

The Belltower

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STUDENT
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COVID-19, the virus that has gone viral

Taryn Zard
Staff Writer

“Being concerned is fine, it helps us stay alert and change our behaviors, an example is face-touching. Like all diseases, much of this [COVID-19] is out of our control, but there are many things we can do to stay healthy. I think if concern turns to fear we start making bad decisions, and we start looking for someone to blame—that’s not helpful,” reported Aaron Coby, Ph.D., Saint Martin’s professor in biology and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in early March.

Coby continued with the advice of “wash your hands. Stop touching your face. When cases become identified in the area, avoid groups of people crammed into small spaces.”

Everyone is well aware of COVID-19 which originated in Wuhan, China in December of 2019.

Most people were not that concerned at first, as the virus seemed to be concentrated in China alone. After a short period of time, however, the virus seemed to have spread everywhere people looked. Many

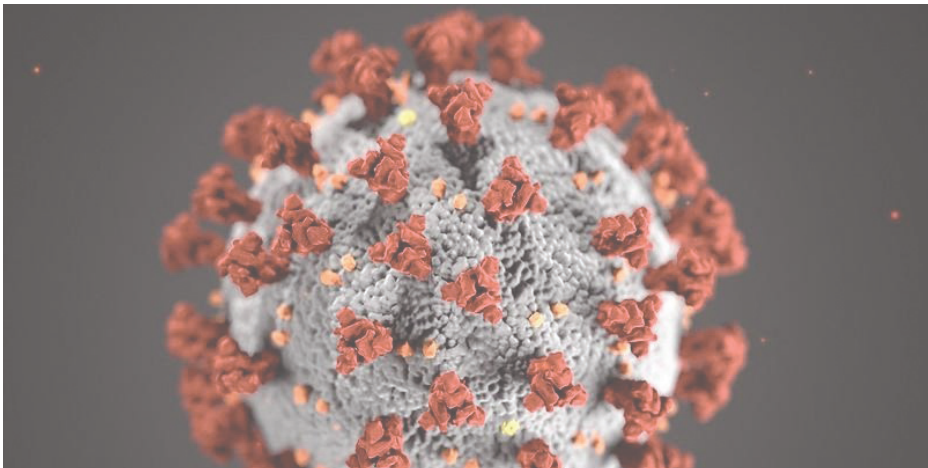


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In light of COVID-19, Saint Martin's University has moved classes online and requested that students leave campus.

realized the severity of the situation and implemented protocols for protection and sanitation.

COVID-19 is part of a large family of viruses, known as coronaviruses, that can cause a slew of illnesses, which range from the common cold, MERS-CoV—Middle East Respiratory Syndrome—and SARS-CoV—Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. COVID-19 has been identified as a new strain of coronavirus.

Megan Friesen, Ph.D., is a biology professor at Saint Martin’s University. When interviewed at the beginning of March about her thoughts

on COVID-19, she thought the school was making good choices to put extra safety measures in place. All precautions that have been set in place are a good idea, as it is never a bad idea to be extra careful to minimize risk. The best advice anyone can give right now is to practice good hygiene and be aware of their surroundings.

Following Saint Martin’s decision to move all classes online, Friesen noted that “labs are trickier,” and that there would be more worksheets in the lab workbook, case studies, analyses, labs, and other online videos. Friesen advised that

if students feel unwell they should remain at home, and that people in general should make all efforts they can to minimize their risk of exposure.

It is important to remember that there are other people in the community that the virus might affect more. In response to this, Saint Martin’s University placed hand sanitizer stations throughout the campus, with a focus on highly populated areas.

The O’Grady library staff stepped in and started a timesheet of how frequently computers and tables should be cleaned with Clorox wipes. The campus has been monitoring the virus closely, as well as any updates from Governor Jay Inslee, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the World Health Organization.

Coby emphasized that although someone might be unaffected or feel fine, they could be a carrier and negatively affect someone who has a weaker immune system or is immunocompromised. Coby agreed that washing hands on a regular basis with soap and warm water, for at least 20 seconds, is always a good idea.

Additionally, it is not the sole re-

See COVID-19, page 4

Leadership Doctorate: Things to know

Colin Rivera
Staff Writer

This summer, Saint Martin’s University will be home to a new curriculum for a doctorate degree. Leadership Studies is the name of the new program, and it aims to draw in students from a large number of different fields and backgrounds. The purpose of the program is to train a new group of capable leaders who will use their knowledge for the betterment of the world. The program is meant to give the students the tools they need to lead others in solving complex problems.

The main faculty member behind the program is provost Kathleen Boyle, Ph.D. Boyle used to teach at the University of St. Thomas in their leadership program, and holds her own doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Her goals for the program are for students to gain a holistic view of what it means to lead and how leadership can be applied. Boyle wants students to be able to prosper in whatever situation they find themselves in.

There are several reasons why someone may be interested in the curriculum. The first is a focus on the Benedictine values present in the Saint



Photo retrieved from Smartin.edu

Saint Martin's University looks to provide its first doctorate program.

Martin’s community. The classes teach theories on the topic of social change and transformation. The environment, if it transitions back to the classroom, will be collaborative. Also, the physical location of the school is in close proximity to many possible resources and places where such a degree can be applicable - such as the state capital.

One of the main requirements include fulfilling the leadership core classes with a minimum of

a 3.0 grade point average. After completing 18 credits, a potential student must complete a faculty review, and then have an established committee review their dissertation. They must have a total of 51 credits in the program. A minimum of 15 or maximum of 30 applicants will be accepted into the first cohort.

The 33 credits, besides the core classes, come from concentration curriculum (15 credits), research curriculum (nine credits), and dissertation research (nine credits).

Since the program is meant to take in students from all types of backgrounds, the classes are just as varied. The 800 and 900 level classes include fields such as philosophies, research, statistics, history, and politics. The time needed to complete the program, at a full graduate workload of six credits per semester, comes out to two and a half years of courses and then the dissertation. The last component is paced by the individual student, but should take another half of a year.

Leadership is a universal skill and can be used with any demographic. It can be applied in fields such as K-12 education, as well as post-secondary education. Other fields include consultation for businesses, ministry, and policy analysis. These are all fields where leadership is especial-

See Leadership Doctorate, page 12

What to look for in this issue

CLUBS, CULTURE, & RELIGION

One freshman student is soldiering on with their attempt to save the planet, in spite of COVID-19. Check out an article on the new Beekeeping Club coming to campus and spread the buzz about this new group.

See Beekeeping, page 4

NEWS

Read about a recent ruling in the United States 9th Circuit Court of Appeals involving the City of Boise. The ruling makes it illegal for any government official to ticket anyone for camping within the 9th circuit’s jurisdiction (including the State of Washington).

See 9th Circuit, page 12

SPORTS

Before the COVID-19 pandemic caused all GNAC athletic events to be cancelled, the Saint Martin's University Baseball and Softball teams were off to a hot start. Each team found themselves within the top three of the conference, and now look to carry that momentum into their next season.

See GNAC, page 10



Hello Belltower readers!

Thank you for picking up a copy of this issue. We hope that during this crazy time, our newspaper can provide a sense of community and familiarity as we undergo this global pandemic together. In this issue you will find the effects of COVID-19 leading to the shift of classes to online platforms, shortages in grocery stores, as well as positive news on campus such as a new beekeeping club and even talk of a new arts building. We once again thank our readers for making the work worth it as our Belltower staff continue to put in effort, whether we are all on campus or not, and provide quality content! Times may be tough right now but just know as a community, we hear you and are here for you.

Wash your hands,

Sophia Lim
Section Editor

The Belltower



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

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The Belltower will not accept guest submissions that violate our content policies, go against Benedictine values, or the goals and aims of Saint Martin’s University.

References to the promotion of drug use/paraphernalia are not allowed.

Any content that clearly discriminates on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age, disability, ethnic origin, or religion will not be considered for publication.

Any artwork submitted will be published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and editorial board. Artwork must adhere to the same guidelines as written content.

A sweet and swirly treat: Lacey's very own fro-yo hotspot

Myki Dee Kim
Staff Writer

In a cup or cone, frozen yogurt is perfect for the warm weather that is just on the horizon. Limeberry sits on the outskirts of campus and has been a quintessential part of Saint Martin's students sweet treat experience. Students may know Limeberry as a frozen yogurt establishment right next door to the Starbucks on College Street, while others may know it as a fundraising partner for Saint Martin's clubs and organizations. Whatever the case, Limeberry brings a sweet presence to the entire Lacey community.

As soon as you walk in, you are greeted by friendly staff and an extremely clean and spacious store. They are open every day of the week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. When you walk towards the back you must make the choice between a cup or a cone (a hard decision). Customers are able to choose from 10 flavors and are able to mix-and-match their own yogurt experiences; they can even swirl two flavors together to get double the yummy treat.

After choosing their favorite combination, customers can move onto the coveted topping section. There are over 25 different toppings that people can choose from. Toppings include,



Saint Martin's very own Neil John Castaneda working at Limeberry

but are not limited to: fresh fruits, hot fudge, assorted cookies, nuts, candy options, and even whipped cream. I went for my usual mix of Dole Pineapple Whip, Strawberry, and Vanilla topped with fresh strawberry, cheesecake bites, and

mini chocolate chips.

If you are not into frozen yogurt, do not worry; Limeberry has got you covered. Limeberry also offers options for smoothies and even bubble tea. Smoothie options include: Peach, Wild Berry, Strawberry, Green Apple, and Pineapple Dole Whip. Bubble Tea options include Strawberry, Vanilla, Coconut, Pineapple, Mango, Avocado, Japanese Green Tea, Honeydew, Passion Fruit, Taro, Lavender, Green Apple, Banana, Watermelon, Blueberry, Chocolate, Mocha, Lychee, and Guava. They have a little something for everybody.

But what do these all cost? Limeberry offers affordable goodies for all price ranges, especially for those who are balling on a college budget. Smoothies are \$3.75 and Bubble Tea is slightly higher at \$3.95 a cup. For Frozen Yogurt lovers, it is just \$0.59 an ounce. Make sure to not go overboard on the toppings and filling your cup, as it may cost you a pretty penny. Limeberry will also give students a 10 percent discount with their valid Saint Martin's ID, and \$1 off your order if it is your birthday. Make sure to sign up for their rewards when you go in to visit.

Since coming to Saint Martin's four years ago, Limeberry remains as the top sweet treat spot around campus. I can always rely on them to have the flavors and toppings I want while having a wonderful staff to greet and work with you.

Student spotlight: Soukita Keopanapay

Taryn Zard
Staff Writer

Soukita (Kita) Keopanapay is a freshman majoring in Business Administration, with a concentration in management. Although unsure if she wants to work in the corporate or nonprofit realm of business, Kita knows her true desire is to eventually become either a project manager, or event planner of sorts.

Kita has made big waves since joining Saint Martin's University in Fall 2019. Thus far, she has joined the National Residence Hall Honorary club, and attended their Regional Leadership Conference in Portland, Ore., as well as the Regional Business Conference in Fullerton, Calif., where she was presented as the National Communications Coordinator in Training.

Kita has played on several intra-



Soukita Keopanapay is majoring in Business Administration.

mural sports teams at Saint Martin's and is a part of the eighth Benedictine Scholars Cohort. Some of her favorite pastimes include tennis, video games, and traveling.

She has been to several countries in Southeast Asia, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. Over the years, Kita has been a huge advocate for Lao-Americans and cultural awareness. In

2018, she had a piece published on the most viewed Lao-American website, "Little Laos on the Prairie."

Kita plans on being an even larger part of the campus community during the 2020-2021 academic year by running for Associated Students of Saint Martin's University (ASSMU) Senator of Business.

She is very passionate about her

desire to hold a position on ASSMU because she knows

"... it is difficult for many groups to climb up the corporate ladder due to their identity, and the intersectionality present within them."

Kita believes the idea of representation is an important topic for discussion on campus, and she hopes to be someone who can start the conversation.

Kita also wants to promote networking between Saint Martin's and other campuses in the region. A hope of hers is to help students create the opportunities they are looking for to meet more people that have similar career goals.

"Business is a broad field of study," said Kita. She believes making connections and learning more about the different types of jobs available in a field of study can help people narrow down the path they wish to pursue.

Commencement moved to Sept. 5

Brian Messing
Editor-in-Chief

Last Friday, Saint Martin's University President Roy Heynderickx, announced via email that commencement would be moved from May 9 to Saturday Sept. 5 due to concerns over COVID-19.

Heynderickx had previously stated in an email to graduating seniors on Friday, March 20 that: "There is one promise I will make – you will have a commencement...While the date may be later, there will be a day that we will proudly, and with great joy, hand each one of you your well-earned diploma."

With the most recent email, Heynderickx has upheld his promise to give graduating seniors their commencement ceremony.

The timing of the ceremony is also relevant, according to Heynderickx's email from last Friday: "We hope this date, which falls on Labor Day Weekend, will allow us to all come back together to celebrate our graduates' well-earned achievements."

According to Ann Adams, Associate Dean of Students and an assigned point of contact for commencement, "graduating students will still

receive their regalia and their diplomas will be mailed to them when grades are posted. As with all other commencement ceremonies, students receive a certificate at the ceremony. The Registrar's Office will be updating the commencement web page on regalia, tickets, and other details."

Soon-to-be graduates should also rest easy that the delayed commencement will not impact the technical completion of their degree.

According to Adams: "students will complete their degree requirements and earn their degree as planned...the ceremony itself will have no impact on graduates' evidence of their degree."

As stated in Heynderickx's March 27 email: "I promised our graduating seniors and master's students that we would not settle for a virtual ceremony, but instead look for a later date to celebrate."

Saint Martin's administration considered a virtual ceremony, as some other universities are doing. According to Adams this idea was rejected because of "...student's strong desire to have an in-person ceremony...We listened to the ear of our hearts and made this decision."

Senior Logan Adams shared his thoughts on moving the commencement date: "Major respect to the president for keeping his promise to all of the graduates. I'm definitely happy there will

be a commencement. Although, my thoughts go out to the students from way out of town or the students who might accept jobs from way out of town. The commencement is pushed so far back that they may not bother making arrangements to come back months later and celebrate."

Senior Ula Kamaka also shared her thoughts on the new date for commencement: "I really appreciate the school for finding a date to have commencement. However, with everything going on it is frustrating because the original date of commencement is probably the only time my entire family was free and able to attend a ceremony. I hope I will be able to make it on the new date but I know it will be very difficult if not impossible for my family to come too."

Graduates who plan to move away or cannot attend will not be excluded from the commencement ceremony.

According to Adams: "...the ceremony will be recorded and will be available on the Commencement website."

For students with additional questions, the Saint Martin's commencement page is the main source of information for the event, and will be updated as commencement related decisions are made.

Campus Ministry has big plans for next year

Kaitlin Cunningham
Staff Writer

Campus Ministry is located on the third floor of Old Main at 316 and is directed by Colleen Dunne and Fr. Peter. Most students might recognize the Campus Ministry Office as the place with free hot chocolate, coffee and occasionally, donuts. The Campus Ministry even has a set-aside time for free coffee on Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and free donuts on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. following morning prayer. These yummy treats will not be out until next semester due to the campus going online.

All of this is to connect with and open up to the students, displaying the Benedictine value of service, as Fr. Peter remarks in an interview. Fr. Peter mentions that campus ministry is there to “work in conjunction with student life and address the needs of the students whether they be motivational, spiritual, or emotional.” The Benedic-



Campus Ministry is a place for students to seek spiritual guidance, and enjoy coffee and donuts.

Photo by Kaitlin Cunningham

tine value of service is the purpose of Campus Ministry, which is why they set up an office. The Campus Ministry Office exemplifies service by giving students a place to go when they have questions or need spiritual guidance.

Campus Life also produces and leads several service projects which students are welcome and encouraged to participate in. These projects can also be found on the Campus ministry page online. The Community Kitchen project gives students the chance to serve community members in need of a good

meal and provides clean up after.

Hummingbird Studio is an art outreach program. Most prominently is Our Common Home Farms, which seeks to provide students with the skills to farm and assist in growing natural, locally grown fruits and vegetables to give to those who need them. For those who can afford to, there is even a place to donate to these causes if you are unable to participate in them at give.stmartin.edu.

Unfortunately, most projects have been canceled or postponed due to necessary precautions with social

distancing. These projects should be available again next semester so that students can serve and participate in service projects.

Fr. Peter mentions in an interview that Campus Ministry may see up to two dozen students a day looking to have an ear to bend because they may be struggling with one issue or another. While a recommended option by the Counseling and Wellness center is to visit the counseling center if you are having recurring emotional or mental roadblocks, Campus Ministry is there if you need spiritual or temporary advice.

When asked, Fr. Peter mentioned he would like everyone to know this about Campus Ministry: “Campus Ministry is here for everyone, Whether you are religious or non-religious. Our concern is your happiness and we will work with you to try to achieve that for you.”

No matter what your background or religious affiliation is, room 316 and the people in it work to be as welcoming and service-minded as they can so they can reach as many students as possible and give them a safe place to turn to.

Freshman finds Beekeeping Club

Grace Gillespie
Staff Writer

Saint Martin’s University now has its first ever beekeeping club. The club began this year, after it was started by freshman Carly James, a nursing major, who has a fondness for bees.

Bees are a necessity for the environment, and teaching the community how to care for them can create sustainability for plants and crops. James is the president and founder of the beekeeping club, and her ultimate agenda is to educate other students on sustainable beekeeping while bringing bees into the nearby environment. Currently, she is working with the engineering club, faculty, and the president to bring bees to the Saint Martin’s community.

Even though James is starting this club as a freshman, this is not the first beekeeping club she has managed. The first was at her high school, Pope John Paul II, which is close to the Saint Martin’s campus. During her time of managing her high school beekeeping club, she brought two beehives to Pigman’s Organic Produce Patch farms in Olympia.

James is capable of safely purchasing hives



Photo retrieved from Twitter.com

The first hive for the new beekeeping club is scheduled to arrive in April.

thanks to her prior experience, and the club has done good things for the environment. She shared how her time managing a club in college is much more work and stress than in high school. There is more scheduling that must take place to get meetings and club announcements out.

James said, “When you’re in high school, you can just go on the intercom during the last five minutes and say, ‘bee club meeting afterschool today meeting in this room.’ Now every member in your club has a different class schedule,

you must rent out a classroom in advance, and there’s a lot more people you must go through.”

Although she has been experiencing some hardships, that has not stopped James’ motivation to bring bees to another environment. The club has one confirmed hive coming to campus, but James is working efficiently to receive a second one, as well. The confirmed hive is coming to campus in April, although there is no specific date, yet. The event will showcase the brand-new hive, and any student interested in learning to care for bees is encouraged to attend and speak with James. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, large social gatherings may still be prohibited by the governor in April. When asking James if the hive will still be coming, she shared that, “Yes, the bee club will continue as planned.”

This next school year, there should be more bee activity on campus as this pandemic hopefully clears up soon.

Finally, when asked why bees were so important to have on campus, the beekeeping club president answered, “This is a place that doesn’t have bees and can support them, so why not?” Expect bees to be buzzing around campus this April to end this semester.

COVID-19, from cover

sponsibility of cleaning staff to keep areas as sanitary as possible; everyone can contribute some aid in times of need by stepping up and taking extra precautions.

Coby remarked that “it will be interesting to look back on the coming months and see how the occurrence of other illnesses, like the common flu or cold, have changed. I suspect we’ll see a dip in cases due to the heightened awareness and behavior changes.”

Good hygiene and the practice of healthy habits are always a smart idea. Although difficult to believe at times, it is important to note that there are similarities between seasonal influenza (the “common” flu), and COVID-19.

Saint Martin’s President, Roy Heynderickx, Ph.D., recently made the decision to cancel in-person classes for the rest of the semester to minimize risk of exposure. While classes will now be hosted online, in light of the recent executive order by Gov. Inslee, the Saint Martin’s campus will be closed for the remainder of the semester.

Additionally, the decision was made last week to ask the vast majority of residential students to leave campus and return home until next school year. For seniors, this meant leaving Saint Martin’s campus physically for the last time.

With so much information on the state of the world one can easily feel overwhelmed.

According to Coby, “stress can have good short-term effects, like heightened awareness,” however, he continued with the knowledge that “over the long-term it [stress] changes the biochemistry of our bodies, hormonal and cell-to-cell communication, which can suppress our immune response.”

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Karen Blair comes to SMU to discuss women's suffrage

Olivia Alvord
Staff Writer

In commemoration of Women’s History Month and the centennial anniversary of women winning the right to vote in the U.S., Saint Martin’s University welcomed Karen Blair, Ph.D., History Professor Emeritus at Central Washington University, to speak. The departments of History, Political Science, and Gender and Identity Studies co-hosted the event.

Blair’s lecture and discussion titled, “Pacific Northwest Women and Power at the Dawn of Suffrage,” was centered on prominent historical women in the Pacific Northwest, and events leading up to women’s suffrage both in Washington and throughout the U.S.

Blair has been a part of the History Department at Central Washington University since 1987, and devotes much of her time to researching Pacific Northwest history, the history of education, and American women. Blair was granted the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Pacific Northwest Historians on Friday March 6.

One of the key points of her lecture was how Washington and the majority of the West Coast paved the way for women’s suffrage.

According to the Washington Historical Society, “Washington was the first state in the 20th century, and the fifth state in the Union, to enact women’s suffrage. Washington women’s success in 1910 helped inspire the campaign that culminated in passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, when women won the right to vote nationally.”

In the 19th century, this part of the world was dominated by men. Cities were minimal and most communities were small and agricultural. Therefore, most jobs outside the home were for men: mining, logging, farming, etc. Women began to form societies such as book clubs just to get together outside of the home and talk with their peers. This was a chance for many to read things they would not have had the opportunity to do otherwise, often as a result of upbringing and poor education.

These book clubs were typically held once a month, and granted Pacific Northwest women the ability to discuss taboo topics and engage politically, economically, and socially.

“As women began researching, they began to feel dissatisfied with the way that no one was



Stickers given out in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the women's suffrage movement

addressing these problems in society,” explained Blair.

But this increased action and involvement only brought up the counterargument that the woman’s place was only in the home, and they should not be welcome to engage in activities such as book clubs.

Blair explained the viewpoint behind this: “how dare women spend two hours a month to read a book and talk about it when they could be cleaning their home and taking care of their families.”

Not to be torn down, however, these women decided they would learn public speaking skills and how to organize support in their communities. Not long after this, the women learned about an amazing opportunity offered by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, which was based out of Pittsburgh. The foundation provided a generous gift of \$10,000 to build a library in a town, provided the town raised taxes to pay for a librarian and books for the library shelves. The women made it their personal goal to use their newly learned skills to acquire this service for their community.

“These women are responsible for 75 percent of the libraries in Washington State today,” said Blair. After achieving a bit of success in their communities, these women began to think outside the box and focus on new ideas such as the creation of parks, cleaning up cities, and issues specific to women and children.

Some ideas included, “clinics that doctors might volunteer for where families who could not afford to go to the doctor could get regular checkups for their babies; and factory inspections to make sure that women had access to a restroom or a bench to sit on and rest, or a table to eat their lunch at so they didn’t have to stand

out in the rain,” Blair explained.

As women began to organize for the greater good of their communities, and the state as a whole, their numbers increased rapidly, moving from books clubs of six to crowds of 200. At this point, meeting in their homes was no longer an option.

Blair explained their motive: “if they grew bigger, this would provide a better opportunity to go to the people with the purse strings [the money] to get things done in their communities.”

After going out in their communities to ask for money and to achieve great things, these women began to realize that because they did not have the vote, their requests and ideas were not taken seriously. Thus began the push to attend public meetings, parades, and lobby at the legislature as another way to increase support for women’s suffrage.

Blair mentioned that “women were divided on how they should ask for the vote: some decided to be ‘annoying and outrageous’ and others decided to take on the ‘polite and ladylike’ approach.”

In 1910, Washington women gained the right to vote, followed by Oregon in 1911, California in 1912, and the U.S. as a whole in 1920. In Washington, minority groups such as Catholic men and labor union activists, who knew what it felt like to be outsiders, banded together in support of this new normal. According to Blair, “women became the backbone of the electorate,” and began to think of bigger issues like education and the conditions in which women teachers worked, which resulted in the hiring of a woman who would become the first female to hold a government position as Washington Superintendent of Schools.

Friday Faculty Lunch: Rediscovering suffrage history

Colin Rivera
Staff Writer

At the Friday Faculty Lunch on March 6, Professor Keri Graham of the Gender and Identity Studies program gave a presentation to the staff about a project that she has been involved with for the past few years. She told the story of her work with students and their work to bring to light the efforts of suffragists who were previously forgotten.

The project serves as a backdrop to discuss the time she spent with her classes and her methods used to instruct her classes in completing this endeavor. Graham and her classes were given the names of people who participated in suffrage activities and were asked to research them and write their biographies. Many of them were known only by their names, but little was known about who the people were behind their activism.

To complete the project, she worked with students in her History 305 class. She paired the students off and gave each a pair of individual names. The purpose of this,



Keri Graham presents during the Friday Faculty Lunch.

separate from contributing to the biography, was to test and better the research abilities of the students. One of the most challenging components of this task is the fact that most of these people are not “google-able,” which was a frequent complaint from some students.

Students had to use alternate sources to find information on the names they were given, such as ancestry.com or newspapers.com.

Another issue that students had to overcome was understanding past terminology. For example, some students were looking for a person and discovered the name “Mrs. Jim

Smith” and concluded that the person was a man instead of the wife of Mr. Jim Smith. At this point in the class students had not yet learned legal terms, such as coverture, that Graham had taken for granted, and it resulted in some confusion.

Most of the course was centered on gathering skills rather than the content produced. These included general writing skills, finding primary sources, and meeting deadlines. Graham highlights another source of difficulty within the processes of peer review: It is common for many students to skim another’s work and say that they liked it without giving any ways for it to improve.

Some of the biographies produced by the class were strong enough to be published. These can be found on Alexander Street.

Graham has had several takeaways from her time working with these biographies so far. The first is that it helped students develop professional skills. Her past students have told her how well the class has prepared them. Other feedback she received is that there should have been more editing earlier, and that the editing process would have been better if students were able to meet with copy editors.

The quality of the previous work her classes have completed has resulted in being asked to work on even more biographies from more places and demographics than Washington; such as Michigan suffragists and African-American suffragists. These will be a bit more of a challenge due to their being less resources available. Going into the spring semester, the class will focus on editing their current round of articles and they should be ready this summer.

Photo retrieved from Twitter.com

Photo by Colin Rivera

"To All the Boys I've Loved Before" gets sequel

Cheyenne Yap
Staff Writer

Heartbreak, happiness, pain and love - just a few of the many emotions that are felt while watching “P.S. I Still Love You,” the long-awaited sequel of “To All The Boys I Loved Before.” The young-adult romance movies are based on the book series written by Jenny Han of the same name.

In the first movie, Lara Jean Covey (Lana Condor) writes a series of love letters to the crushes that she had during middle school. Without Lara Jean’s knowledge, the letters get sent out with Peter Kavinsky (Noah Centineo) being one of the recipients. Over the course of the film, Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky fake a relationship to make Peter’s ex-girlfriend jealous. But at the end of the movie, the tables turn, and Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky fall in love with each other, eventually becoming a couple.

At the start of the sequel, “P.S I Still Love You,” Lara Jean is completely head over heels for Peter. They are officially a couple who go on cute dates at fancy restaurants and walks in the park. Later in the movie, Lara gets a letter from one of her middle school crushes- John Ambrose (Jordan Fisher).

John Ambrose and Lara Jean unexpectedly work together as volunteers at an assisted living home called “Bellview.” While working together, they bond and get to know each other on a deeper level. This concerns Peter because this means Lara Jean and John Ambrose are going to be together more than expected. Peter and Lara Jean’s relationship dynamic weakens and causes them to break up in this movie, but he eventually fights to get her back. At the end, Lara Jean has



Photo retrieved from Commons, Wikimedia.org

Based on the book series by Jenny Han, Netflix released the sequel "P.S. I Still Love You."

the decision to pick between John Ambrose and Peter to be with, and picks Peter.

In the first movie, viewers got to know Peter and Lara Jean on a deeper level. Peter was portrayed as a sweet guy that would do anything to make Lara Jean happy. This all changed in the second movie. Their relationship is portrayed as imperfect and unhappy.

“For every first I was having with him, he already had his with her,” Lara Jean said.

Throughout the whole movie, it is very obvious that Lara Jean is insecure about Peter’s past relationship with his ex-girlfriend. Peter is the first boyfriend she has ever had, and because of this, she was not exposed to all the hardships that every relationship goes through. Lara Jean had imagined her relationship to be a perfect fairy tale. In the movie, they make a promise to each other that they will never fight again. So, when

problems in their relationship started to arise, she would rethink their relationship. She convinces herself that she is in love with Peter but cannot stop thinking about John Ambrose.

There is a burning conflict that is between Peter and John Ambrose throughout the whole movie. Eventually, Lara Jean comes to terms with herself and chooses Peter. This controversial decision raises many burning questions on why she made that certain decision. Many fans after the movie were divided between Team John Ambrose and Team Peter.

The end of the film brings many loose ends together to form the fairy tale ending that Lara Jean always wanted. Though she might not have ended up with the man fans wish she had, the film is a fun way to spend an afternoon or evening.

"The Guinevere Deception" an intriguing read

Chelsea Mancilla
Guest Writer

“The Guinevere Deception” by Kiersten White, published in November 2019, captures my imagination in this revision of Arthurian legend. Guinevere is barely a woman, but in medieval times, she is old enough to be wed at 16 years old. However, Guinevere is not who she appears to be. She tells the story in the third person, and recounts how she has replaced the real Guinevere, after the princess unexpectedly dies; having been sent by Merlin. In the story Merlin has been banished from Camelot, and all magic is banned from the kingdom.

White breathes new life into the legend of Guinevere and Arthur. Guinevere is a realistic figure as she struggles to find purpose and balance her personal needs. She has given up her own identity to become Guinevere, a princess from a southern kingdom. On their wedding night, Guinevere refuses to tell Arthur her true name, believing that she must immerse herself in her new identity as Queen Guinevere. She misses her home in the forest with Merlin, but finds friendship

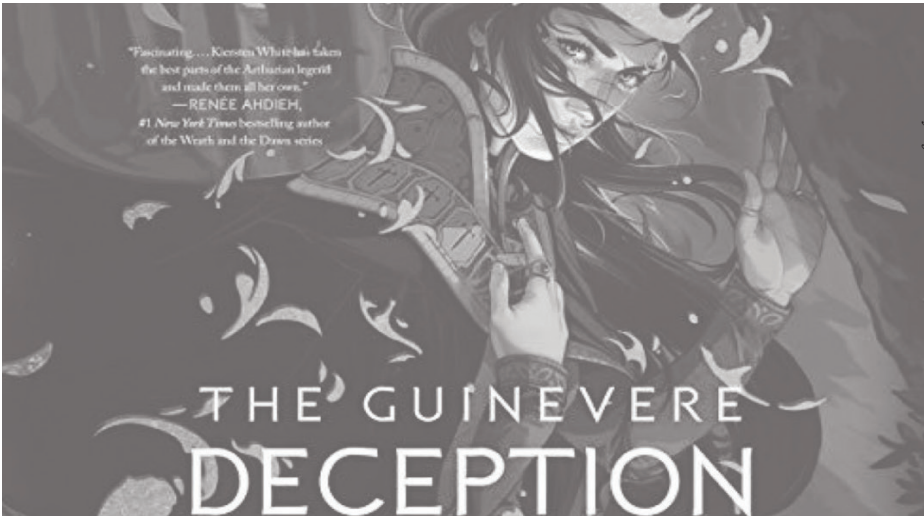


Photo courtesy of Chelsea Mancilla

White recreates legendary characters who are relatable and overcome different challenges.

in Camelot with her lady-in-waiting and Arthur. As the Queen of Camelot, Guinevere has many responsibilities, which interrupt her duties as Arthur’s protector. In addition, magic has been banned from Camelot and any witches and sorcerers banished from the city.

White produces captivating prose that energizes the imagination.

Phrasing, such as, “She longed to cling to his certainty, but his confidence flowed swiftly past her and out of her reach,” offers vibrant descriptions of Guinevere’s feelings and experiences.

White balances Guinevere’s na-

ivety, with a strong sense of duty and faith, while also weaving in an air of mystery, produced by the dark forces seeking to destroy Arthur and Camelot.

When Guinevere is attacked by a boar, she assumes it is a witch that was recently banished from Camelot, but the reader has insight that Guinevere has not accessed yet. This style of writing holds the reader in suspense, asking questions like, “Who or what is the evil that wants to get rid of Guinevere?”

Another interesting factor in White’s novel is her pacing. The plot is an intricate mystery, which

will have the reader asking questions along the way and making discoveries along with Guinevere. The Queen of Camelot believes that her enemy is a witch from Camelot and an enigmatic knight, only known as the Patchwork Knight, due to his unusual armor. While I will try not to give too much away, Guinevere must find clues while evading her dutiful lady-in-waiting and the people of Camelot. If her powers were ever discovered, she would not only be putting herself at risk of banishment, but ruin Arthur’s reputation, as well. The stakes are incredibly high, as the well-being of the king and kingdom are Guinevere’s responsibility.

“The Guinevere Deception” will provide an intriguing read, and I hope you will all add it to your “to be read list.” I personally recommend the audio version, narrated by Elizabeth Knowelden, which offers an extra bit of immersion for readers. Knowelden has a soothing voice and the amazing ability to change it to fit the character. I should also note that this is the first book in White’s series, “The Camelot Rising Trilogy.” Fans of this novel can look forward to more of the series, and perhaps other books by the same author.

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Inspiration through music: Saint Martin's annual Hope Concert

Myki Dee Kim
Staff Writer

On March 4, 2020, the Marcus Pavilion was transformed from a sporting arena to a stage for the arts. The celebration of music featured Saint Martin’s very own chorale, directed by Darrell Born and accompanied by Nickolas Carlson, and Jazz band, directed by Brad Schrandt. The night featured music groups, soloists, duets, and bands. The songs that had been chosen were meant to bring hope in today’s world. All performances were emotional, light, and inspirational for all in attendance.

The chorale, made up of about 50 students and faculty, split into four major voice parts that joined together harmoniously into cohesive pieces, which brought awe. For the first time ever, Saint Martin’s very own Jazz band performed in the annual Hope Concert. The group featured seven students and one faculty member performing in the middle of the concert, and had everyone in the room moving to the jazzy beat of their tunes.

Throughout the night, student soloists, duets, and bands were featured. Prior to the concert, students auditioned and worked closely with Born and Carlson to ensure that each performance went smoothly. Their hard work showed as they all sounded fantastic. The performance pieces included traditional folk songs, personal compositions, musical theater/show tune favorites, classic rock, and metal. Students not only sang, but also accompanied each other on drums, bass, and guitar, forming exceptional ensembles.

The Hope Concert is traditionally a free concert with donations being greatly appreciated. Every year, the Fine Arts department chooses a hopeful cause to donate voluntary proceeds to.

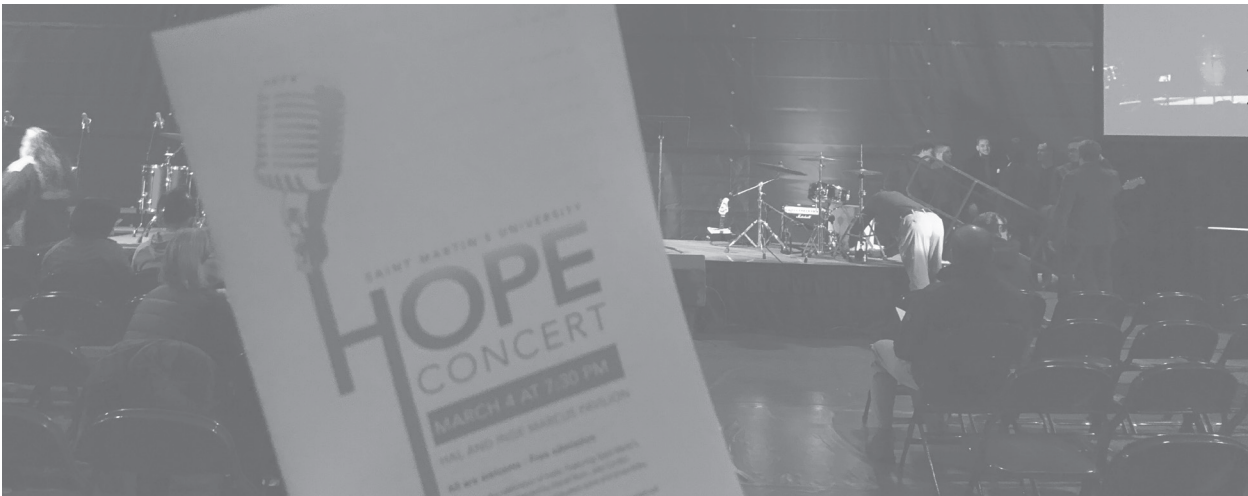


Photo by Myki Dee Kim

Saint Martin’s Fine Arts department continues to produce the Hope Concert year after year.

This year, the proceeds went directly towards Saint Martin’s students participating in alternative spring break trips in Flint, Michigan and McAllen, Texas. Student representatives spoke at the concert to give their personal service experiences and what they hope to gain on their respective trips.

Those in attendance were faculty, staff, students, families, and friends. Gabrielle Bond, a Saint Martin’s student, noted that this year’s concert was the first performance she had attended during her time at the university. Bond noted that the concert brought a sense of peace. Every song gave her a feeling of warmth, and once the concert was over, she felt uplifted. As the concert fell in the middle of midterms, Bond stated that although she had a stressful week, the concert was a wonderful gift and she was extremely thankful for performers for giving of their time and talents to showcase that evening. She also stated, “I have friends who perform and I’m so proud and I want to hug the people I don’t know because they are just so talented.”

Another student, Christopher Gizinski, had a

similar experience to Bond, as it was also his first time attending a Saint Martin’s concert. He said that the concert brought him a sense of relief and a nice break from schoolwork. Bond and Gizinski both said that it was a wonderful experience and they are extremely impressed with the amount of work that was put into the evening. They are both looking forward to more concerts and performances held by the school in the future.

The concert concluded with a chorale tradition of Revelation 19 - a staple song for the Choir where all those who have previously participated in the chorale are invited up to the front to sing in unison with the group.

Preservation of the arts is so important and Saint Martin’s Fine Arts department does wonders with all they do on campus and in the greater community. Make sure to keep an eye out for any other Chorale, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble performances, because you will not want to miss it. To all those who participated in the concert, congratulations on another exceptional performance, Bravi Tutti.



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Abbot Neal to retire after 27 years of service

Mary Seiner
Staff Writer

Abbot Neal sent out a campus-wide email on March 2 announcing his intent to retire effective March 31, 2020. After 27 years of dedicated service to Saint Martin’s Abbey and campus community, Abbot Neal says that he will miss collaborating with the university’s board members on projects towards constructing a more sustainable, practical, and welcoming campus. However, he is most excited about enjoying freedom away from his many abbot duties, wherein he can focus on both his family and himself in the years to come.

Abbot Neal’s younger years leading up to his current station were very “full.” The Abbey’s motto of “Ora et Labora” (prayer and work), kept him engaged with those at Saint Martin’s as it transitioned from high school to college, and later to university, especially due to the “Labora” value. There being no shortage of work within Saint Martin’s throughout the years, the Abbey grew gardens and raised chickens, a herd of Holstein cattle, and pigs, during Abbot Neal’s novitiate with Fr. Kilian Malvey.

Abbot Neal later became the abbot’s secretary, then worked at Saint Martin’s college library as a Librarian’s Assistant while attending college courses. It took him six years to earn his bachelor’s degree since he worked full-time while at Saint Martin’s. His duties regularly changed from being a high school faculty member to joining the seminary for priesthood studies, and then to college teaching in both the Education and English departments. He had several abbey ap-

pointments, such as guest master, novice master, junior master, sub prior, prior (twice), pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Lacey for 10 years, and finally, abbot.

In the meantime, he will be setting aside time to visit his family, and is looking forward to the possibilities that will unfold during his retirement. He will be officially out of office when a



Photo retrieved from [Simartin.edu](#)

After serving the Saint Martin’s community for many years, Abbot Neal is ready for retirement.

new superior is either elected or appointed, which will likely be in June. Following that, he plans on staying with his youngest sister and her husband for at least a month in Montana, where he will enjoy nature at its finest. Following his time in Montana, he will take a short break in Oregon, and from there, will travel to Petersburg, Alaska to live in a parish for roughly six months. Upon his return, he will be involved with the university in some capacity.

Myki Dee Kim, a senior Business major, says that she will remember his kindness and personability—he always has the community’s best interests at heart. Kim recalls asking Abbot Neal if he would bless a confirmation gift for her future brother-in-law. “Without fail,” Kim said, “he answered my call, and performed a special blessing in the Abbey church over the rosary. For that, I am grateful to have called him Abbot for my four years here.”

“He’s the type of leader that you can feel comfortable around, and I’m sure that stability and dependability will be sorely missed,” said Sarah Zepeda, a junior English major and one of Saint Martin’s recipients of the Abbot Scholarship. Zepeda is eager to find out what the Abbey will accomplish following a change in leadership, and said, “While I’m sure everything will turn out fine, I do believe Abbot Neal will be missed.”

Abbot Neal imparts a final message to Saint Martin’s campus community in the wake of his retirement: “I am very proud of our faculty, staff, and all who work so hard to provide a quality education for our students. Never forget that you are an important aspect of Saint Martin’s University. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. You are appreciated.”

Comprehensive sex education bill signed by Gov. Jay Inslee

Olivia Alvord
Staff Writer

Senate Bill (SB) 5395 is a current piece of legislation which would require the implementation of “Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CSHE)--in all schools.” CSHE, as defined by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, “would include content on reoccurring instruction in human development and reproduction that is age-appropriate and inclusive of all students.”

Specifics of the bill state: “By Sept. 1, 2021, every public school must provide comprehensive sexual health education as an integral part of the curriculum that is evidence-informed, medically and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive for all students regardless of their protected class status. This includes information and skills-based instruction that includes both (1) abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); (2) encourages healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation; (3) teaches how to identify and respond to attitudes and behaviors that contribute to sexual violence; and (4) emphasizes the importance of affirmative consent, meaning conscious and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity, as a requirement before sexual activity.”

SB 5395 would be implemented in every Washington State school district beginning in Kindergarten and continuing every year through the 12th grade.

The CSHE bill was first introduced in the 2019 legislative session on Jan. 18 at the request of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal. SB 5395 was kept on the table for the next legislative session following its return to the Senate Rules Committee on Apr. 28, 2019. After being introduced a second time in the 2020 legislative session, a public hearing was held on Feb. 20 in the House Committee on Education. On Mar. 4, the bill passed in the House and on Mar. 7, the bill passed in the Senate with a vote



Photo by Olivia Alvord

SB5395: Mandated comprehensive sexual health education classes in all Washington schools passes in the House and Senate and awaits Gov. Jay Inslee's signature.

of 27-21. On Thursday Mar. 12, the bill was officially delivered to Governor Jay Inslee. On Friday, Mar. 27, Governor Inslee signed SB 5395 into law, expecting implementation to begin by the 2022-2023 school year.

On Mar. 11, parents and individuals from around the state gathered at the Capitol in protest of the bill. Despite the recent ban on crowds of 250 or more, nearly 3,000 people braved the potential of contracting COVID-19 to protect their children and/or students from what they perceive as being sexual education that is far too extreme.

Protestors included a group known as the Informed Parents of Washington, who are known according to their Facebook page as “a coalition of parents dedicated to fighting Comprehensive Sexxx Education in schools and legislation that imposes upon parental rights.” The Informed Parents of Wash. group argue that the CSHE bill is more than just a basic sex education class and that it should not be mandated for every child. Other opponents of the CSHE bill say that the lessons and visual aids take things too far.

One parent commented that, “to think that a five-year-old child would learn everything from how their personal parts worked to learning about pornography with this new curriculum is appalling.”

On the other hand, proponents of the bill sug-

gest that this is a much-needed change for students and to the education system, as a whole. A middle school teacher mentioned her thoughts on this potential change: “children have begun to experience changes in their emotional and physical health earlier and earlier throughout the years. Five years ago, a typical child would experience puberty around the age of 12, today children are experiencing this as early as age eight. The new CSHE bill would address this transition in our society.”

According to Hector O. Chapa, MD, FACOG, Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Texas A & M College of Medicine, “the age of puberty, especially female puberty, has been decreasing in western cultures for decades now. For example, at the turn of the 20 century, the average age for an American girl to get her period was 16 or 17. Today, that number has decreased to 12 or 13 years.” Additionally, a study by the American Academy of Pediatrics, found that puberty for boys is starting at age 10 or before, when age 11 was previously the norm.

This previously taboo topic has now become a major topic of conversation in Washington. Although there are supporters for both arguments, voters should always be wary of what will produce the most positive outcome on future generations.

Pandemic may affect plans for new arts building

Mary Seiner
Staff Writer

There has been talk about the possibility of a new arts building; however, the topic is no longer a priority with the Saint Martin’s community being preoccupied with the COVID-19 situation. Plans inevitably change; therefore, with a pandemic affecting the operations of daily life, designs for a new arts building are temporarily on hold. Saint Martin’s is utilizing online services at this time, as Governor Jay Inslee issued a lockdown on the evening of Monday, March 23. Citizens, workers, and students alike are not permitted to congregate as a result of the social-distancing decree.

Prior to the pandemic, students heard rumors concerning the construction of a new arts building that would provide students—music and theater majors particularly—with a larger space to improve their artistic education. “The talk of a new arts building is serious, especially with



Kreielsheimer Hall, the current fine arts building that the university is looking to replace.

the appearance of band and the size of the instrumental ensembles that use the tiny space,” says Darius Nakao, a freshman music major. Despite the need for a new arts building, it is still unknown whether the construction of such a large project will ensue.

Additional sound-proof practice rooms that do not disturb classes in session and rehearsal spaces

that have enhanced acoustics would help students adjust their instruments and voices in preparation for events and concerts. Those attending performing arts classes also need secure areas to store their instruments, as well as other necessary equipment for instruction.

Nakao explains that he has “wanted a new arts building from the day of the first band rehearsal, because

the space felt really cramped and it feels the same for orchestra.” Just as the newly-constructed science building, the Ernsdorff Science Center, provides students with expansive classrooms complete with a lobby and patio area, a new arts building would make students feel comfortable congregating in a space designed for learning. A more accessible arts building would also better accommodate the art, music, and theater professors with satisfactory office space to house their teaching materials and to welcome visiting students.

The location of the new arts building remains unknown, but Saint Martin’s continues in its mission to minimize the environmental impact upon their campus grounds and retain the natural beauty of the trees and the homes of wildlife.

“I know that it has been something extremely desired and deemed necessary by all of us in the music department. I’m sure it is something Darrell and other music department staff are working hard behind the scenes for,” says senior music major, Morgan O’Connor.

Photo by Olivia Alvord

Staff spotlight: David Crawford

Emmanuel Son
Staff Writer

The Charneski Recreation center located on campus is enjoyed by many students. From a practice center for athletes, to a fitness center for all students, and the hub for many recreational activities, the Charneski Recreation center serves as an essential part of campus life. David Crawford is the director of the recreation center, and has quite a backstory of how he ended up at Saint Martin’s about four years ago.

Recreational activity has been a huge passion for most of Crawford’s life. Before coming to Saint Martin’s, Crawford had worked at many athletic camps throughout high school and college. While working to get his master’s degree at George Williams College at Aurora University, Crawford started to get involved working in recreational activities.

Recreational activity was not the first career field that Crawford had in mind when he entered college.

“I didn’t even know it could necessarily be a major,” he said.

Crawford said that getting a job in teaching is what he originally had in mind, while being on a music scholarship. In college, Crawford played trumpet in the concert and marching bands. He somehow stumbled into the field of athletics during his freshman year, while trying to figure out what career path he would take for his future. Crawford said that one day in class, the Head of the Recreation Department had come to talk about what the career field was. Because some of his favorite activities included backpacking with his family and being in the Boy Scouts, he found a strong interest in the recreational activity career field. As he kept on pursuing the field, his interest evolved into different opportunities just by being open to new activities.

Before getting his masters, Crawford worked retail at a sporting goods store. While in college, Crawford interned in Canada with Beyond Malibu Young Life, a program which focuses on changing young lives through wilderness adventure ministry. The year after that, Crawford was involved in an internship in Japan to work on



David Crawford, Director of the Charneski Recreation Center, works diligently to maintain quality recreational programming.

Photo retrieved from Smartin.edu

recreational programming with the Navy. Crawford has also worked for the U.S. Army at Joint Base Lewis McChord.

When asked about his favorite recreational activity on campus, Crawford said, “I’m kind of a little bit of everything, but as of the last number of years, my favorite activity has been floorball.”

Crawford has enjoyed floorball so much that he has started a business named Floorball Guru dedicated to the sport. This business is built around educating people about the sport of floorball across the United States, and around the world.

“I think we’re seeing good engagement with students with our [floorball] games” he stated. In the local area, Crawford teaches youth classes and developed a league to get more youth involved and active in the sport. Crawford has also published a book called “Floorball Guru Primer” which is available at the O’Grady library and on the Floorball Guru website, which was written as a resource for people to better understand the sport.

“All that stuff has just become a part of my daily life working at the [recreation center] and then

at night do something totally different but then melding all of that stuff together,” he described.

Another part of campus recreation life is Saints Outdoor Adventure Recreation (SOAR) trips. Students who sign up could go on hiking trips, river rafting trips, winter sports trips, and much more.

Because of the many different opportunities of trips to go on, Crawford says he cannot make up his mind on his favorite trip, and said, “It kind of varies depending on what’s going on.

I’m like the jack of all trades but master of none. I like going out and doing different things but for me, the difference is more based on experience.”

An example he gives is his enjoyment for white water rafting because it brings him back to good memories of when he was a raft guide in training. Snowshoeing, climbing the Ape Caves, and paintballing are some other trips Crawford enjoys.

“I built the SOAR program when I first got here to be the introductory get you in the door to experience [the activity] and to encourage you to keep going with it. To me the SOAR program is not the end game it’s the beginning to get you into it.”

Because of the current happenings of gyms and recreation centers temporarily closing due to the spread of COVID-19, Crawford has offered some tips on how to stay fit, healthy, and happy. He said that anything that keeps one’s body moving is important. The key for any workout program is consistency.

“If consistency means you go for a walk for 30-45 minutes every day, then awesome. If you want to do a hard core at home workout kind of thing, great.”

Another important thing people struggle with is creating normalcy. Examples include getting up at the same time they would otherwise, doing online class work on a normal schedule, spending time with people in a way that follows the guidelines of social distancing, and reaching out to people one might not have seen in a while to keep those connections going. Look for the good happening on and off campus as a reminder that although things right now are tough, things right now will not be forever. Having those positive thoughts and doing those activities can help people a lot.

Ryne Oshiro's NFL mock draft 2020

Ryne Oshiro
Staff Writer

For most Americans, there are two constants in the world; death and taxes. For NFL scouts and football fans, you can add a third constant - Joe Burrow being the number one draft selection in 2020. Despite not participating in the NFL Combine, Burrow has remained a staple to shake over the reigns as the next star quarterback of the Cincinnati Bengals. After seeing the departure of now free agent, Andy Dalton, teams only seem to want Burrow for the position.

Following Burrow in the draft is edge rusher, Chase Young of Ohio State University. Young is undoubtedly the most dynamic player and ranks as the number one overall prospect in the draft. It just so happened that the Bengals needed a quarterback more than an edge rusher. The Washington Redskins will get a huge boost on defense with this pick.

After an impressive showing at the combine, Clemson stud Isaiah Simmons looks to become the third pick, which belongs to the Detroit Lions. Being the third overall prospect, it makes total sense for the Lions to take someone of his caliber, considering the need to strengthen their defense. Simmons is an absolute terror on the defensive end of the field, and the Lions will have no regrets with this choice.

The Giants need better run and pass protection, and Mekhi Becton seems to be the best fit for that option. With the fifth pick, the Miami Dolphins will likely be taking a shot at a health risk, Tua Tagovailoa. The only question is health, because he proved that he is a force to be reckoned with when healthy. He is the fifth ranked prospect in a slightly loaded draft, so the Dolphins taking a chance on a quarterback with his caliber seems to be a good choice.

Following the signing of Phillip Rivers to the Indianapolis Colts, the Los Angeles Chargers look to pick yet another quarterback to fill the role. Justin Herbert of the University of Oregon



Joe Burrow is predicted to be the number one pick in the 2020 NFL Draft.

Photo retrieved from Twitter.com

looks to challenge Tyrod Taylor for the quarterback spot for the Chargers.

For pick number seven, the Carolina Panthers look to cornerback Jeff Okudah, another stud coming from Ohio State University. He is the number one ranked cornerback in this draft, and it seems the Panthers need help in every spot on defense after Luke Kuechly's retirement. One of the biggest trades in the off-season saw DeAndre Hopkins traded to the Cardinals, so it almost seems inevitable that Kyler Murray needs protection to find those targets. Offensive lineman Tristan Wirfs out of the University of Iowa looks to be the second ranked offensive linemen in the draft.

After the Jacksonville Jaguars traded away Calais Campbell for draft picks, it seemed that they were indeed rebuilding. What better way to start than replacing a stud on defense with another defensive lineman that ranks as the top prospect. Auburn's Derrick Brown looks to help turn around a distraught Jaguars team.

Rounding out the top 10 picks in the draft are the Cleveland Browns. After a disappointing 2019, they look to turn it around and sign an offensive lineman to protect Baker Mayfield so he

can get passes out to his explosive offense. Andrew Thomas, the line protector out of Georgia looks to be a key force in helping the Browns reach the playoffs for years to come.

Following the first 10 picks, there could be numerous changes, especially with the start of free-agency signings. There are some notable names that will be left on the wide receiver board. Jerry Jeudy, CeeDee Lamb, and Henry Ruggs III all look to find a home within the first round. From numerous projections it looks like Jeudy will be the first off the board heading to the New York Jets with the 11th pick. Then, following Jeudy with the 12th pick, Lamb looks to head to the Oakland Raiders who are in desperate need of key offensive weapons, especially after the great season running back Josh Jacobs had. Another team in desperate need of more offensive weapons is the Denver Broncos. Ruggs should be snagged at the 15th pick, which will help boost a young Drew Lock. The rest of the draft, and first round, will all be dependent on what each team needs. With the way this off-season is shaping up, look for another shake-up prior to the draft.

Coronavirus strikes out GNAC season

Kierrla Yates
Staff Writer

Before all spring sports competitions were cancelled by the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, our baseball and softball teams were beginning to dig into some great matchups. Of course, the spring weather had also caused some changes to the Saints' schedules before the cancellation. The men's team had their extra innings against the Montana State University (MSU) Billings postponed and the women's second game against Western Oregon was also postponed.

Despite weather challenges, both teams have played a few conference games, enough to place the ladies in the top three. Our men currently find themselves tied with MSU Billings for third place. As this season was just getting into the swing of things, both teams have played excellent games and made great comebacks to take home some wins.

During the men's recent match-up with MSU Billings, the Saints struggled in the first game to find their offensive edge. Billings won the game by a score of 15-6, as they managed to score seven points in the second inning, leaving the Saints behind. However, in their next three games, the Saints found their rhythm and won 11-3, 12-8,



The Saints celebrate their victory over the challenging game with Western Oregon.

Photo retrieved from SMUSaints.com

and closed with a tie of 3-3. Looking at their two middle games, the Saints were nearly a different team, and were no longer struggling to find their offense. In their second game, MSU Billings scored first, leaving the crowd anxious to see if this game would be like the last.

However, their luck ran short and they only scored one run, not seven. Tides had changed in the bottom of that inning, as Bryant Nakagawa answered back with a run of his own. Senior, Micah McNicoll kept the same energy as Nakagawa and scored a triple down the right line allowing the Saints to score three

runs, putting them in the lead.

Ryne Oshiro followed suit with an RBI double to end the inning with five points. As they progressed into the third inning, the men kept up their work scoring six killer points. MSU scored a few runs but could not grasp Tanner Inouye's great pitching for he gave up no walks and struck out seven batters. A comeback like this sheds great light on the determination of the Saints.

On the women's side, their comeback win against the Western Oregon Wolves was one for the books. Our Saints were first to score in the bottom of the third with two runs.

Western Oregon finally returned the fire in the fifth inning by scoring six points, then one more in the sixth inning putting the game at 7-2. The Saints came back for the Wolves in the bottom of the sixth scoring four points, followed by one more in the seventh, tying the game. The Wolves relentlessly fought back and scored two more runs in the eighth inning, however, the Saints answered back immediately with two runs of their own, leaving the game, once again, a tie.

Neither team was able to make any runs in the ninth inning, but Western Oregon managed to score two runs in the top of the tenth giving them the hopeful win. However, the Saints offense found their rhythm, scoring two more runs, tying up the game once again. This set up Devyn Connolly to make the final play. Connolly hit the ball left center allowing Oliva Schmidt to complete her run, giving the Saints the win.

Close games and comebacks are some of the best games in sports because of the suspense and intensity the atmosphere creates. It is unfortunate that the season had to end so quickly, but nonetheless, the Saint Martin's fans were not left without exciting matchups to watch. As the athletes continue to practice amidst the pandemic, even without their coaches, it will be great to watch what kind of hunger the Saints will have next year.

XFL ends first season early amid COVID-19

John Gerchak
Staff Writer

The XFL recently put out a statement announcing the end of its season due to COVID-19. It hardly seems fair that such a well put together startup league ended in such a sudden way that was in no way the fault of the league itself. That being said, the XFL should be back next year, so it seems only right to address the Seattle Dragon’s flaws this season.

The Dragons’ greatest shortcoming just so happens to be the biggest problem for every other team in the league, except for the Houston Roughnecks, quarterback talent. Some of the plays in the league will cause viewers to cringe, purely because of how bad some of the quarterback play is. That is not to say that it is always bad, but it is without a doubt inconsistent. Watching Brandon Silvers miss an uncovered wide receiver, and throw multiple interceptions every game is an awful sight. Many fans thought

the quality of play would widely mimic that of college football, which was right for the most part, but there is a reason backup quarterbacks in the NFL make so much money.

Quarterback, P.J. Walker of the Roughnecks was clearly the best in the entire league. He has already been signed by the Carolina Panthers. This could mean that any team capable of bringing in a half-decent quarterback- maybe one who fell just out of NFL backup contention- would instantly be at a huge advantage over the rest of the league.

Brandon Silvers is just not dynamic in the least, and never makes up for it with arm talent. To sit down and hear the announcers praise his pocket awareness right before he takes a sack is extremely uncomfortable. One feels like they are watching an aging Peyton Manning running for his life, except Silvers is twenty-five, and has none of the upsides of Peyton Manning.

Moving on to the Dragons’ second most egregious problem, something they must address this offseason - Head Coach Jim Zorn, who is inadequate almost all of the time. Whether the Drag-

ons win or lose, Zorn’s coaching is the same. This continuous low energy vague blur of directions is about as clear as mud, and can be less exciting than watching paint dry.

The league’s tendency to show all the sideline interactions only exacerbates the issue, because whenever they show him talking on the sideline, it is always to a player with this look of confusion on his face, just nodding along with whatever the man says.

The televising of all of this, does him no favors either. At the very least, if this dysfunction was not plain as day for everyone to see, he might be able to save face and step down quietly. None of this even gets into the Dragons’ playbook and how it performs poorly most of the time. Zorn plays the exact opposite of the typical Madden player. He rarely takes risks, and runs the ball into a pile of bodies the majority of the time. If a passing play is called, Zorn often chooses to go with either a slant or streak. The Dragons have a great supporting cast, but some of the biggest players desperately need improvement next season.

Brady to Tampa and other NFL free agency news

Kierrla Yates
Staff Writer

The sports world has come to a standstill as many different sport leagues postpone or cancel their seasons. However, NFL Free Agency has started off with some unexpected contracts. As of March 21, there are some interesting players ranking in the top five of available free agents, as well as the top five free agent contracts that have been signed. One of the most unexpected signings was that of Tom Brady to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

According to Pete Prisco on CBS Sports, the top five available free agents are: Seattle’s own Jadeveon Clowney, the Buccaneers’ Jameis Winston, Robby Anderson of the New York Jets, Breshad Perriman, another Buccaneer, and the Titans’ Logan Ryan. Currently, Jadeveon Clowney is the number one free agent and is asking for around \$22 million per year for his new contract. Prisco, as well as Bryant McFadden, a CBS Sports analyst, found that Clowney will not be getting that much. Both Prisco and McFadden agree that Clowney has been incredibly injury prone, making 22 million a risky amount for any team to give. Clowney will most likely land with the Seahawks or Giants. In Seattle, the team would have a better understanding of Clowney’s



NFL superstar Tom Brady signs as Tampa Bay's official starting quarterback.

Photo retrieved from Twitter.com

health and injuries. However, with the Giants, Clowney would be able to excel as the excellent run stopping player that he is.

Quarterback Jameis Winston will have to look beyond his own team for a spot to play, since they signed Tom Brady. Winston is the first quarterback to throw 450 plus yards in consecutive games, making him the second most notable free agent. The Patriots and the Chargers need starting quarterbacks, making them two viable options for Winston.

Taking up the third best free agent position is wide receiver Robby Anderson of the Jets. This year, teams are desperate for wide receivers, giving Anderson a great opportunity to find a new team. Anderson is one of the best deep-ball wide receivers with 52 catches, 779 yards, and five

touchdowns from last season. This gives Anderson some serious powerhouse teams to land with, such as the Vikings, Saints, or Packers.

The fourth best agent, Breshad Perriman, found his flow in the 2019 season. Perriman brought in 36 catches, 645 yards, and six touchdowns. According to CBS Sports, Perriman’s speed and power would add a great component to the Eagles’ offense, making that a potential landing spot.

Bringing up the end of the top five free agent picks is cornerback Logan Ryan, who would be a great choice for any team wishing to strengthen their secondary. As CBS Sports puts it, “Teams that couldn’t get Darius Slay should take a look at Ryan.” Even though 2019 might not have been his best year, Ryan is

a reliable player that greatest potential lies with the Cowboys, Giants, or the Bears.

One of the most unexpected contracts was that of Patriots’ starting quarterback, Tom Brady, who had played for twenty seasons with the New England Patriots. This year, for the first time in twenty years, Brady was an open free agent, and the Buccaneers won his favor. There had been several accusations that Brady only signed because the Buccaneers were willing to give Brady control over the team roster.

However, according to CBS Sports’ Patrick Walker, Brady had merely asked for the phone numbers of each of the players on the team, rather than any control. When Brady posted on Instagram about his switch to Tampa Bay, there was an energy for something new in his words.

Brady wrote, “I’m starting a new football journey and thankful for the @buccaneers for giving me an opportunity to do what I love to do. I look forward to meeting all my new teammates and coaches and proving to them that they can believe and trust in me...”

With his genuine love for football and his new teammates, it will be interesting to see what kind of a team Brady can bring together in his next two years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

All major sports cancelled or suspended due to COVID-19

John Gerchak
Staff Writer

It is no secret that COVID-19 has impacted everybody’s lives lately, but the destructive impact it has had on professional sports is an eyesore that cannot be overlooked. Every sport has been put on hold or canceled at this point.

It is a difficult time especially for sports that have either just started their season, or have not yet had the opportunity to begin their season. MLB, for example, put out the word that they will not be starting regular season play until at least the middle of May, taking out two months of their season.

If the MLB intends to hold a full season, at this point, according to their start date, the season will not wrap up until late November to early December. The MLB has expressed a willingness to cut the season short and not stick to the original schedule.

Looking at the NBA, they appear to have it far worse, as they have currently suspended all play until further notice, and worse yet, several of their players have tested positive for the virus. Rudy Gobert was the first NBA player to test positive, and he put out a public service announcement about the dangers of COVID-19 on March 17. In it, he stated that he is getting better and encouraged everyone to take the virus seriously.

Unfortunately, it does not stop there. As of late,

the NBA has 13 confirmed cases coming from six different organizations. The most notable player is Kevin Durant. The last round of players to be diagnosed was on March 19, so it is fair to say that more cases will come out of the NBA, given how contagious the virus is.

The 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan have been postponed until 2021. Japan has sunk over \$12 Billion dollars into this event and postponing will negatively affect their economy.

This hurts all of these sports’ bottom lines, and sports fans are feeling the fall out of this and will be for at least the next two months. Strangely enough, this is propping up NFL news, and all the offseason trades and free agent signings are getting even more coverage than usual.

Empty shelves and long lines: It's the sign of the times

Cheyenne Yap
Staff Writer

It was a normal day in Mililani, Hawaii for the family of Saint Martin’s student, Ally Orsino, when they decided to take a normal grocery run at the Don Quixote Market to pick up supplies for the upcoming days. When they reached the grocery store, they noticed that the shelves were empty.

“Shelves were empty of rice, ramen noodles, canned meats, toilet paper, sanitizers, and rubbing alcohol,” said Orsino’s father.

Due to the shortage, the store was restricting people to grab a limit of two supply items per family.

“Overall I would say I was slightly disappointed but what can you expect?”

This is just one of the situations many families face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been many uncertainties about the future of families and a big shortage of supplies in many stores across the globe amid the coronavirus scare. Countries such as Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, and the U.S. have seen a vast growth in sales for toilet paper, hand sanitizer, food, and cleaning supplies. Pundits predict that shortages on high-demand items will continue throughout the pandemic.

Many people raise the question: “Are grocery stores still going to be open even though we are experiencing all these shortages?” In simple terms, yes. Grocery stores will stay open because they are a critical asset to each community..



people going to the stores recently just to find out that items are out of stock.

“When I realized people are overstocking things that are causing items to be out of stock in stores, I found it concerning because later on I would need those items as well,” said Kamal Liddar, a freshman. She later explained that everyone should think about others while buying supplies from stores.

“Stock up items but don’t overstock,” said Liddar.

Daisy Miranda, a freshman, shared her thoughts about the shortage of supplies in stores, as well.

“It’s kind of scary realizing everyone is in survival mode just trying to get the essentials for themselves and their families for a few weeks. I think stores have done really well with managing the crowds and restocking though, I’m thankful for the employees who are still working hard throughout this panic,” said Miranda.

Many workers throughout this pandemic have been putting themselves at risk. Companies, such as Target, have realized that many workers have been putting countless hours during this pandemic.

As Miranda mentioned, all across the globe people are in survival mode due to this panic. Although many of us are uncertain about the future and are overbuying supplies, we always need to remember to think about the person next to us that might need it as well.

“People need to be reasonable and take what they need and think of others,” said Rink.

cating special hours for the elderly to come and shop. This gives them a chance to get what they need from stores without the fear of supplies being out of stock.

Students at Saint Martin’s University have had many reactions to the shortage of supplies in stores: “In response to the general shortage in stores all over the world I am very flabbergasted and disappointed. While I understand and respect the idea that people need supplies when it comes to a virus - it feels like everyone is being a little dramatic,” said Peter Rink, a sophomore student.

Rink later mentioned that he has not been directly impacted because he does not really go to grocery stores. But he observed many

Empty shelves can be found at grocery stores across the country.

Greg Ferrara, President and CEO of the National Grocers Association, gives some reassuring news for people across the country: “The shelves do have products. They are stocked. They are getting restocked on a regular basis. The supply chain in this country is very efficient and it’s very effective.”

The National Grocers Association represents over 20,000 independently owned private companies across the country. The demand for various supplies is bizarre, but many supply chains are ready to react to the high demand.

Recognizing that people who are elderly and vulnerable to the virus have a difficult time accessing stores, companies such as Walmart, Target, and Whole Foods are dedi-

cating special hours for the elderly to come and shop. This gives them a chance to get what they need from stores without the fear of supplies being out of stock.

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Boise lawsuit to ticket homeless will not be heard by SCOTUS

Kaitlin Cunningham
Staff Writer

In Boise, Idaho, the Idaho Supreme Court rejected a proposal to have a case on homelessness heard, which has ordered the state of Idaho to change how they approach the problem of homelessness. It is not uncommon for the Supreme Court to turn down pleadings to hear cases, as the Supreme Court for the term of 2019-2020 has agreed to hear 73 cases.

While that might seem like a high number, out of thousands of applications, only 73 will be accepted to be heard. The rest will be given a quick decision or a dismissal, which makes the previous court’s decision stand. In this case, the United States 9th Circuit Court of Appeals covers the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, and Arizona.

The problem started when the state of Idaho was having trouble handling the homelessness problem that is prevalent in many states nowadays. The police in Idaho were ordered to ticket homeless people who were setting up camp outside and along roadways.

In Idaho, there was a city ordinance that prohibited homeless camps to be set up outside of homeless shelters. This became a problem because the people who were being given tickets

and citations had very few options as to where to stay the night, besides a shelter, which has a limit on how long a person may sleep there. With nowhere to go each night, they would set up camps outside and receive another citation by the police.

A few people who are homeless filed a lawsuit after the citations became too many to handle.



A recent ruling by the 9th Circuit Court now prohibits the ticketing of anyone camping in public places.

This originally was filed about a decade ago, and since then, the process of receiving help from the rulings of the court has been a slow but steady process. Originally the court ruled that homeless people could only sleep or camp outside on the condition that the shelters were full. This was overturned because with this ruling it gave the implication that the homeless were at fault for not being able to have a home to sleep in. The case was heard by the 9th circuit court who came to the conclusion that the state’s approach to the issue on homelessness became an issue due to its being ruled as unconstitutional.

The 9th circuit court decided that ticketing people for being homeless outside of the homeless shelter was cruel and unusual punishment which strictly violates the eighth amendment. Of course, this means that the state of Idaho would be forced to change their laws and procedures for handling issues of homelessness. Since this has already been a decade long lawsuit, although the courts rule in their favor, this would be a decade past the time that the homeless members of this lawsuit were repeatedly cited.

The U.S. Supreme Court refusing to admit this pleading means that the decision made by the 9th circuit courts almost a year ago stands. Citing homeless members of Idaho for camping outside is unconstitutional and Idaho will have to change its city ordinance codes in cooperation with the court’s decision.

Leadership Doctorate, from cover

ly important, and difficult issues are solved. These jobs put graduates in positions that can bring people together to solve difficult issues.

Applications to the program are now being accepted. The priority deadline is coming soon, on April 15, and the final deadline is June 1.



See an error?

Our goal as a staff is to provide you with a newspaper that is accurate and objective. If you notice any inaccuracies or details that need to be corrected anywhere in the issue, please feel free to let the Belltower know by emailing or contacting any of the staff. We want to be able to provide you all with information that is as concrete and credible as we can make it. In order for this to become possible, we are inviting feedback from the readers to be able to improve our upcoming issues.

Email us at Belltower@stmartin.edu

Stock market sinks amid virus fears

Grace Gillespie
Staff Writer

A worldwide market crash began on Feb. 20, disrupting financial security around the globe and leading some stock markets to close the following day. The subsequent weeks saw countries trying to stabilize the fallout of the crash so markets would not fall further.

Every nation attempted their own way of fixing the issue. Japan repurchased 4.6 billion dollars worth of bonds to keep the economy in motion, while Mexico announced a fiscal policy to increase government spending. On March 3, United States Federal Reserve Chairman, Jerome Powell, informed citizens that there would be a 50 Basis Point cut to the fund rate in order to stem panic.

Although a plethora of countries attempted to reduce the changes of economic crises, some unprecedented factors, such as COVID-19, caused many such efforts to flounder towards the end of February, especially as more information regarding COVID-19 began to surface.

Due to investor’s fears about the impact of the virus on the global economy, as well as anticipated travel bans, demand for oil fell drastically. Some oil producers agreed to reduce production of oil because of the price fall. However, Russia and Saudi Arabia both declined to downsize production, leading to an even greater drop in oil prices.

The impact of such an oil surplus hit American shale oil production companies quite hard, since demand was low while the supply of the resource was abundant. This led to an enormous drop in the United States stock market, which



was compounded on March 9, when US stocks took an even further tumble. This has caused many to refer to that day as Black Monday 2020.

The March 9 crash is the worst since the 2008 recession. The Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced a massive drop in the market, falling by 2,013.76 points, much lower than it was expected to.

On March 11, President Trump gave a speech from the Oval Office to address the current situation and offered assurances to citizens’ that the pandemic would be defeated. One day after the President’s speech, on March 12, the single greatest percentage drop since Black Monday of 1987 caused the Dow to fall by 12 percent. A

lack of confidence in President Trump’s speech and the measures being taken to contain the spread of the virus resulted in a continued fall in the stock market.

The following day, both the European and Asia-Pacific stock markets were closed, while in North America, countries proposed several ideas to counteract the economic crisis. Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that the government was working on a fiscal stimulus plan. Nancy Pelosi, the United States Speaker of the House, stated that there would be an appropriations and pandemic countermeasure bill passed.

Presidential primaries continue amid delays and COVID-19 fears

Bethany Montgomery
Staff Writer

Despite delays in numerous states amid the COVID-19 panic, the election primaries are still surging across the United States, bracing voters for another memorable election. Although President Donald Trump runs virtually unopposed as the Republican nominee in the 2020 election, former vice president Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders are fighting furiously to secure the position as the democratic nominee.

The Tuesday, March 16 primaries secured wins for Biden in Florida, Illinois, and Arizona, putting him at the forefront of the race. Despite these losses, Sanders has not yet conceded to give up the nomination, heavily criticizing Biden’s “reluctance” to embrace more progressive politics. Biden, however, discussed his strategy to keep his current position: “We’ve moved closer to securing the Democratic Party’s nomination for president. And we’re doing it by building a broad coalition that we need to win in November, with strong support from the African-American community, the Latino community, high school-aged people, educated people ... labor, teachers, suburban women, veterans, firefighters and so many more.”

He also assured supporters of Sanders of his shared vision of a better future through combat of income inequality and climate change, stating: “Senator Sanders and his supporters have brought a



State primaries continue to announce postponed election days in response to COVID-19 scares.

remarkable passion and tenacity to all of these issues. Together, they have shifted the fundamental conversation in this country. So let me say, especially to the young voters who have been inspired by Senator Sanders. I hear you.”

As of March 20, Biden held 1,201 delegates, followed by Sanders with 896. Though Biden is significantly closer to the 1,991 delegates needed to secure the nomination, both candidates are still campaigning furiously in the remaining states in hopes of running against Trump in the fall.

The rapidly spreading COVID-19 virus has resulted in revised campaigning strategies and decreased in-person voter turnout, but a significantly higher participation in mail in ballots, leading to a high voter turnout overall.

According to USA Today, “In Arizona, 531,316 people overall voted in the Democratic primary, an increase of 13.5 percent over the 468,461 who voted in 2016...In Florida, 1.75 million people overall voted in the Democratic primary, a 1.5 percent increase over the 1.70 million who voted in 2016.”

Democrats in many states are beginning to rethink voting methods for the November election. Despite the increase in turnout, officials hope to eliminate in person voting to lower the risk of infection. Seven states and one territory have already postponed their presidential primaries, while the next batch of states including Alaska, Hawaii, and Wyoming have made no indication of postponement—instead opting to turn to alternative methods, including drop-off and mail in ballots.

According to ABC News, Wyoming’s primary following on April 7 will likely predict the general election, provided the precautions around the spread of COVID-19 do not inhibit voters from participating. If Wyoming leads to a tied battle, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island will hold their primaries on April 28 with, hopefully, minimal problems.

According to Tom Perez, chair of the Democratic National Convention “...states that have not yet held primary elections should focus on implementing the aforementioned measures to make it easier and safer for voters to exercise their constitutional right to vote, instead of moving primaries to later in the cycle when timing around the virus remains unpredictable.”

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was surprised and dismayed to read in “Revolving door of SMU’s staff gives campus community a yearly facelift” (“The Belltower,” March 1) that I was one of several former employees who “expressed displeasure with their positions at Saint Martin’s and the executive decisions made about their departments” as cause for resigning. This is absolutely false and I resent being misrepresented in this way. I was happy in my position and only left to be able to spend more time with my young children. In fact, the “executive decisions made about [my] department” were one of the most satisfying parts of my work at Saint Martin’s. I found my supervisor (Dean of Students Melanie Richardson) and other administrators open to my vision for my department. It was through their support that Campus Ministry was able to make changes like creating a new centrally-located Campus Ministry office and integrating service and justice efforts into Campus Ministry. I loved working at Saint Martin’s and felt supported in my work while I was there.

Concern about staff turnover is a worthy subject for “The Belltower.” A journalist could speak with the Staff Welfare Committee about the work it is doing, could interview Human Resources representatives about the reasons staff are citing as cause for departure in their exit interviews, could research to get a clear sense of the turnover rate, could compare SMU staff salary data with other comparable institutions, or could inquire with the administration if there is any institutional data that illuminates reasons for staff turnover. But publishing rumors and hearsay about people by name without seeking comment or corroboration is irresponsible and can cause real harm to people’s careers.

Angela Carlin
Former Director of Campus Ministry

Re: Letter to the Editor

Dear Angela,

Thank you for sharing your concerns with The Belltower about our article in the March 2 issue, “Revolving door of SMU’s staff gives campus community a yearly facelift.” Our intent was not to misrepresent you in any way, and we apologize for doing so. When writing the article, we verified the assertion that you mention with two independent sources, although not with you. As a result, we put the word “allegedly” in the article before stating the assertion.

Responding specifically to your letter, we reject the implication that we are not journalists. Our team works extremely hard to follow all journalistic ethics and we stand by a proud record of reporting on a plethora of stories of which many students are unaware.

We did not contact human resources because we do not believe that it is ethical for human resources representatives to disclose the reasons why specific people left Saint Martin’s for reasons of confidentiality.

Furthermore, we do not believe that staff salary data is relevant to the issue in the article. Staff and faculty are made aware of the compensation of a job before they take the job; our article sought to highlight the issues that staff face after they are hired, which the article suggests may be a reason for the revolving door.

Once again we thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and hope that you will continue to read The Belltower.

Best Regards,
Brian Messing
Editor-in-Chief, The Belltower

Response to the "suggestion" to leave residence halls

Tyler Wood
Guest Writer

Hello. My name is Tyler Wood. I am a second year and I am hoping to double major in History and Secondary Education with the dream of becoming a High School history teacher. Hoping to do all of that here at Saint Martin’s. So far, I have had a blast. I am not going to lie and say that this university is perfect, and there is nothing better than being a “Saint.” What I will say though is I have dedicated two years of my life here, and I am willing to dedicate the next two because I believe in this university; because no matter what I can find wrong with this university, I always find something that makes it worth it to stay here. The first reason, and funny enough, one of the main reasons that I decided to come here at all were the values that this establishment holds to so tenaciously. And lately, the reason that I have been finding pride in Saint Martin’s University has been the choices and candor this university has made during this COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, the last email from the President and the following one by the Head of Housing has disappointed me, and a great deal of other residents that call Saint Martin’s University home. The decision to displace (and I use that wording because needing an appeal to stay is presenting the choice to stay as a privilege granted to a select few) the resident community is one that shows that Saint Martin’s University is not as hospitable and caring as they wanted a lot of us to believe.

I am just going to come out right now and say it; I am not Catholic, and I was raised Mormon and even then, I am not that religious. That never stopped me from being impressed with the values and standards this school prides itself in claiming to abide by. These “B-Vals” from the “Rule of Benedict,” and the constant push to serve the community that I personally have seen and heard from all departments of this univer-

sity. The call to suggest that all residents leave, and then tell the ones that need to stay that is up for debate is not at all hospitable. I could see this choice if the university was being shut down by the federal or state government, but on March 20 the resident population that universities had seen as essential were not going to be shut down. This call to displace us comes from a place of choice that the school independently is making. This means that the administration of this school with full autonomy is telling residents to leave. I chose this university because I believed this school when it told me that they felt obligated to offer hospitality to all those who joined the community; that it prided itself in the fact that they cared for the community deeply and were willing to show it. This choice to remove people from the residence halls is not showing that hospitality that I thought was promised to me, and all my fellow students when I first joined this university. At first, though I thought I was, on that same zoom call that was mentioned earlier on March 20, we all heard from many people including the President, “That no one was going to be displaced.” Then three days later we see an email nicely saying, “everyone needs to leave” was disappointing as well as other things. I am not saying that I wish everything was going to stay the same, I knew that staying on campus would come with changes and circumstances were going to get tight, I just always thought that staying would be a choice, not a privilege.

Another reason that asking the residents to leave is neglecting hospitality is the fact that for many, leaving is more dangerous than staying. If students need to stay, and for some, I am sure it is simply that they do not like their parents and they are just trying to avoid that. But at the end of the day, the student who decided to go here thought that his university would be that escape. Now, Saint Martin’s University wants to take that away. For the rest of the students being asked to leave and for those who are putting in an appeal,

there could be real serious reasons not to stay. There could be issues of multiple forms of abuse, some parents are turning away kids because they are coming from Washington and do not want to risk bringing them back into their home, some kids could simply not have a place to go back to. For as many reasons someone chooses to attend SMU there could be just as many reasons they can’t/shouldn’t leave. Lastly, asking students to move, right after being told to stay inside is extremely counterproductive. Some students are going to have to visit airports, storage facilities, stores trying to get out of the dorms and that increases the danger that these students are going to be in because of this decision from the university.

I am just one student; I really can only speak for myself. But I am hoping that this essay does a lot of different things, the most important, getting the university to open some sort of forum to hear from the students that they serve. This can be a zoom call, Facebook thing, twitter poll. I do not think it matters, but just getting our voices is what is important. In this time of stress and need, as a resident, I am hoping that the university is going to do what is best for me and my fellow residents, and maybe not the university as a whole. At the end of the day, I feel that the residents should be the first priority for the school, and then help the outer community once the “family” is taken care of. This essay comes with a lot of asking and I know that not everything being asked for will be given. The two greatest asks are, let anyone who wants to stay, stay. Let them know what that is going to look like, and how hard that is going to be, but don’t take away the place they call home. The second big ask is do not let this be the only voice heard, make sure that every student with something to say, says it, and it is heard and thought over. Do that because it is the Benedictine thing to do, do it because it is truly the right thing to do.



THE

SHALLOT

The Shallot is a section that will be included in The Belltower. The Shallot will feature work intended to examine issues through a satirical lens regarding Saint Martin’s University, The Belltower, the surrounding community, and anything and everything in between. The views expressed by The Shallot do not necessarily reflect those of The Belltower, Saint Martin’s University, or other concerned parties. The Shallot accepts guest articles. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please e-mail belltower@stmartin.edu.

****This is fake news****

Online classes cause students to take up day drinking

Mikaela Hobson
Layout Manager

With Saint Martin’s University entering its third week of online classes, some students have taken up questionable habits.

According to a senior student named Craig: “All of this time at home off campus, staring at the computer for hours, has led me to take up drinking. I mean there isn’t much else to do and there’s definitely not a no alcohol policy at my house.”

Some students have said that the start of zoom classes is a return to fun, old times. According to another senior named Valerie: “I haven’t had this much fun since they closed the Saints Saloon last semester. Now I don’t have to wait until the end of the day to go over there and start drinking, I can just start when my professor takes attendance for my 10:00 a.m. class - we all know what those students with their muted video are doing.”

The emphasis on day drinking during online classes has led some to wonder what the financials of zoom are.

According to a Saint Martin’s finance professor who wishes to remain anonymous: “Most people don’t realize it, but Zoom is a subsidiary corporation of Anheuser-Busch, which itself is a part of the parent company AB InBev. And boy their stock is soaring right now! I loaded up on shares when this whole thing started because I



The true backers of Zoom might surprise you.

knew people would be at home webinar-ing and getting drunk all day (sic). I’ve even started to mail free cases of bud light to my students for all of my classes, just to help them get through the day.”

This move has had a serious issue for attendance in afternoon and evening classes. According to a statement from the Registrar’s Office: “Attendance seems to be dropping for all classes that start at 2:00 p.m. or later in the day. It

appears to be all but absent for evening classes starting at 5 p.m. We’ve also observed that a new class called “Zoom Daily Happy Hour,” seems to be attracting a lot of students between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. every day. We aren’t quite sure what students are learning in this class, but we are happy to give them credit for it because they are spending a lot of time in it, and according to Student Financial Services, they are spending a lot of money on it too.

COVID-19 mutates in dangerous new way

Atlas Kulish
Section Editor

With the panic from the corona-virus causing much of Washington to shut down, many residing in the state are fearful of a potential virus mutation. As people have been preparing for the impending calamity by stocking up on necessities like beef jerky and toilet paper, some have been readying for an even more frightening disease - Neuro-dermatitus.

When gathering materials to survive the state’s quarantine over the next few weeks, shoppers found that there was a surprising shortage of gun ammunition in stores.

This is related to information uncovered by a leak from a doctor working on the vaccination for COVID-19. According to a quote from the medical expert, “They don’t want you to know, but this virus has an immense potential to alter its genetic code to the point where it compromises the conscious mental



After the virus mutates, those infected would tend to group in herds.

functions of the host to focus solely on proliferating the contagion.”

Much of the information surrounding this leak has been suppressed, making it difficult to obtain facts about the virus’ possible mutation, however, those who have been made aware of the possible threat have been preparing for the upcoming

apocalypse.

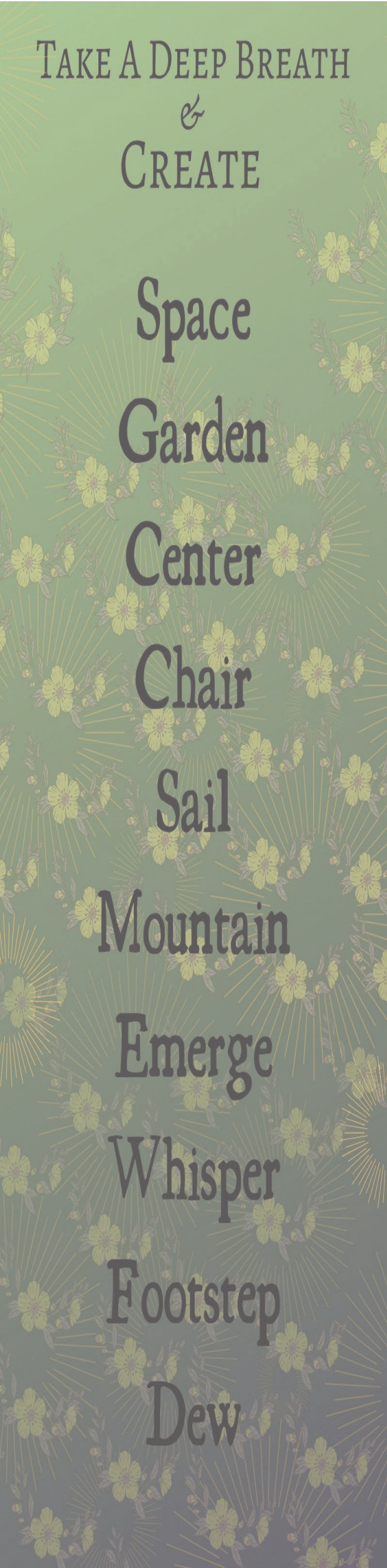
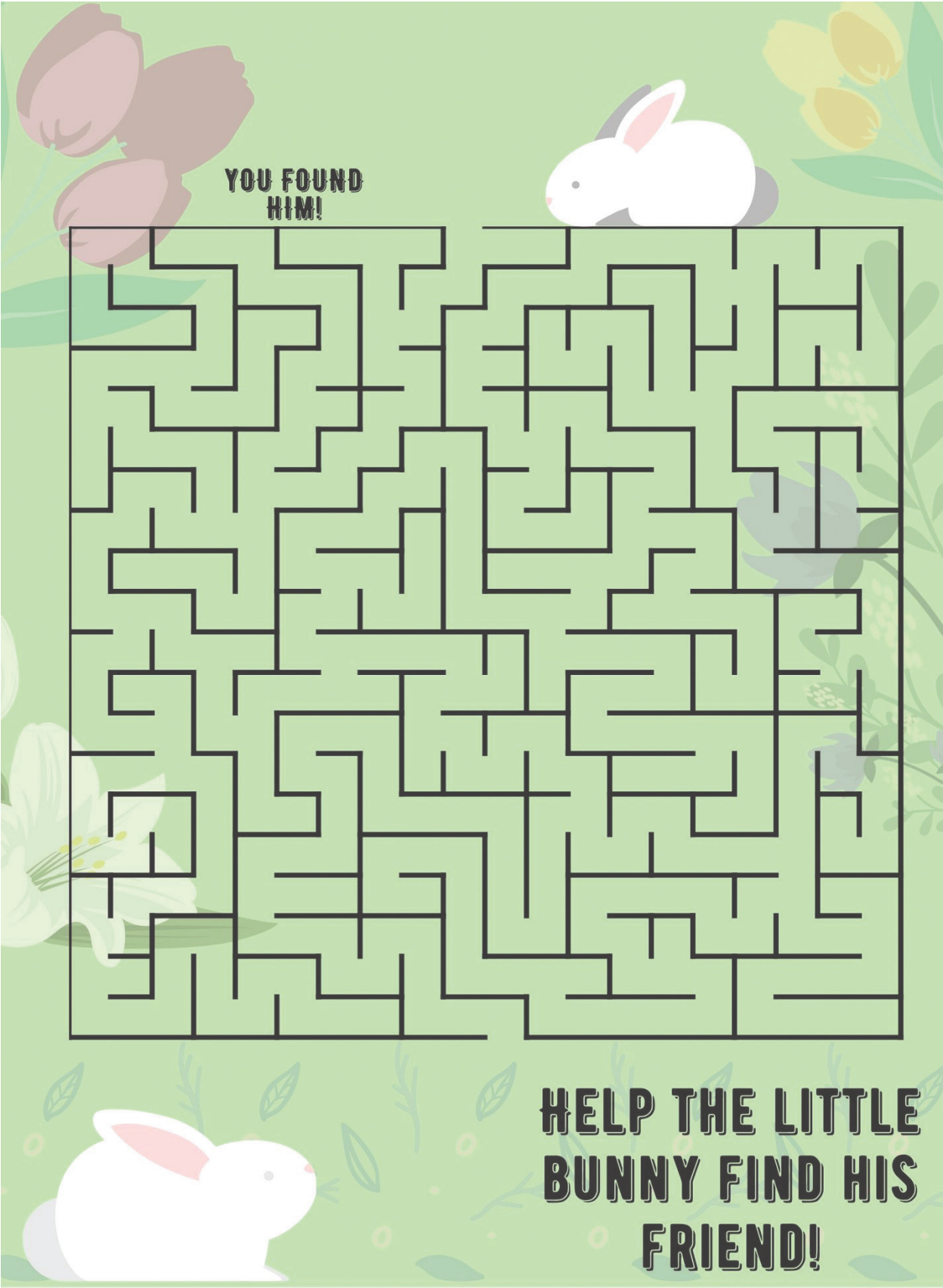
Additionally, this type of infection tends to spread rapidly across populations and create “herds” of these carriers. Those getting ready to defend themselves against this virus should be aware that the most efficient way that the virus is spread is through saliva or sinus mucus.

“Be careful of the infected fluids getting into open wounds. Major causes of concern should be the consumption of infected blood or infected blood saliva entering a wound - like a bite,” said the medical expert.

Worries surrounding the possible mutation of the virus are that the Governor of Washington might impose martial law as a means of controlling the infected “herds.” The governor has also considered building a large wall around the state to keep any zombies out, stating in a press conference that he intends on making Idaho pay for the wall.

Some students have expressed their appreciation for second amendment rights at this point, since the condition is as dangerous and contagious as they have been led to believe.

One Saint Martin’s student shared, “My family has some really big guns, and even if there is an apocalypse we’ll be fine. Just remember to avoid making noise and double tap!”



Letters to the Editor

- 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 the 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 LTE’s. The EIC makes this decision on a case-by-case basis.