness for their health. Similarly, many individuals do not appreciate their health until they are fighting a fever, flu, or other forms of illness. As you can see, it is easy to take for granted our blessings in life, from good health, education, family, and friends, to shelter, food, clothing, and more. As G.K. Chesterton states, “When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.” Recognizing and expressing thankfulness not only increases your happiness, but helps you develop positivity in your life. During this holiday season, may we each take a moment to reflect on the special graces, blessings, and joys in our own



## Students share Black Friday experiences

**Julia Lucas**  
*Staff Writer*

Nov. 23 was marked on everyone's calendars for months, not only for Thanksgiving, but also for something much bigger than turkey, the start of Black Friday. Three out of every four people this year went shopping over Thanksgiving weekend, both online and in stores. Online shopping increased by almost 18 percent from 2016, with 7.9 billion dollars being spent across the country in online sales. Of those consumers shopping online, a staggering 41 percent used their phones to make their purchases. This could have been a major contributing factor for the lack of lines Saint Martin's students experienced when they went Black Friday shopping.

Taylor Wolf, a senior, shared that she shopped at Ulta, Target, and Old Navy, and felt that her experiences were hectic, but manageable. Wolf joined the festivities in Utah after spending quality time with her family. She said that she used to

work the Black Friday rush when she lived in Oregon and has seen Black Friday get so bad that she could barely move without running into another person. This year she said Black Friday was, in her own words,

“un-black-Friday-y.”

Similar to Wolf, freshmen Emery Norwood, Kamryn Tiumalu, and Devyn Connolly experienced uncharacteristically short lines when they went shopping. They went to stores such as Victoria's

Secret, Hollister, Pandora, and Forever 21 that did not have long lines or many people.

One store that many people agreed was the opposite of everywhere else was Old Navy. Old Navy had a staggering 50 percent off the entire store, so people were flooding in trying to get all of the best prices. Emery described scenes in Old Navy as “insane” and remembered the lines going all the way from the front of the store to the kid's section, which was all the way in the back. Tiumalu and Connolly drove under

twenty minutes from campus to find their great deals when they went to the Olympia mall. They said that the only place that really had long lines was Hollister because like Old Navy, they were having 50 percent of the entire store.

Unfortunately for freshman Adrian Madrigal, he did not have the same luck that everyone else seemed to have. He went shopping in California, his home state, and went to the Great Mall of the Bay Area. As a California native myself, I can say from first-hand experience that this mall is always crowded and hectic on normal shopping days. Madrigal spoke of the nightmares of horrible lines that took forever and annoying people everywhere. He was only able to shop at a few stores before he could not handle the pushing and shoving anymore.

From personal experience, I had a similar incident to Madrigal even though I did not go to the same place. My mom and I only went to the Nike store, but we waited in line for an hour and a

half. The line wrapped around the entire store and it was difficult to move. There were not enough cash registers open and the employees were taking absorbent amounts of time checking people out. This was surprising because typically stores are over staffed around the holidays, so situations like this do not happen often. For example, even though Emery spoke of the long lines at Old Navy, she said that she only waited for fifteen minutes before she checked out and was out the door. Emery said the Old Navy staff was more than prepared for the rush and greatly succeeded on Black Friday. Maybe Nike should take a few tips from Old Navy for next year's Black Friday. Overall many Saint Martin's students were able to experience Black Friday in stores over the break and pick up a few great deals, which made all the chaos worth it in the end.

## The history of Black Friday

**Gretchen Allen**  
*Staff Writer*

The words “Black Friday” used in any context sound ominous, and for good reason. Dating back to the early 1960s, the term was originally coined by the Philadelphia Police Department's traffic squad. This was because the chaos caused by the extra vehicular and pedestrian traffic created by shoppers heading to downtown stores the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Traffic squad officers had to work extra shifts. The extra shoppers made it easier for shoplifters to swipe things and run, which added extra stress to the officers on duty. Back in the 1960s, most employers did not offer the day after Thanksgiving as a paid day off. However, this didn't stop employees from playing hooky to get in on the sales extravaganza at most retail shops though. Not that fighting over a Chatty Cathy doll sounds nearly as exciting as getting the latest iPhone or Google Pixel 2, but it is easy to imagine droves of shoppers pushing their way through packed aisles to get their hands on the last Easy-Bake Oven or Lite-Brite.

The term “Black Friday” is also attributed to

a time when stores go from “in the red,” meaning they are operating at a loss, to being “in the black,” or showing a profit. Although the term “Black Friday” was widely used in Philadelphia in the 1960s, it did not catch on nationwide until the late 1980s. At this time, retailers announced big sales and created a buzz about limited quantities. Ads were run in the Thanksgiving Day newspapers and shoppers made their lists of most-wanted items. Retailers began opening earlier the day after Thanksgiving, and supply and demand took on a whole new meaning. Highly anticipated items were often sold to customers only if they had lined up early to receive a number prior to entering the store. For items that did not require a number, it was common to see pushing and shoving, or hear shouting and verbal attacks from one customer to another. Some newspapers would even share reports of paramedics taking injured customers away in ambulances.

Over the years, retailers vying for the upper hand have opened their stores earlier and remained open later. It's only been within the last ten years that Thanksgiving night became a draw for shoppers. Nothing is sacred at this point--it's all about the mighty dollar. Of course,

you have groups that boycott stores that open on Thanksgiving, but ultimately, what the public demands, they will get. With technology where it's at today, shopping is not just about going to the store, it's about getting the best deals online. In fact, there is a website called blackfriday.com that leaks ads from all your favorite stores and then allows you to compare products and prices. You can create a list to keep track of your most wished for items, see what's trending, and even save the items you want so you can be alerted to sales of that product.

Black Friday has come a long way over the years and it's here to stay. The items in demand will continue to change, but the rush of getting that one anticipated item to wrap under the tree will be the driving force in the continued tradition of many Black Fridays to come. Even our beloved Saint Martin's Bookstore has gotten in on the act--30 percent off and free shipping was pretty tempting.

## Christmas gift ideas under 10 dollars

**Mia Rollins**  
*Staff Writer*

For students on a college budget, here's a list of 10 dollar or under gift ideas for the holidays.

**Burt's Bee's 5 Piece Set for \$9.99.**

The gift set includes beeswax lip balm, mini coconut foot cream, mini hand salve, milk and honey body lotion, and mini deep cleansing soap bark cream. You can purchase this gift from Macy's online.

**Lush Bath Bombs, \$4.95 to \$8.95.**

Trying to buy a gift for someone who needs a little R&R? Online or in stores, Lush always has an array of beautifully crafted bath bombs made for self-care.

**Sheet Face Masks, \$8.93**

The Dermal Korean collagen essence full face sheet mask pack comes with 16 different types of masks to choose from.

The set is available on Amazon

prime.

**Octopus Novelty Tea Infuser, \$8.00**

Know someone who is a tea freak? Buy the Fred “OCTEAPUS” Octopus Tea Infuser on Amazon.

**Starry Night Projector, \$9.99.**

Need to get a gift for a little brother or sister? The Star Master projector lamp is perfect for kids and generates colorful twilight romantic skies. The unique night light is available on Amazon.

**3 in 1 mobile lens for phone, \$8.99.**

This lens set on Amazon is a great gift for an “instagrammer” or someone who just likes to take photos on their device. The set comes with three attachable lenses, fisheye, macro, and wide, to get all the angles.

**D.I.Y. Mug with Picture, \$8.39.**

Want to get the best gift for a mom or grandma in mind, pick out a favorite photo to place on a mug.

Using Vista Print, customers can design their own mugs with picture collages or wraparound designs and be shipped straight to your home.

**Mini Instax Glitter Picture Frame \$6 for one or get two for \$10.**

Have a bunch of polaroid pictures of you and your bestie? Visit Urban Outfitters in store or online and pick out a cute glittery frame to show your sentiment.

**David Bowie Coloring Book, \$10.**

Coloring books have been proven to be stress relieving, why not make it even more fun by coloring in a bunch of Ziggy Stars?

**Professional sketch pencil set, \$9.98.**

The ULSON black sketch pencil pack comes with 12 pencils in a case that is meant for an artist.

This gift can be purchased on Amazon.

**Rhodia Notebook, \$9.24.**

Need a gift for someone who loves to journal? On Amazon, customers can buy the well-made Rhodia lined notebook in colors of black, orange, and white, and is the perfect size for filed notes.

**Bananagrams, \$9.99.**

A fun game to play with the family after dinner is always a good idea!

Pick up at your local Target or online.

**Baggu Reusable shopping tote bag, \$10.00.**

Want to get a useful but funky gift for a friend or family member? The brand Baggu has an arrange of colors and patterns that fit perfectly into anyone's style. Baggu bags can be found at boutiques and on Amazon.

**Collapsible water bottles, \$8.99.**

Still looking for a gift for someone who loves the outdoors and is always on the go? On Amazon, you can purchase a set of three collapsible water bottles.



## Debate on civil forfeiture continues

**Zara Kulish**  
*Staff Writer*

The United States has a very complex justice system, and it can be hard for the average citizen to know exactly what their rights are in any given situation. One of the laws that makes this so complicated is the Civil Forfeiture Act. The latest statute, officially titled the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act, was passed in 2000. It enables police and other law enforcement to seize money and personal property in a search, without having to prove any knowledge of criminal activity on the part of the person to whom the items belong. The owner need not be convicted or even charged for their property to be taken. This occurs because the ethos behind civil forfeiture is that it is the object in question which has violated the law.

This is supposed to aid in putting an end to organized crime, but instead of doing that, it led to a lot of court cases with an inanimate defendant, such as the U.S. v. approximately 64,695

pounds of shark fins. Since this is a very ineffective method of reducing crime, and spends a lot of money on trials for inanimate objects, many citizens have adverse reactions. In addition to spending tax dollars to prosecute objects that were just going to be confiscated anyway, the Civil Forfeiture Act can be easily taken advantage of by corrupt law enforcement officers. One example of this is Willie Jones of Nashville, Tenn. Jones, who worked in the landscaping industry, was on his way to Houston, Texas to buy shrubbery. A lot of nurseries prefer cash from out-of-town buyers, so Jones planned to go there with 9,000 dollars in cash. Officers detained him at the airport, suspicious of the large amount of cash, accused him of being involved in drug-related activities. They eventually let him go, but they kept the money, and refused to give him a receipt for it. Because he did not have 10 percent of the money seized to put up as a bond, he could not afford to challenge the seizure in the usual way.

There are many other examples of things like

this happening, and there's no guarantee that officers won't take advantage.

However, even if this law was never taken advantage of, it still has severe drawbacks. The idea that with civil forfeiture, it is the item, not its owner that has violated the law is ridiculous, as an inanimate object cannot, of its own volition, break the law. In confiscating these things that belong to people who were uninvolved in whatever crime the object in question supposedly was, unintentionally punishes the innocent owners of these objects. They might not be charged with a crime, but they still lose something that they rightfully owned. Under civil forfeiture, it is not required that people be compensated for what is seized from them. This goes against the takings clause in the fifth amendment, which says the government can't seize anything for public use without compensation. Even with compensation, they can't seize anything that isn't for public use, which is the case with many instances of civil forfeiture.

## World shocked by Saudi Arabian coup d'état

**Jessilyn Dagum**  
*Staff Writer*

King Salam of Saudi Arabia and his son led the unprecedented arrests of their own family. What many are calling a "purge" and a "coup d'état" of Saudi Arabia's leaders, is believed to be caused by the heir to the throne, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The

Crown Prince has had a mediocre rise to power since his father appointed him to be Defense Minister of the country in 2015. Since then, he has vowed to "modernize the ultra-conservative tribal society." His efforts to achieve this are the hostile takeover of many powerful positions in the government including major economic, political, security, and royal court portfolios.

The Crown Prince's purge targeted both royals and non-royals who controlled money, the media, and the military.

"Among the dozens arrested were

eleven senior princes, several current or former ministers, the owners of three major television stations, the head of the most important military branch, and one of the wealthiest men in the world, who has been a major shareholder in Citibank, Twentieth Century Fox, Apple, Twitter, and Lyft," The New Yorker reports. The father-son-duo justifies their actions as part of their Anti-Corruption Commission, but many believe that their real agenda is to consolidate M.B.S's —as the King's third son is commonly known, by his initials—power. Traditionally, the monarchy has been passed down the line from brother to brother with consent of other brethren since the time of Ibn Saud, the first king, who founded modern Saudi Arabia. M.B.S has changed this for the first time in history.

The Trump Administration has supported the changes and refinement of the kingdom—as well as the royal family since the Crown Prince's

actions began. In a statement from the White House President Donald Trump had a conversation with the King just hours before the purge in which he commended the King and his son for taking a stance for, "the need to build a moderate, peaceful, and tolerant region," which is "essential to ensuring a hopeful future for the Saudi people, to curtailing terrorist funding, and to defeating radical ideology—once and for all—so the world can be safe from its evil." Trump also stated that he is personally trying to convince the kingdom to list the first offering of shares in Aramco, one of the world's most important oil companies, on the New York Stock Exchange or the Nasdaq. What President Trump did not mention is the risk involved in listing the shares in the U.S. This risk includes the prospect that any Saudi assets in the United States could be seized as a result of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) passed by Congress in

2016. The act allowed the families of 9/11 victims to pursue a civil suit against Saudi Arabia for alleged involvement in the plot. Meaning, if there were a verdict against the kingdom, the law would also allow a judge to freeze the kingdom's assets in the United States to pay for any penalties that the court awards. Meaning Saudi Arabia would be extremely vulnerable if it were listed anywhere near the New York Stock Exchange.

During the 2016 election, President Trump supported the JASTA bill and condemned President Obama for vetoing it. "Obama's veto of the Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act is shameful and will go down as one of the low points of his Presidency," he remarked. Now, with

Saudi Arabia in mind, Trump is critical of the bill.

## Gunman opens fire on New Mexico high school students

**Brian Messing**  
*Section Editor*

The small town of Aztec, N.M. was shocked on Friday Dec. 7, when a 21-year old gunman, disguised as a high school student, entered Aztec High School and opened fire in the high school. The shooter, William Atchison, was a former student of Aztec High School and had no criminal record, according to Fox News. Atchison had only limited interactions with law enforcement after posting a message in 2016 discussing weapons that might be used for a mass shooting on an online gaming forum. The post was flagged by the FBI, and law enforcement officers talked to Atchison. At the time, he owned no weapons and claimed that he liked to "troll online sites."

Atchison himself died in the attack. His apparent motives were found on a thumb drive attached to his person during the attack. Atchison began his note by stating his intention to die the day of the attack. Atchison continued by discussing his plans to take a classroom hostage, though thankfully this did not happen. Atchison ended his note by saying "work sucks, school sucks, life sucks...I just want out of this s---"

There were two victims in the attack, both of whom tragically died. No other victims were injured, despite multiple false reports that dozens were injured during the attack, according to



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org

**New Mexico Governor Susanna Martinez offered words of support for the families of the victims and members of community.**

CBS. These claims were refuted by a tweet from New Mexico State Police and at a press conference held at 3 p.m. on the day of the shooting. The victims were Casey J. Marquez and Francisco I. Fernandez. Marquez was described by her classmates as "a fun person to be around." She was a cheerleader and was planning to attend the Orange Bowl later this month. Fernandez had recently transferred to Aztec High School and was known for being interested in computers, with many saying that he had a bright future ahead of him. According to ABC News, a candlelight vigil was held on Thursday night in Aztec in

honor of the two victims and the community.

Some are being hailed as heroes for their efforts during the shooting. 73-year-old substitute teacher, Katie Potter, was in a classroom that was within earshot of where the shooting took place. Potter immediately told her students to get down on the floor and proceeded to push a sofa up to the door to barricade the room from any potential violence. Potter then consoled students by telling them that everything would be fine and not to worry. The sofa remained in position until Sheriff's deputies arrived and entered the room.

Both Aztec Police Chief Mike Heal and New Mexico Governor Susanna Martinez noted that there were tremendous acts of bravery that took place during the event. Heal noted that two police officers entered the school within a minute of the attack taking place and before the school was placed on lock down. Martinez stated that the New Mexico Education department will provide emergency funding of 120,000 dollars to the Aztec School District to assist with the aftermath of the event. Martinez also gave words of healing to the Aztec community "Healing and peace will take time; it just will... but this is a small community where everyone knows everyone else, and we've got to lift those who need to be lifted. ... I want the people of Aztec to know that New Mexicans stand with you."



## Trump continues ban on trophy animal hunting and imports

**Hannah Gabel**  
*Staff Writer*

A ban that was initially implemented in 2014 recently underwent a series of debates between the federal government and President Donald Trump. Originally, the ban was implemented to prevent people from trophy hunting for elephants and other wildlife in Zimbabwe and Zambia, in an effort to help conserve and protect the creatures. Last month, discussion of the ban was reopened before the government chose to lift the ban and allow imports and trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting is considered a sport where individuals hunt large game animals to preserve a part of them, showcasing it as a “trophy.”

The trophy can be any part of the animal, usually the head of animals with no antlers or tusks, and the racks or horns of animals such as deer, elk, gazelle, and similar species. For elephants, people usually want to collect their tusks. However,

ivory, a material from elephant tusks, has been fully banned, and there are some conservation groups dyeing elephant tusks to dissuade poachers from illegally hunting the animal.

According to the New York Times, “The Trump administration will begin allowing hunters to bring into the United States ‘trophy’ elephants killed in Zimbabwe, though African elephants are protected under the Endangered Species Act, the law allows the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to authorize imports of trophies if the agency finds that the “hunts in which the animals were killed contribute to the survival of the species.” With the removal of the ban, trophy hunting would be allowed once more on endangered species such as African elephants and lions. The risk with lifting the ban would be further endangering and potentially driving these animals to extinction.

Trump stepped in and surprised the country by putting a halt to lifting

the ban. Peter Barker and Emily Cochrane, writers for the New York Times, co-wrote an article stating, “...Mr. Trump put a sudden halt to a new federal government ruling that would have allowed hunters to bring in ‘trophy’ elephants killed in Zimbabwe into the United States, calling big game hunting a ‘horror show’ that he did not believe helped conservation.” Trump stepped in and put a halt to the administrations moves to lift the ban set in place in 2014, even after they had just begun to accept some permits to allow trophy hunting. Now, the decision will be reviewed and put on hold to be officially determined at a later date.

There is some debate on whether this was the right move. Amy Dickman from CNN stated in her personal article that trophy hunting might be more damaging to the conservation of species. She argues that with implementing and keeping the ban, it will encourage poaching and potentially cause conflicts between humans and parks in the

areas, causing further harm to the endangered wildlife. Zimbabwe and Zambia are attempting to establish more firm regulations to make trophy hunting safer as well, so that the risks of further endangering these animals will be lowered, yet they have struggles to make those restrictions very successful.

Whether or not trophy hunting should be allowed, the overall and most important goal is to preserve these endangered wildlife species, helping to improve their numbers rather than allowing them to slowly decline and worsening the problem. While there are mixed arguments on whether trophy hunting is more helpful or harmful, the recent discussion on the ban seems undecided currently. The general population remains in hope that whatever the decision comes to, it is helpful for these endangered animals and that they are able to be properly preserved.

## Zimbabwe’s president Robert Mugabe resigns; nation rejoices

**Mariah Partin**  
*Staff Writer*

After 37 years of power, Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe has officially resigned. Until his resignation, Mugabe was the world’s oldest leader, retiring at the age of 93.

His ruling party, Zanu-PF says that former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa will succeed Mugabe who has been in power since 1980. According to BBC News, at the resignation announcement, lawmakers and legislators celebrated and danced. The celebrations however, were not limited to inside parliament, throughout the streets people cheered and blared their horns to signal the end of the Mugabe era. Zimbabweans dressed up, sang, and celebrated with the army. People rejoiced, for they feared that the day would never come. According to the New York Times, the crowd grew to thousands of people. His resignation comes after an impeachment plot and a week after the military started to move against him. After six days of uncertainty and calls for his resignation, the leader finally granted the people’s wish. The New York Times reported that the military took Mugabe into custody a week prior to his resignation. Mugabe controlled Zimbabwe by giving power to his

allies and crushing any opposition or dissenting opinion. He refused to step down even after his expulsion from Zanu-

PF, then a rival party. Movement for Democratic Change also seconded the motion for Mugabe to go.

The resignation briefly united the two opposing parties. After Mugabe dominated Zimbabwe for so long, the people are ready for change. Following Mugabe’s unexpected firing of his Vice President Mnangagwa, he was accused of paving the way for his wife to succeed him. People were concerned that Mugabe kept other rivals at bay for his 52-year-old wife Grace.

Zimbabweans see that he allowed her to usurp power as he was too old to fulfill his duties.

Mnangagwa’s succession however has some concerned. He was accused of ordering the crackdown in the 1980’s that killed thousands of members of the Ndebele ethnic group. He is also known for enforcing some of Mugabe’s most ruthless policies, and being behind the deadly violence at the 2008 election to rig the polls.

Citizens should still be cautious, as it seems Mnangagwa or “the crocodile,” as he is known, may not be the savior that Zimbabwe’s people are looking for. NPR reports from Zimbabwean journalist Michelle Faul that this revolution is

not to bring reform, but rather to ensure Zanu-PF continues its one-party rule of Zimbabwe. He too is blamed for allowing the economy to tumble and for pushing an agenda. For now, the people continue celebrating.

Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the UK, Zimbabwe’s former colonial ruler welcomed Mugabe’s departure and showed support for the future of Zimbabwe’s free, fair and inclusive elections. The New York Times also states that many of Mugabe’s allies have fled the country. Former supporters have also quickly changed their views on the former president, denying ever being a supporter. Change will not be easy. Some have sympathy, despite viewing him as a tyrant, he was still an important fatherly figure in the nation’s history. Others who worked with him believe he was a victim to his surroundings and of those who could exercise more power and take advantage of his frailty.

The Guardian reports that Mugabe and his wife will receive at least a 10 million-dollar payoff and immunity from prosecution for his family. Both the former president and his wife will continue being paid for the rest of their lives, despite leaving Zimbabwe with a worthless currency, massive debt and poverty.

## Mosque bombing in Egypt creates countrywide panic

**Mia Rollins**  
*Staff Writer*

On Nov. 24, terrorists targeted and bombed the Al-Rawdah mosque in North Sinai killing over 300 Egyptians, including 27 children. The attack has now been named the deadliest killing in Egyptian history.

It’s estimated that roughly around 40 armed men carried out this deadly attack. Some waited outside the entrances and exits shooting at those who tried to flee.

Although many went under fire, one surviving man was able to walk out of the mosque. The man explained that he was able to survive after he hid under the bodies of the other victims. Like many of the injured survivors, he has been kept anonymous in fear that the same men will come to kill him. Sadly, he has lost nine of his family members to the terrorist attack. The survivor

told CNN News, “The military could hear the gunshots from their unit and they didn’t move. Even the ambulances came under fire.”

An eyewitness, Ibrahim Sheteewi, reported to the New York Times, “The scene was horrific.” The Al-Rawdah mosque is located in the town of Bir al-Abed in North Sinai. The mosque follows the Jarirya Sufi order. CNN also released that the mosque is also known to be the birthplace of a Sufi cleric of importance. However, it is still up for debate as for the possible reasoning or trigger for this act of terror.

The attackers blocked off nearby roads and used rocket-propelled grenades while opening fire. Ambulances were the first to arrive but were quickly shot at, forcing the vehicles to flee the scene. It was civilians and locals who took victims to hospitals in their own cars and used their own weapons to try and fight

back.

Egypt declared three days of national mourning following the event. The president of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi broadcasted a statement on television saying, “We will respond to this act with brute force against these terrorists.” He had also released on his Facebook page that Egypt’s armed forces plans on building a memorial site to those who died at the mosque.

“This terrorist act will strengthen our resolve, steadfastness and will to stand up to, resist and battle against terrorism,” said Fattah el-Sisi. Other Egyptians as well have come forward to agree with the president’s call for action and in memoriam for the victims.

Gamal Awad, a senior preacher at the Ministry of Religious Endowments told CNN, “the only way to fight terrorists is to kill them.”

The current Grand Imam, leader

of prayer of Al-Azhar, the Egyptian mosque in Islamic Cairo, had commented on the events saying, “The shedding of blood, the violation of the sacred houses of God and terrorizing of worshipers are acts of corruption on the earth.”

This attack in particular shocked the country, since bombings on mosques in Egypt are uncommon. The state prosecutor had also reported to CNN that the men in masks were carrying an ISIS flag. Although the cause for the bombing is still unknown, Egyptian authorities are diligently seeking answers while ensuring that the victims of this horror are remembered.



## Spring registration upsets student body

**Mariah Partin**  
Staff Writer

As most of us know by now, registration for spring semester 2018 has started. Registration opened on Nov. 20 starting with seniors, graduate program students, veterans and junior athletes. Given our size, Saint Martin's offers a surprisingly wide array of classes and programs. Still, many students are finding scheduling conflicts within their majors. Daniel Heetderks, a math major and secondary education minor, finds it difficult to take classes for both degree requirements given conflicting class times. He said, "Coming into the education program, you start at a certain point, but if the classes don't align with your major, then you may be here for an additional few semesters because your classes are offered every so often." The same goes for many students who are balancing multiple fields of study.

With students studying secondary education, one of the issues is that many core classes for their major are offered once a year, or every other year. Taylor Boster, a history major and

secondary education minor, added that the College of Arts and Sciences may be under more pressure due to a lack of professors. He also hopes for more cohesiveness between departments to aid student stress when it comes to registration and school appeal.

Thankfully, SMU professors are aware of this issue and are willing to help students out when in tough situations. Jamie Olson, Ph.D, Professor of English and department chair mentioned that it is difficult given that Saint Martin's offers so many types of classes and programs and there are only around eleven time slots per semester. Along with that, Olson mentioned how the departments think about the audience of students they cater to, they try not to schedule two classes at the same time, if they're both classes that students of that major need.

One way students choose to take advantage of the variety of classes is by majoring in interdisciplinary studies, where students can pick two fields of interest to combine into one major. This is helpful for those that are interested in multiple fields of study and want to later find a career that involves more than one area of interest.

Examples of an Interdisciplinary major could be combining English with business. The College of Arts and Sciences is offering a few intriguing classes next semester that combine different areas of interest for both students and professors. Jeff Birkenstein, Ph.D, and Irina Gendelman, Ph.D, are teaching The Language and Culture of Place and Travel, which fulfills upper division elective requirements for English, communications and interdisciplinary studies. The co-taught class will focus on connections between the local community, and global, in regards to food and travel. Olson and Br. Luke Devine will be teaching "Dostoevsky and Religion", the class fulfills English, religious studies and interdisciplinary studies electives as well. This class is a study of religion, exploring philosophy and existentialism, with Dostoevsky's famous novel, "The Brothers Karamazov" being the central text. The College of Arts and Sciences hopes to bring more awareness of interdisciplinary studies, and as Birkenstein says "As it turns out, life is interdisciplinary."

## Samaritan's Purse provides international relief efforts

**Breanna Brink**  
Staff Writer

Christmas is a uplifting time of year, presenting the excited and kind nature of humanity, while also bringing those in need to the forefront. The season puts most people into a giving mood, but with the entire world seemingly caught up in giving to their families and friends, many forget the other ways to help those in need this Christmas season. One of these ways is through Samaritan's Purse, and is both economical and impactful. Many of those who have grown up with an Abrahamic religious background have likely heard of this mission group. Quoted directly from the website, "Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural

disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." Whether those who participate have religious intent or not, the most well-known service is the Christmas Shoe Boxes, Christmas gifts and celebration sent to those in need around the world.

Samaritan's Purse is known for doing several forms of ministry, which is listed on their website, such as "a disaster assistance response team (DART) on the ground to assist increasingly anguished Rohingya refugees fleeing from Myanmar into neighboring Bangladesh." They are also helping Vietnam by sending relief to Da Nang, "the plane is stocked with heavy-duty shelter tarp and cooking kits—enough supplies to help 10,000 households in the country's south-central coastal region. There are also hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito nets, and jerry cans in varying amounts. Distributions are scheduled to begin on Sunday, Nov. 26." Samaritan's Purse also helps those within our own country, having devoted themselves to rebuilding Hurricane Harvey victim's homes in the retirement residential areas.

The biggest service Samaritan's Purse is known for is its annual collection of toy-and-treat-filled shoeboxes, which have become an easy way to give back to those in need

during Christmas season. This service helps those around the world who don't have access to luxury items during the holiday season. The website describes the practice as packing specially labeled shoeboxes for children to bless children, which are then delivered all over the world. Parents often use the practice to teach their children about giving, and this is an effective way of blessing those around the world. Often, churches and schools collect boxes from different pickup zones, and thousands of volunteers annually inspect the prepared shoeboxes for international shipping. As a personal practice, the workers also spend a few minutes to pray over the package groups before they are sent to children to ensure safe travel and to help each child individually. This has been a tradition since the earliest days of Samaritan Purses' founding.

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Bob Pierce wrote these now-famous words in his Bible after visiting suffering children on the Korean island of Koje-do. His biography states that this "impassioned prayer is what guided him as he founded and led the ministry of Samaritan's Purse in 1970." His new-found mission for this organization was "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches." His experiences began to shape the way this



A group of African children enjoying their Christmas boxes.

future organization would function, "while on a university lecturing circuit in China, he stumbled across some courageous women who were living among lepers and orphans, sacrificing everything to share the love of Jesus Christ. Through their selfless love, God gave Pierce a vision for ministry. He dedicated himself to finding and supporting other such Christians who were caring for the poor and suffering in the distant corners of the world."

If you are curious about what is appropriate to pack for a shoebox, the Samaritan's Purse website has detailed instructions. Often people write personalized notes to the child receiving their box, and if you leave your address it is not uncommon to hear back from them. It is good to know that there are institutions designed to bring the love and joy of the Christmas season to those all around the world, but especially to those who are in need of basic comfort items and care.



Photos courtesy of samaritanspurse.org  
A woman named Margaret moving back into her rebuilt home after it was destroyed in Hurricane Harvey.

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## Letter to the Editor: from the eyes of puckeridge

**Felicity Pickens**  
*Guest Writer*

I have been at Saint Martin's University for a couple of years now, the entire time a theatre major. I have participated in every performance that Saint Martin's has put on during my time at this school, and I take a great amount of pride in the work we do. Often people are struggling with impossible schedules and personal struggles to produce high quality theatre entertainment – both for student audiences and for our education.

For every previous performance, the play has earned its spot with a review on the front page of The Belltower, with color photos showing off the actors and the fine work they do (as well as the efforts put in by our technical crew in lighting, costuming, and set design). I understand that not everyone values theatre as much as the few of us in the small theatre department at Saint Martin's. However, this is one small honor I think we deserve after putting in months of labor, setting aside our time outside of class and studying, through midterms and right up to the Thanksgiving holiday, to produce.

When I saw that in the November 20 issue of The Belltower, the article on the fall one act plays had been moved back to page 5 I was a little disappointed. On the other hand, November was a busy month for Saint Martin's – Ming Tsai's visit is definitely front-page material. With no disrespect to the importance of sports, there is a tragic emphasis on those longer-running and recurring athletic events than there is on the fleeting experience of theatre.

Most offensive, however was that we couldn't even get pictures of our actors into the paper, and the article itself was merely a brief summary of the shows with no real opinions offered on quality. Indeed, many of the talented performers went nameless, and the directors had their bios cherry-picked from the program to fill in some basic background information.

We owe our performers better. The Olympian isn't going to review our shows. Nonetheless these are our shows. We should show our theatre department that it still matters to the school, that we want to see more performances in the future. Or, if The Belltower wants to take a critical eye to the shows, it shouldn't be afraid to issue a scathing review.

Anything would have been better than the nothing article we got.

I respectfully submit the following as a means of rectifying the wrong that was done to the performers of this fall's one act plays:

Saint Martin's Theatre Department continued its tradition of excellent showmanship with this fall's production of one-act plays. The plays, directed by student directors Charlotte Darling and Felicity Pickens, were a mismatched but somehow charming pair of absurdist comedies: The Real Inspector Hound and "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche."

Charlotte Darling, who directed The Real Inspector Hound, is a Saint Martin's junior with a wealth of theatre experience under her belt that she brought forth in spades for this production. The show, which starred a cast of eight, is a layered comedy wrapped in a meta who-dunnit murder mystery that is constantly judged by two critics

(played by Alexis Hickey and David Sneed).

Led by Ms. Hickey (Moon), Mr. Sneed (Birdboot), and their co-stars Miranda Aguilar (Lady Cynthia Muldoon), Tyler Williams (Major Magnus), and Aliss Barre (Felicity Cunningham), the "Real Inspector Hound" is a thinker's comedy. When they weren't overtly over the top, the jokes were wickedly subtle with a tendency to really hit home as the murder mystery revealed clue after clue. The constant interruption of a telephone call throughout seemed a rambling non-sequitur searching for meaning until the second act – when the ringing phone provided a bridge between the world of the critics and the narrative of the play they watched. But all was not as it seemed at the quaint, if isolated, Muldoon Manor – for there was a real killer on the loose, and in a shocking twist the play was brought back from its inner narrative to the world of the critics for the finale.

"The Real Inspector Hound" was a treat to watch; the actors' impeccable timing and delivery ensured the audience was thoroughly entertained throughout. The show is a credit to the talent of Saint Martin's students, alumni, and dear friends.

After a brief intermission, the tone of the room changed with the scenery. No more was the audience treated to a view of a Victorian drawing room, but instead a pink table and multicolored pennants went up. Cheery 1950s rock-and-roll music played as three ladies entered the room to greet guests at the start of "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche." Their goal: to welcome each and every member of the audience to

the 1956 Annual Quiche Breakfast of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein.

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche also starred Alexis Hickey (Wren Robin), who shared the honor of being in both shows with Blaise Ingram (Ginny Cadbury), and welcomed to the stage new actresses Essence Davis (Lulie Stanwyck) and Ashely Shute (Dale Prist). These ladies, along with Michaela Hickey as Vern Shultz, guided the audience through an atypical quiche breakfast – one that was interrupted by a pesky little disaster, a nuclear explosion!

Undeterred by the end of the world, the lesbians had to figure out how to survive with a limited amount of quiche and no chickens to provide eggs for the sisterhood going forward. The journey they take is hilarious, heartfelt, and terrifying. The sound effects in 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche were a little intense, and often caused the audience a good deal of discomfort. As the nuclear explosion went off, the seats themselves shook beneath them.

Certainly, "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche" was a wild ride, and not for the faint of heart. But the audience inclusion and genuine performances of the five actresses made the show an outstanding success, and there were bids every night by returning audience members for the audience role of "Marjorie," a disgraced former officer of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein, who is playfully harassed for the duration of the show.

Produced by Brian Tyrell, interim theatre director for Saint Martin's University, the fall one-act plays were a fine addition to Saint

## Me Too, SMU

**Katherine Pecora**  
*Guest Writer*

In the last few months we have seen instances of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and a general uncomfortable feeling crop up in every facet of our society. But, at Saint Martin's University (SMU) not much has changed. The patriarchal institution at the core SMU labors on. There seem to be two stories on campus that are not intertwining. There is the official story that we receive from the Cleary Act and there are the stories from students and professors alike who see a culture that goes widely unaddressed at SMU.

According to The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW): "81% of women who experienced rape, stalking, or physical violence by an intimate partner." This is something we have seen before. Last spring when this assault occurred on campus we were directed to walk with friends or someone that we knew when the victim stated that the perpetrator was someone whom they knew. The email we received from the Office of Public Safety stated: "Have a companion or a safe means of getting home, i.e., a trusted friend, taxi, or a Public Safety escort if available."

SMU is legally obligated to publish the reported statistics of sexual assault for each year. For 2016 SMU reported two instances of "fondling" with one instance occurring in the residence halls. It seems to me that something is missing. College age women have a very high chance of experiencing some type of assault or harassment during their time in college. Therefore, I ask you... do you believe what you are being told? How often do we have conversations of consent

or harassment on campus?

Howard Thronson, Director, Public Safety and William Stakelin, Assistant Director, Public Safety were able to answer some questions as they pertain to the SMU community. In 2015, former psychology professor Dr. Tiffany Arttime oversaw a 2015 climate survey to gauge the feelings across the SMU community. Generally, the report found that the majority of students felt comfortable coming forward to report an assault. For 2015 only one instance of "fondling" was reported. "We [SMU] reflect society and in society, there's less than 25% of victims that come forward," said Thronson. Thronson also stated that "I believe there are more victims at SMU." This is not a problem unique to our institution. Sexual assault and harassment goes widely under reported nation-wide. The Office of Public Safety is unsure if those who perpetrated the 2016 assaults remain on campus today. "We don't know what the results of the cases are," said Thronson.

After speaking to multiple people on campus, I feel that I have been presented with pieces of a much larger problem. It seems that the university has an official story while others see a multifaceted problem that showcases larger issues. As so much of the conversation surrounds reporting and the numbers of assaults it neglects to attack the problem at its source. The official reports neglect to "address the little things" comments from peers about which professors are generally known to be sexist and which professors make comments that give us that uncomfortable feeling.

As SMU continues to not talk about sex, because pre-marital sex is against Catholic values they aid in putting a piece of tape on a crack in

Old Main's foundation. By not talking about alcohol and the situations in which students encounter it they turn a blind eye to it, the school loses the opportunity to talk to students as adults that are in charge of their decisions.

This is an issue nation-wide. We are currently being presented with a chance to grow and shift the culture. "Let's talk about it, staff and students need to talk about consent and the topic that is going on nationally and how we address this as a campus," said Melanie Richardson, Dean of Students.

The avoidance of talking about sexual assault at SMU becomes an avoidance of talking about sex when it is not about sex, it is about assault. As the institution forces women to ask for "period regulating medicine" rather than birth control from the health center it again misses out on creating a conversation rather than trying to treat symptoms of a larger problem that continues to go unaddressed.

In orientation, much more must be done. The school must ask parents if they have talked about consent is with their 17 and 18-year-old first year students. And if not, SMU must work furiously to pick up the slack. UNI101 classes must focus on how to aid the entire student both mentally and physically. Conversations of sexual harassment and sexual assault must become ingrained into our core values. "It is an opportunity to review and dig deeper about how to be the best community and genuinely demonstrate respect for the community," said Richardson. After acknowledging the problems if you can stay optimistic about what we have to do I would have to agree with you and say...me too.



# Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

S E C Q A R J H S C T L S C O  
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- Hanukkah
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa
- Snowman
- Omisoka
- Holiday
- Cookies
- Presents
- Family
- Love

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How to play Sudoku

Fill empty cells with digits 1 through 9. The numbers can only appear once in each column, once in each row, and once in each box. Each column, row, and box should have the numbers 1 through 9. Use the numbers already filled in as prompts to help you solve the rest.

Good luck!



## Finals Week Mad libs

Brian Messing  
Section Editor

This week I am feeling very \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) because it is finals week. Finals week is the time of the semester where professors make us \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) for \_\_\_\_\_ (length of time-plural). This semester I have \_\_\_\_\_ (number) final exams, with \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of my classes not having finals. My \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) final is in \_\_\_\_\_ (class), because the professor is extremely \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective). I think I will do \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) on the exam because I have spent \_\_\_\_\_ (number) hours studying for it. My \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) final is for my \_\_\_\_\_ (class). It will be a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) exam because the professor is a \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). To prepare for the exam I have had to \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) for my \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). The only class I haven't had to study for is \_\_\_\_\_ (class) because the class consists entirely of \_\_\_\_\_ (noun). Once finals are over, I can't wait to go to \_\_\_\_\_ (place), because it will be a lot more \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) than \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) for finals.



Illustrations courtesy of Maura Moffat

CANNIBALISM?



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

- Everyone is invited to submit Letters to the Editor (LTE) in response to previously published material, or about things not in the paper. All LTE's will be responded to either by personal response or in print in The Belltower as space allows.
- All letters must be signed by the author to be published. Names can be withheld upon request of the author and at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief (EIC). They must have some credible contact information (email, telephone number and/or address) for notification and verification.
- The Belltower reserves the right to edit letters for length and grammar.
- Letters of questionable taste will be evaluated by the Editorial team and in applicable situations will be voted on and handled as the team sees fit.
- Letters of questionable origin will not be published until confirmation of the author has been made.
- As time permits, writers of letters will be contacted for confirmation.
- The Belltower reserves the right to not publish letters deemed libelous, obscene, in poor taste, or otherwise unfit to print. The EIC will make this final decision upon consultation with the Editorial team and the Faculty Adviser.
- The Belltower reserves the right to print a selected number of LTEs. The EIC makes this decision on a case-by-case basis.