Possible Border Closure Could Prove Costly

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

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rump’s administration has threatened to close the U.S.–Mexico border, raising the concern of many and leaving officials of the Department of Homeland Security alarmed and confused. The New York Times reported that in a conversation with Kevin McAleenan (who Trump is about to name acting secretary of homeland security), the president urged him to close the Southwestern border. The news of this didn’t make sense, as Trump had appeared to step away from his threats prior to this conversation, turning them into a one-year warning to Mexico’s officials. This change would give Mexico the chance to halt illegal immigration and drug trafficking within a year’s time.

The notion of closing the border has resulted in further examination of what it could mean for the economy if this were to happen. CNBC’s Kayla Tausche reported on the concern, bringing up that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Fresh Produce Association, and the Border Trade Alliance are all warning the American public what the uncertain situation could mean. There are 330 ports of entry, that if closed could affect the daily $1.7 billion coming through in trade. Kamala Harris tweeted on March 30th that a five-hour closure to port entries cost California’s San Ysidro more than $5 million.

CSP’s New Frontier is Across the Freeway

BY HARRY LIEN

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n March 19th, Concordia made a major decision in announcing the official purchase of the entire Central Midway Building. The structure is located across the freeway from the Holst Apartments. Concordia is already utilizing three full floors along with a portion of another fourth floor. They currently house Concordia’s Doctor of Physical Therapy and Nursing programs along with a number of graduate program faculty offices. In an article posted on Concordia’s website, university president Tom Ries spoke of the importance of acquiring the building. “This acquisition allows Concordia the strategic opportunity to continue serving the needs of our students by providing much-needed space to grow and expand our academic offerings. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of this institution, we look forward to our continued community partnership in the Lex–Ham neighborhood.”

The purchase of the Central Midway Building will provide flexibility for the university to cater to the needs of an increasing student population. The building will open up space for additional classrooms, labs, and administrative offices. According to a statement from Provost and coo Dr. Eric LaMott, the building space will also be prepared to arrange innovative partnerships of private medical and business companies with our academic medical and business fields.

Along with this purchase, the Midway area of St. Paul is seeing even more changes with the upcoming completion of Allianz Field and the Midway Peace Park opening this fall. The park will be adjacent to the Central Midway Building. Having the opportunity to operate in a booming environment will be instrumental in Concordia’s future growth.

In an official statement, the Border Trade Alliance, North America’s premier advocate for cross-border trade, strongly rejected President Trump’s call to close the border. “Discussion of closing the border creates uncertainty in the border economy and puts at risk the commerce and travel that links the U.S. and Mexico, and that is responsible for millions of jobs.” It is important to note that Trump himself is aware that the closure of the border would impact the U.S. economy. Despite that, he has assured that the focus of this decision is security and fulfilling his promise to voters.

In a meeting with the NATO chief at the White House in early April, Trump stated that Mexico is making progress in trying to stop people from crossing the border while also urging Congress to get together and make a deal to get rid of judges, and update procedures surrounding the visa lottery, chain migration, and catching illegal immigrants. When asked about the impact on the economy as reported by Real Clear Politics, a daily online editorial, Trump simply stated, “Sure, it’s going to have a negative impact on the economy. Trading is very important, the borders are very important, but security is what is most important to me. I have to have security.”†

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Facebook Bans White Nationalism as Social Media Platforms Face Increasing Pressure

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

Facebook has had this in wraps for months, but as the news broke, it wasn’t much of a surprise that they would be taking down posts supporting white nationalism, white supremacy and white separatism. According to Wired magazine, “It’s an evolution for the social network.”

Facebook’s new change in user policies fully bans any content that involves the three topics. This being said, Facebook users are clever and certain things can’t be coded, therefore some posts will be harder to detect, prevent, and remove. According to the Motherboard, an online media publication, the change of policy wouldn’t change existing policies regarding Black and Basque separatist movements, which will continue to be allowed.

The changes do not come as a surprise, especially after Facebook has been put under pressure by the U.S. government, as well as the EU, for more regulations. Pressure has increased most recently after the mass shooting attack that took place in New Zealand, where fifty people were killed. Livestream of the devastating massacre circulated on both Facebook and Instagram. Although he has been reluctant to make any changes to video live streaming features, Zuckerberg did tell news outlets that, “the way that the company was run has been reluctant to make any changes to video live streaming features, Zuckerberg did tell news outlets that, the way that the company was run has significantly changed in recent years, with the change of policy wouldn’t change existing policies regarding Black and Basque separatist movements, which will continue to be allowed. The switch in policy, applications like Twitter and Youtube, who have also faced problems with the narrative of these movements, have decided not to commit to banning white nationalism. UCLA professor, Sarah T. Roberts, stated in an interview with Wired magazine that “the details of how Facebook implements its new policy will be key to whether it’s effective.”

Various news outlets are reporting on the matter and looking at how other social media platforms are reacting. Freedom of expression is now under debate, along with the question of what defines racism and who can be racist in the U.S. if other separatist movements are not being banned. Despite the switch in policy, applications like Twitter and Youtube, who have also faced problems with the narrative of these movements, have decided not to commit to banning white nationalism. Professor, Sarah T. Roberts, stated in an interview with Wired magazine that “the details of how Facebook implements its new policy will be key to whether it’s effective.”

Australian lawmakers have also decided that they needed to take action. Australia recently passed a law that would result in executives from social media apps potentially paying hefty fines, or even facing jail time, if their platforms fail to remove violent content. As Facebook’s new policy rolls out, the change won’t be immediate, as there are various groups who do not to use explicit language to get their white nationalistic ideas online in order to pass automated system detection.

Governor Walz’s Snow Day Bill

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

Part of living the Minnesota experience is having a few days snow days throughout the school year, only to have to make up for come summertime. It was the epitome of bittersweet for the duration of our childhoods. Minnesota schools are required to have 165 days of classes in a school year and missed days must be made up. This year, things are a little bit different.

Governor Tim Walz, who began his service at the beginning of the year, has succeeded in passing a bill which will end the requirement that schools make up lost snow days due to the unusual amount of missed days this past winter, especially those in January and February.

At first thought, the bill may seem questionable. Teachers require all the time they need to make up lost teaching time so their students can be successful. Besides giving schools the opportunity to not have to make up those days, the days missed due to snow and other safety concerns can be counted as instructional time for employees to meet state regulations. The days that are not made up and are counted towards instructional time must be reported to the state Department of Education.

The bill hopes to assist school employees who work on an hourly basis, such as custodians, class paraprofessionals, and cafeteria workers. In this way, schools would offer extra pay hours to these types of school faculty. Governor Walz stated that, “the tone that was set here was that we respect the employees in our schools.” And indeed, that will be the case, as it gives more aid to workers who do not get contractual pays.

The bill was approved by both Republican and Democratic politicians, and thus is a Minnesotan bipartisan success. He wants it to be an example of how lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can work together for good things.

While some Minnesotans have rejoiced, others are not fond of the bill, stating that their taxes should go towards the education for their kids who they are paying for, not for free days off. Some schools still plan to go forward with making up days anyway, for fear of not meeting state requirements despite the bill. Governor Walz’s snow day bill will only apply to the current academic year.

Nipsey Hussle is Murdered in Los Angeles

BY ANDREW WYLIE

Nipsy Hussle, the Grammy nominated rapper from Crenshaw, CA, was shot multiple times and killed in front of his clothing store in South Los Angeles on Sunday, March 31st. Hussle was a former member of the notorious gang, the Crips.

As an entertainer, he was locally known in the music business in Los Angeles for ten years before he had his breakout debut album Victory Lap, released on February 15th of last year.

In June 2017, Hussle opened the clothing store, Marathon, at a strip mall that he helped re-develop in his old South Los Angeles neighborhood. He was determined to not abandon the area where he grew up. Even after the incredible success of his album, Hussle stayed in the troubled neighborhood to revitalize the area for the better.

His Southern California neighborhood has suffered from decades of violent crime, lack of opportunity, and a high cost of living. Hussle had given back by re-paving basketball courts, providing shelter and jobs for the homeless, and buying shoes for students. He was reportedly seen in his store regularly and was often unaccompanied and accessible to anyone who wanted to see him. He was scheduled to meet with the LAPD police.
commissioner the day after he died to discuss ways to curb gang violence, another topic that he was passionate about.

Eric R. Holder Jr., age 29 and a suspected gang member with a criminal record was charged with the murder and entered a plea of not guilty on April 4th. Holder is represented by Christopher Darden, famously known as one of the lawyers in the OJ Simpson trial of 1995.

According to reports, Holder was seen arguing with Hussle in the moments before the shooting. Holder is said to have returned shortly after the argument and opened fire. In addition to Hussle, two other men who have not been identified were also shot but survived. There are reportedly multiple witnesses, but what exactly the evidence against Holder is or if there is any clear video of the crime is still unclear.

After Hussle died, the tributes that poured in from local politicians and across the entertainment world showed the respect and love for the artist/philanthropist. The Los Angeles Lakers posted on their twitter handle a picture of Hussle wearing a team jersey with the caption, “Artist. Activist. Angeleno. l.a. mourns the loss of one of our own, Nipsey Hussle.”

Holder is being held on $5 million-dollar bail, he has been charged with two counts of murder and possession of a weapon by a felon. He is scheduled for his next appearance in court on May 10th.

MN Passes New Bill: Pharmaceutical Companies to Pay $20 Million to Combat Opioid Abuse

Alexandria Goosen

According to Minnesota Public Radio, “In Minnesota, fewer than 1 in 10 cases of sexual assault reported to the police result in a suspect being convicted.” These are troubling numbers, and a few victims have come forward to tell their stories and express their disappointment in the ways their cases were handled.

Brooke Morath is an example of one of these victims, telling the StarTribune about the inaccuracies and lack of priority she experienced. Her file listed an inaccurate address for the scene of the crime, officers missed three businesses when looking for surveillance video, and despite being guaranteed a top priority, they never assigned an official investigator to her case. They even began ignoring her phone calls.

Approximately 2,000 women report a sexual assault in Minnesota per year, and sadly a majority of these cases will never be concluded or given the priority they deserve. The StarTribune lists several alarming statistics about the way such cases are handled. These statistics say approximately 25 percent of cases are never assigned an investigator. In 33 percent of cases, victims were never interviewed. In about 50 percent of the cases potential witnesses were never interviewed, and in about 75 percent, cases were never forwarded to prosecutors for criminal charges.

These statistics have lead to many Minnesotans feeling unsafe, betrayed, and asking for change. In many states, any officer who is going to be investigating sexual assault crimes receive special training, this is not how it was in Minnesota.

Fortunately, the police have heard our cries of protest, and they are now starting to have a few changes in how they handle these sensitive cases.

These changes are more victim oriented- making the victims feel prioritized and encouraging more victims to step into the light with the knowledge that they will be taken seriously. Mayor Jacob Fre announced that officers will receive trauma interview training. The new policy also protects victims from facing certain charges, such as underaged drinking and prostitution.

New Zealand’s Increases Restrictive Gun Laws

BY ELI GRUBBS

 Jacinda Arden, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, along with many others in the political realm and the majority of the island’s citizens, are calling for stricter gun laws in the wake of the Christchurch massacre. The attack occurred on March 15th when a man armed with an assault rifle killed fifty people and injured fifty others at two mosques during Friday prayer. The man, who authorities are claiming is a white supremacist, is a New Zealand citizen.

He streamed the attack at the first mosque on Facebook Live.

The response to the event was immediate, with lawmakers proposing a bill to impose stricter gun laws. The proposed bill is moving steadily and only one of the parliament’s members is in opposition. Both liberals and conservatives alike are in near universal support of the bill.

The proposed bill will not allow anyone to own or purchase any semi or fully automatic firearms in New Zealand. The country intends to institute a buy-back program in which the owners of such weapons will hand them over to the government, and in turn the state will purchase them back. The program’s estimated cost is $200 million, or $135 million in USD.

Current guns laws in New Zealand require owners of firearms to be licensed to purchase them. The licensing process includes a background check, safety classes, and firearm owners have to adhere to storage requirements and inspections. They must also renew their license every ten years.

While New Zealand has relatively strict gun laws, they do not register firearms. This allows people to own modified assault style firearms that are not technically assault rifles. People can get around certain regulations by reducing magazine capacities on their rifles so that they fall within legal parameters. New Zealand already has a low rate of annual gun homicides (in 2015 there were only 8), but New Zealanders are saying they never want another incident like the one at Christchurch to happen on their soil ever again.
Supreme Court and the Death Penalty

BY ANDREW WYLIE

In the last week, the new lineup on the Supreme Court has ruled on two separate cases involving inmates in the states of Missouri and Texas involving the death penalty.

Regarding the case in Missouri, on April 1st, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 against an inmate who had asked for an alternative method of death than what the state’s currently authorized use of lethal injection. The inmate, Russell Bucklew, has a rare condition that he believes will cause him to suffer for a long time after he is given the injection. He had not appealed against the fact of whether he was guilty or not but had asked that Missouri allow him to die with lethal gas. Bucklew had argued that his anticipated reaction and pain after the injection qualified for protection under the 8th amendment of the constitution, which bars inmates from cruel and unusual punishment.

The court had stayed the execution last year by a vote of 5-4, with retiring justice Kennedy being the deciding vote against. His replacement, the recently appointed Justice Kavanaugh, was the deciding vote this time for.

Bucklew was convicted of murdering the boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend at their trailer home in 1996. He also shot at her 6-year-old son, kidnapped and raped her and later wounded a police officer.

Neil Gorsuch wrote in his dissertation about the ruling that, “the Eighth Amendment does not guarantee a prisoner a painless death – something that, of course, isn’t guaranteed to many people, including most victims of capital crimes.”

Justice Sotomayor wrote an opposing dissertation asserting that the opposing viewpoints of the justices thought that this was just a stall tactic by Bucklew. She said, “The majority seems to imply that this litigation has been no more than manipulation of the judicial process for the purpose of delaying Bucklew’s execution.”

Additionally, the court recently ruled on the Texas case of Murphy vs Collier. Buddhist inmate, Patrick Murphy, was denied council by a Buddhist spiritual counselor before his execution, despite Christian and Muslim inmates who are allowed to have priests from their religion present. The court ruled 7-2 in favor of staying the execution of Murphy, ruling that the state could not proceed with the execution until they allowed him his Buddhist spiritual advisor in the moments leading up to his execution.

Justice Kavanaugh, who ruled in favor of Murphy stated in his dissertation that, “In my view, the Constitution prohibits such denominational discrimination, the state may choose to keep all clerics and religious advisors from entering the execution chamber.” He then added, “What the state may not do, in my view, is allow Christian or Muslim inmates but not Buddhist inmates to have a religious advisor of their religion in the execution room.”

The two dissenting votes were from Gorsuch and Thomas, who gave no explanation for the reasoning behind their votes.

Murphy had been sentenced to death after he was convicted of shooting and killing a police officer after he had broken out of jail.

Murphy vs Collier was seemingly a departure from a similar case that the court recently decided on, Ray vs Dunn, in Alabama. There the court had ruled that Ray could not have his Muslim Iman in the chamber with him when he died. In that case, which was voted down 5-4, Alabama authorities had argued that only state employees were allowed in the small execution chamber, they also said that Ray had waited too long before he filed the motion.†

The Mueller Report

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

If you have paid any attention to the news over these last couple of turbulent years, you are likely familiar with the Mueller Report. This special council report, headed by Republican lawyer Robert Mueller, had been investigating allegations surrounding the Trump campaign and their potential collusion with the Russian government. The purpose of said collusion was to get President Trump elected into office by means of social media interference (primarily to obstruct the Clinton campaign), as well as hacking computers to acquire sensitive information about Hillary Clinton. President Trump and many of his associates have criticized the report, calling it “an attempted coup” and “a scam.”

The apparent need for a report began during the 2016 presidential election race, when Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA28) made a statement about Russian influence in the election. This led to the U.S. Intelligence Community and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to make additional statements about Russian influences.

Oversight of the FBI investigation fell on Robert Mueller after Democrats pushed for someone to lead it who wasn’t a part of the Justice Department, which ex-attorney general Jeff Sessions had been head of before resigning. He previously lead the FBI investigation on the 9/11 disaster and has worked with presidential administrations, both Republican and Democrat. During the investigation, Mueller put charges on President Trump’s campaign chairman Paul Manafort and Manafort’s business associate, Richard Gates, for not reporting foreign bank accounts, lying to the investigation team, and conspiracy against the U.S., as well as additional financial crime charges.

Six other Americans were indicted in the investigation, at least three of which have known connections to Russia. Several Russians were accused of meddling with the election through supposed hacking and “information warfare.” However, the justice department did not come to the conclusion that their actions affected the outcome of the election, implying the Russians’ efforts were likely ineffective.

After two grueling years, the report was finished and current Attorney General William Barr composed a summary of the 400+ page report. He stated that there was no conclusion that the Trump campaign had colluded with the Russian government to change the results of the election. The President and Republicans jumped on this as a victory. When Barr released the redacted Mueller Report last week, it was clear that this was a simplification and glossed over possible criminal activity. Democrats accused Barr of purposefully left out information that would not convict President Trump of such crimes.

The Congress has issued a subpoena for the full Mueller Report and will likely ask Robert Mueller to testify in person. Either way, we’ll know the truth soon enough. Then, everyone will be able to make their own conclusions and it will descend further into political debate.†
Trump Executive Order for College Campus Free Speech

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

On September 15th, 2017, conservative speaker Ben Shapiro spoke at University of California – Berkeley about the topic of free speech, and how free speech is not a form of violence. Meanwhile, just outside, almost a thousand students were enacting their own form of free speech, shouting chants such as “No Trump, no kkk, no Fascist usa.” Later, another conservative speaker, Milo Yiannopoulos, attempted to speak at Berkeley, only to be met with extreme violence. The campus suffered $100,000 of damage after protesters threw fireworks, rocks, and Molotov's, as well as attacking conservative students.

These actions have prompted President Trump to encourage schools to discourage actions that might hinder free speech on campus, especially for conservative students and speakers. In response to the events at UC Berkeley, he has threatened to pull billions of dollars in federal funding, despite school officials stating that the events were “successes”. They emphasized that they hope to have more speakers like Ben Shapiro and Milo Yiannopoulos stage events on campus in the future. The school was famous for being an advocate for free speech on college campuses in the 1960's, so it is ironic that it is now at the center of a conflict about free speech.

The executive order which Trump has signed would work with several government agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation, that give schools grants to give their money in ways that support free speech. However, it is not clarified in the order how they will do that, how the government will work with these agencies, or even how the order works in general. The idea of it sounds great, but we must ask ourselves, would it work? And is it even necessary?

The First Amendment in the U.S. Constitution automatically reserves the right to freedom of speech, but that only goes as far as the government not being able to attack you for what you say or for your ideals. Can college campuses prosecute or discriminate against students for what they say? Perhaps that is what Trump is trying to prevent. According to Jacqueline Merrill, the director of the Campus Free Expression Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center, “Colleges and universities are really the best stewards of free expression...” Perhaps the way to go about promoting free speech is educating college students that it’s not ok to physically attack students for their beliefs, no matter how much they disagree with them, rather than punishing the schools themselves. Additionally, offering organized conversations around ideological polarization where students can discuss their differences in a controlled environment and hopefully come to some kind of peace and mutual understanding.

The Rise of Dismissed Political Scandals

BY MACKENZIE KNORR

As a young person emerging into the political world, the lack of integrity in politics is disheartening. The 2016 election speaks to how those who are considered politicians are viewed today—crooked liars who get away with far too much. The amount of events that are blown out of proportion or swept under the rug is baffling. As leaders, and a person working for the good of the people, politicians should be held to a higher standard yet, in today's world, political leaders continue to get away with corruption.

Political leaders should be honest and fair, values that have become lost in today’s political society. With a president who is caught up in lies almost daily, there is no concern for honesty, even at the highest authority. Having leaders who marginalize certain groups of people while spreading misinformation only deepens the divide between American residents. Corruption in politics catalyzes corruption in the media, spiking a rise in “fake news” and heavily biased news channels. The inaccurate portrayal of political scandals leads to a disregard of their severity from the people.

Throughout the history of the United States, political scandals have decided the fate of politicians’ careers; today, however, these scandals are either wild stories meant to discredit one party while helping the other, or are serious events overlooked by many. It is the job of voters and citizens to navigate through the political scandals, “fake news,” and misconstrued stories in order to make educated decisions about who to support. Consumers of media should not be blinded by false promises and empty words said just to get votes, but instead should be mindful of the truth and intention behind each story.
It Took 50 Lives for NZ, How Many Will It Take U.S To Make A Change?

By Victoria Turcios

It is a privilege, not a right to own a gun in New Zealand." These were the words of the Police Minister Stuart Nash as the European country moved towards a full ban of military-style, semi-automatic weapons and assault rifles. The terrorist attacks that took place in New Zealand on March 15th, 2019 targeted two mosques of Christchurch and took the lives of fifty people, leaving at least fifty others wounded.

“The reality is after the 15th of March, our world changed forever, and so will our laws,” were the leading words of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern as a historic tragedy turned into historic progress, with the gun laws passing 119-1 less than a month from the tragic attack. This overwhelming progress of events has many on our side of the pond wondering: Why did it only take fifty lives for the New Zealand government to make a change, while there have been numerous mass shootings in United States soil resulting in no major gun law reform?

In an interview with Ailsa Chang of NPR, and Adam Winkler, a UCLA law professor, Winkler provided insight on the failed attempt to instill background checking regulations by Barack Obama after the Newtown shooting. He emphasizes that it’s not an issue of difficulty for us to make gun law changes, but rather, how influences such as the NRA sway voters and hold power over politicians. As a result of this, their influence and power as an institution only propagates. The NRA, along with the Second Amendment, have shaped American gun culture towards an absolutist approach to gun laws that according to Winkler, leaves little to no room for reform or compromises of any kind giving us no solution in sight.

“How can something have 90 percent support and yet not happen?” was Obama’s question to the politicians who voted against his efforts in the Senate, after the Newtown shooting. This portrays one of the many reasons why America is not making moves towards gun control. Twenty children and six adults were the victims of the Newtown shooting in 2012, along with the shooter himself. According to data that continues to be updated by Vox, an online news outlet, we as a nation have let 2,007 mass shootings happen since then, despite the overwhelming agreement that we wouldn’t let this happen again.

In 2019 alone, the total number of incidents due to gun violence is 14,190, according to the Gun Violence Archives. These have resulted in 3,793 deaths and 6,833 injuries. Amongst these numbers, it is important to note that a total of 806 children and teenagers under the age of 17 have been injured or killed. The reality, although a bleak one, is that our politicians are not going to be the answer on this matter. We are not looking at New Zealand, so comparison won’t give us a solution. Rather than looking at our politicians, it’s time we ask ourselves the hard questions, why is it that we are continuing to let this happen? †

Is Easter Over Commercialized?
Traditions past and present

By Skye Fuller

With Spring making her triumphant debut, stores have shed their green shamrocks, and instead, don their pastel facades. Chocolate eggs, plastic grass, jellybeans, and bunny ears have once again made an appearance on the shelves of our local shops and mega-malls. This hop is especially evident in specialty candy stores, not unlike the one in which I work.

Since the company debuted in the early 1900s, many adults remember receiving the brand in their Easter baskets as children. Many of those adults want to continue the tradition with their own progeny, often spending hundreds of dollars to do so (gourmet chocolate is not an inexpensive commodity). This time of year, the small candy shop becomes a hubbub of activity, rivaled only by the business of the Christmas and Valentine’s seasons. People come from all over the Midwest to buy our nostalgic chocolate-wares.

Nostalgia aside, why do people put such stock in spending money on Easter goods and goodies? From where does the tradition of these objects arise? According to an article by NBC news, the Easter Bunny arose from pre-Christian German tradition, and centers around the goddess of fertility and spring, Eostra. Naturally, because of her association with fertility, her symbol became the rabbit.

Similarly, eggs also have an ancient connection with the idea of life and birth. Additional sources point to the tradition of lent and the banishment of eggs from people’s diets during that annual period, and the reinvigoration of the food source on Easter as a qualifying origin. Around the year 1680, writings appeared which described a bunny laying colored eggs, and in the 1700s these ideas would be brought to the Americas by German settlers. Eventually, the ideas would change and shift to encompass Easter baskets and chocolate as further staples of the holiday.

Historically, these symbols and goods have played a role in the celebration of Easter and other Springtime celebrations for hundreds of years. Despite not arising from strictly Christian roots, many Christians still engage with the Easter bunny and Easter egg narratives—giving them redefined roles in today’s celebrations.

Industry has long since recognized that widely practiced celebrations are opportunities for lucrative business, and so, our local stores are once again tricked-out (or rather, “chicked-out”) in pastels and bunnies. The hand-colored eggs that characterized the earlier Christian celebrations have been swapped for mass-produced hollow plastic vessels, something I feel is an apt metaphor for the current commercialization of the holiday.

Although fun, the goods that we buy are largely disposable and impersonal, and have little to do with the Easter holiday outside of more contemporary interpretation. However, they are not wholly abhorrent. The traditions and nostalgia surrounding these ideas and goods are something to be celebrated. They connect us to our pasts in a very real and physical way.

My desire is that we return to the tradition of crafting more of these objects ourselves, and in doing so, creating experiences with one another, rather than hollow corporate profit. If you do decide to buy some chocolate this Easter (or at any point really), I would implore you to consider the spirit of the holiday and please buy fair-trade. †
JONAS 2.0
Jonas Brothers Reunion
BY ALEXANDRA GOSEN

In the last few months, something miraculous has occurred, something that has millions of people screaming SOS. I would compare it to the return of Christ, but some might say that’s a little excessive. The fantastic band known as The Jonas Brothers have finally reunited after six years.

In 2013, Nick decided he wanted to pursue a solo career, Joe ended up as the lead singer for DNCE, and Kevin gained his own reality television series. The boys eventually thought it would be a cool idea to come back together and make a documentary about their lives. Through the filming process, they found a sort of peace with each other, and finally ended their long-time separation. When Sirius XM asked about the reunion and how the band was feeling, Nick Jonas answered, “We got in the studio and that magic that we spoke about, we felt it again. We’re on cloud nine at the moment.”

On February 28 at midnight, their new song “Sucker” was released. This song was essentially an ode to each brother’s significant other. Fans screamed, cried, and played the song on repeat (or maybe that was just me). You really could say that song left me “burnin’ up” for more music from this Disney-born band.

Recently, the brothers released their second song “Cool.” This is a fun song about self-love, confidence, and feeling on top of the world. It is really groovy and uplifting, just like all of their other music.

I am over the moon about this reunion because the Jonas Brothers have a very special place in my heart. I first fell in love with the group after seeing them on the Disney Channel Original Movie Series Camp Rock. Then, when I was about eight years old I decided I would marry Joe Jonas; he is currently engaged to actress Sophie Turner, but every great love story has its obstacles and challenges. They were my first live concert, and were on my folders throughout most of my childhood, so we’ve been through American History and Algebra two together.

Even after six years of silence, their music is spreading like poison ivy, and I personally, will “hold” on until their tour is announced. I will do my best to be first in line. “When you look me in the eye”, know that I’m probably singing one of their very catchy songs in my head.

I’m sure some of you readers do not completely understand my enthusiasm, but you must realize, no Jonas fan was expecting a reunion until maybe “the year 3000”! The excitement for the Jonas Brothers has rendered me speechless, over the edge, and just restless! I truly never thought that I would catch this “lovebug” again!

Dear, Underclassman...

BY EDEN GARMEN

Congratulations on finishing up another semester. Whether it felt like a blink of an eye or a slow trudge to the finish line, either way, you made it! However, you may still have a year or two to go. If that is the case, please take heed to the wise, wise words of a graduating senior who has made it through and has your best intentions in mind. How do you make the most of your time in college?

1. Find a constant. Transitioning to college may throw a lot into the unknown. Having a constant activity or hobby you enjoy, a person you call, a book series to re-read, or a TV show to watch may help you feel grounded through the ups and downs of college. Allow yourself to have a constant to comfort you and guide you through.

2. Join a club. Being involved helps you be integrated in the community of Golden Bears. You can make connections with people who share a similar interest or background as you. It gets you out of your dorm or home to interact with others, and gives you a break from the stress of school. A great way to know what activities are happening on campus each week is to follow Concordia Activities Board on social media @cspcab.

3. Befriend your professors. Your professors are normal people outside of the classroom and have earned their degrees just like you are trying to do. They have great advice and connections that can help you find opportunities for internships or future careers. They are there to help you reach your goals; meet with them during their office hours if you are not fully comprehending a lesson.

4. Use this time to travel. Once you graduate and enter the workforce, vacation time is going to be hard to come by, and traveling may be more expensive. CSP offers an abundance of trips through the call Center, as well as study abroad programs. The opportunity to see the world, to experience different cultures, and to walk through historical landmarks is incomparable.

5. Let yourself grow. It’s okay to relive memories from high school, but let yourself be open to new friends and experiences.

6. Befriend people in different years, majors, and activities. Upperclassmen can help explain the ins and outs of campus, and then you can pass on their knowledge to the freshmen the next year. On top of this, associating with a variety of people makes you more equipped to go out into the “real world”.

7. Start looking for an internship early. It is never too soon to gain experience that will help you decide where your interests lie. Especially because most majors require an internship, it is important that you don’t wait until senior year to scramble to fit it into your schedule. Consider finding a summer internship so you aren’t overloading yourself during the semester.

8. Attend events. College students get discounts and free entrance to CSP events. We have some amazing sports teams, music ensembles, theatre productions, and art shows. College is the time to go to an event you have never ventured to before. It is also a great way to support your friends and classmates.

9. Take classes that interest you, even if they are not in your major. Now is a time to learn. Diversifying your education can be refreshing and provide you with unique skills that make you more marketable upon graduation.

10. Don’t compare your college journey to that of those around you. Everyone’s college experience is different, and your success is not determined by an invisible measure you hold yourself to.

This list is by no means a perfect medicine for a perfect college experience, but it has helped my years at CSP be ones that I will forever cherish. Wishing you all the best as you continue your college journey.

Upperclassmen can help explain the ins and outs of campus, and then you can pass on their knowledge to the freshmen the next year. On top of this, associating with a variety of people makes you more equipped to go out into the “real world”.

8 The Sword Newspaper
Earth Day 101: How to Make a Difference

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

There are several ways one can celebrate Earth Day, all of which go deeper than just watching Wall-E. There are several underrated Earth-honoring activities to do this month. Get your best friends together, and I will help you plan the most meaningful and impactful ways to celebrate, and maybe even inspire some permanent changes that can help our beloved planet.

A fun activity you and your friends could do is find a project and volunteer. There are so many projects, from cleaning up our oceans, to planting flowers and trees. Find what you’re passionate about and go help out a group. You will learn a lot about the organization and what they stand for. Maybe you’ll be inspired to volunteer regularly and encourage others to make a difference. For ideas, inspiration, and information checkout earthday.org, or check out local opportunities hosted by the National Park Service.

Another epic way to enhance Earth’s health: Don’t trash your stuff, donate it! If you read last month’s edition of The Sword, you probably read Kylee Baldwin’s “Spring Cleaning: Tips and Tricks.” While you’re taking this advice and cleaning up your house, find a bunch of stuff you can sell or donate. One alien’s trash is another alien’s treasure. So, instead of throwing away clothes, decorations, or furniture pieces you find unfashionable or you’ve outgrown, donate to a thrift store or hold a garage sale and make a few extra bucks. You’ll have a clean house, a happy soul, and there will be less in our landfills.

A Christian charity located on West 7th avenue called Joseph’s Coat takes donations every Tuesday and Thursday, giving anything from clothes, toilet tree items, household goods, and shoes to those who need it!

Going along with this theme, shop at thrift stores instead of buying new. It all goes into that old saying: reduce, reuse, and recycle. According to zero-waste expert Lauren Singer, “Americans toss 25 billion pounds of clothing every single year.” Purchasing second-hand clothes resuses them and keeps them out of landfills. Plus, you never know what awesome things you might find. There are tons of name brand items for really cheap. Plus, the thrift store aesthetic is super instyle right now. So, no matter what you buy, you’ll always be trendy and save lots of money. There is a GoodWill located near csu’s campus on University Avenue and a second-hand clothes collector called Everyday People Clothing Exchange located near Whole Foods Market on Selby Avenue.

If you’re a crafty college kid, I highly encourage a creative Earth Day activity. Find some objects you planned on tossing out and create them into something else! You could create some cute storage space, or a decorative piece, and you could even make a gift for Mother’s Day. You could also sell your art, and make some extra cash. For cheap supplies, check out ArtStart Art Scraps on St. Claire Avenue (about one mile away from campus). It is a reuse/recycle art store where almost everything costs somewhere between 5 cents and a dollar.

You could also challenge yourself and celebrate Earth Day for a week or more, and try the zero-waste lifestyle. It will really put into perspective how much garbage you yourself produce in a short period of time, and sparks you to find creative ways to conserve. For more information about the zero waste lifestyle check out Lauren Singer’s Blog, “Trash is for Tossers.”

Those are a few activities you can do to celebrate, but there are also small changes you can make in your daily lives to keep the change going.

1. Use reusable containers. This means water bottles, thermoses, cutlery, and even that to-go container you got at the beginning of the year for the dining hall. Plastic bags are incredibly wasteful and bad for the environment and there are so many better options available.

2. Try the Aldi’s method where ever you go shopping: bring your own bags, boxes, baskets, or whatever you prefer to hold your groceries. It reduces the plastic waste. If you find the need to use a bag at a store, use paper.

3. Recycle as often as possible. If your coffee cup is still full, take a minute to dump out the excess product, and then recycle. A small action will go a long way. If you’re unsure if something is recyclable, there is a guide below. For plastics, look at the bottom for a recycling symbol and a number. St. Paul accepts those with a 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 on them.

I realize there are some people who don’t really understand the cleaner earth movements and going “no-waste,” but regardless of whether or not you believe in climate change and/or global warming, you cannot argue that the trash is getting out of hand. The fact that The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a thing, should be evidence of that. According to The Guardian, humanity has wiped out 60% of animal populations since 1970. There is no “Planet B” yet, for NASA has not yet started Mars renovations, but in all seriousness, let’s not let it get that far. To quote the Pixar work of art Wall-E “I don’t want to survive; I want to live!” We as a whole are surviving in a dying world, when we could be living in a thriving one. Let’s all make a point to make a difference this Earth Day.

Kitten Slaughterhouse

BY MACKENZIE KNORR

Recently, reports of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducting experiments and cruel testing on kittens has been released to the public. According to sources, thousands of kittens have been infected with the parasite toxoplasmosis in hopes to better understand foodborne illnesses. After being fed infected dog and cat meat, the kittens would become hosts for the parasites, where researchers would then harvest the parasitic sample and euthanize the infected kitten. Since the experiments began in 1982, American taxpayers have paid a total of $22 million to fund the toxoplasmosis research on kittens. The USDA states that cats are the only host that can carry the parasite to full term in order to harvest the parasitic eggs.

When news of the kitten testing became public, it was clear that Americans were unhappy with how the kittens were being handled in the USDA labs. Shortly after the story broke, legislators proposed a law that would prohibit the USDA from performing tests on cats that would cause stress or pain. The public outcry drove politicians to act quickly, pleasing many of the advocates against animal testing. Though some of the living conditions of the cats were controversial, the main issue dealt with the needless killing and disposal of thousands of kittens. One report states that infected kittens become immune to the parasite just 2 weeks after infection. After the USDA discontinued testing on kittens, the remaining uninfected cats were placed for adoption, while the infected cats were deemed too dangerous to humans.

Animal testing on the decline, it is important to note how beneficial some testing has been to public health. The USDA reports that their testing helped eliminate the prevalence of toxoplasmosis in humans by as much as 50%. As medical advancements are made, it is also important to note the role animal testing has played in the creation of various medications and research. Though animal testing no longer seems necessary due to modern technology, there is also a stigma to the type of animal testing deemed “acceptable” by the general public. The difference in treatments between animals seen as pets and those seen as pests are on very different ends of the spectrum. If the kittens being tested on were replaced with mice, would the public still speak up? The hypocrisy arises when the people advocating for the end of kitten testing do not advocate to end all animal testing.

Use the guide below to see if your local area accepts the plastic symbols.

1. Use reusable containers. This means water bottles, thermoses, cutlery, and even that to-go container you got at the beginning of the year for the dining hall. Plastic bags are incredibly wasteful and bad for the environment and there are so many better options available.

2. Try the Aldi’s method where ever you go shopping: bring your own bags, boxes, baskets, or whatever you prefer to hold your groceries. It reduces the plastic waste. If you find the need to use a bag at a store, use paper.

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Job Hunting Tips For Graduating Millennials

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

Graduation is a few weeks away, and for many, it is just the beginning of their continued education towards a doctoral program or master’s program. For others, it’s time to get a job. The good news for those graduating is that there’s a high demand for Millennials because of what we bring to the table—knowledge of our generation that most industries haven’t fully grasped on their own.

According to Chelsea Krost, one of America’s leading Millennials and marketing brand strategist, job hopping has become expected of the Millennials job market, so if you foresee that being a part of your future, don’t worry! It’s okay. Make sure that if you job hop though, that it’s for a purpose. Many things identify our generation work-wise; one of the positive things is in our individualistic society, we put personal value and purpose before money when choosing jobs. While looming debt is certainly in the back of our minds, Millennials are not looking to stick around at a job that doesn’t fulfill their growth and happiness.

Below, you can find a list of tips to help you dive into the job market:

1) Network, network, did I say network?
After taking a year off school prior to making my way to CSP, I attended events for various things: museum galas, fashion week, marketing happy hours—you name it. The key takeaway from all of these events were the connections I made. If you have free time on your hands, look up various gatherings for networking possibilities, as there are many happening in Minneapolis/St. Paul in any given month. These connections could potentially open doors for you, or even land you a job down the road.

2) Are you LinkedIn?
No? That’s okay; my profile isn’t fully set up yet either. But it is a great platform for professionals to get acquainted. LinkedIn offers opportunities for job and internship searches, while connecting you to various people who you can also network with on the app. I’ve heard from plenty of classmates that some people will reach out to them with job opportunities on there, solely because of their profile and the information it provided about their experience and skill-set. If you don’t have something lined up just yet, get on LinkedIn and start connecting.

3) Informational Interviews
This might just be your best friend when it comes to finding the right job right out of college. Informational interviews give you the chance to go into a potential employer, tour the space, ask questions about what you can expect as an employee, as well as ask what is expected of you specifically, if you were to be hired. Depending on how many job offers you have on the table, informational interviews also help you narrow down your decision.

4) Understanding your value
Sure, Millennials may get a bad rap every now and then about our tendency to expect too much. The truth is that as a whole, we are a generation that knows what we want, and we aren’t afraid to ask for it. Walking away if what we want isn’t on the table is also a result of that tendency. Experience is valuable, but so is whatever you bring to the table; Your time, expertise, background, and most important, your willingness to work in an ever-changing job market is valuable. As you’re looking for a job, it’s crucial to know your personal strengths like the back of your hand, so when an employer asks what you could bring the table? Your counter argument can include, “What’s in it for me?” Being confident in your skills will set you apart as an individual, making it clear that you want the job and are ready for it.

Attorney General William Barr’s Findings Fall Short

BY HALLE MARTIN

Since the election of President Donald Trump, discussion of the Russian cyberattack on the 2016 presidential election, and potential Russian collusion has been circulating through the country and around the globe., following. The matter prompted a report by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Upon Mueller’s findings submitted March 22nd, Attorney General William Barr released a four-page summary of the report, claiming that he did not find any material alluding to Russian collusion involving Trump or any of his aids.

The abruptness of the report shocked the nation, as the scandal has been making headlines for the last three years. Barr’s four-page summary seemed rather dismissive, especially considering the length of Mueller’s report which he has been conducting since May 2017, with an estimated sum surpassing a thousand pages. A specific statement concluding that while the report did not find Trump guilty of committing a crime, it did not exonerate him either, left many scratching their heads. What exactly does that mean?

To no one’s surprise, Republican officials rejoiced, while Democrats demanded the release of Mueller’s report. Among the most outspoken is Representative Jerry Nadler who has been firing back in interviews and on twitter. “Special Counsel Mueller worked for twenty-two months to determine the extent to which President Trump obstructed justice. Attorney General Barr took two days to tell the American people that while the President is not exonerated, there will be no action by doj” he tweeted on March 24th, following it up with the statement, “doj owes the public more than just a brief synopsis and decision not to go any further in their work.”

Since the material within the report is confidential, it is understandable that this report should not meet the eyes of the general public, but the hastiness of Barr’s summary seemed to gloss over the lengthy report, and left all of us with at least some suspicion. Whether you believe Trump or his aids are guilty or not, Barr’s synopsis fell short and should be given further review.
Potential Link Between Vaping and Seizures.
Will It Stop People from Doing It?

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

When e-cigarettes came out, they were meant to be “healthy” alternatives to smoking tobacco and to help take addicts off nicotine. However, many young people are taking advantage of the product’s lack of smoky carcinogens and are still getting addicted to nicotine. The Food and Drug Association (FDA) statements are beginning to suggest that e-cig users may be susceptible to health threats such as popcorn lung, gout, and more recently, seizures.

On Wednesday, April 3rd, the FDA made a statement saying that since 2010, they have received 35 reports of seizures following e-cigarette use. This fact alone may render the warning completely disregarding – especially when considering some of the reports featured users who have a history of seizures and/or were also using other substances at the time. However, the FDA has acknowledged that they are not exactly sure what is causing the seizures, and said they are sharing the warning because it is a “potential safety concern associated with the products we regulate that are under scientific investigation by the agency.”

So, is this warning anything to worry about? Probably not, unless you have a history of seizures and/or are using other substances besides nicotine products. While the act of vaping may not be directly correlated to seizures, it is worth considering that these medical issues may be related to vape malfunction. It has been proven that swallowing liquid vaping nicotine can lead to nicotine poisoning, which is known to cause seizures and convulsions.

So perhaps the answer we’re looking for to solve this isn’t to ban vapes, but rather, to put more regulations in place. If it does turn out that there is something in the construction of vapes that are causing these issues, it would be worthwhile to manage how vape products are constructed more carefully. With only 35 cases out of millions of Americans who vape, we must also accept that this is probably an incredibly rare factory error.

What is most worrisome, however, is the disturbing number of young adults and teenagers who have access to and are able to purchase vape products. According to USA Today, in the span of only one year from 2017 to 2018, high school e-cigarette users exploded up to 78%, and middle school e-cigarette use also increased at 48%. Knowing how susceptible young people are to societal pressures and how addictive nicotine is, these are very frightening numbers. It is important that young people know the dangers of addictive substances. Maybe it’s not a bad idea to start reserving e-cigarettes towards those who struggle with nicotine addiction and need it as a way to quit.†

Understanding the Noor Trial

BY SABRINA NUR

I attended the opening statements of the Mohamed Noor v. MN State trial and while I was there, something changed in me. I saw his family there; I saw his mother’s face and she looked like she hadn’t had a decent night’s sleep in two years. When Noor walked into the courtroom, I got chills all over my body. It suddenly dawned on me that he was an actual human being, and that everything I knew about him had come from the media.

I had been following this case since the shooting in July 2017. In fact, it happened a couple blocks from where I used to go to high school. The victim’s name was Justine Damond, a Caucasian woman with dual Australian/American citizenship. On the night of the shooting, Damond herself called 911, worried about a woman who Damond said sounded like she was possibly being assaulted in the alley behind Damond’s house. The two Minneapolis officers that were sent to the location were Officer Matthew Harrity, the driver, and Officer Mohamed Noor in the passenger seat.

Hearing about the details of the case and reading the court documents made me think that Noor was going to be found guilty of this crime. I honestly cannot say what I would have done in that situation, but when Noor claimed self-defense, I was not convinced. In my head, I was thinking there was no way he thought his life was in danger; the woman was in her pajamas and didn’t even have anything resembling a weapon in her hand. Officer Harrity who was in the driver’s seat didn’t take out his gun and shoot at Damond, and she stood closer to Harrity than she did Noor. I saw no reasonable explanation why Noor had to shoot his firearm. The morning of April 9th, as I sat in the courtroom I heard the prosecutor say he hoped that by the end of the trial, the jury would find Noor guilty of all three charges. This made my heart sink; Noor’s life was going to be destroyed.

This got me thinking; the officers that shot and killed Jamar Clarke in 2015 are currently not in prison. The officer who shot Philando Castile in 2016 is not in prison. Yet here was Noor, who could end up spending the rest of his life in prison. It didn’t make sense to me. Think about all the different factors in these cases; Jamar was a black man and his killer is free. Philando was a black man and his killer is free. I’m not defending Noor here. I know he made a disastrous mistake and took the life of an innocent woman. He needs to pay for what he did, but he did it in self-defense. All the officers attest to that. Jeronimo Yanez, the officer that killed Castile, was put on paid leave and later fired after his case was over. Mark Ringgenberg and Dustin Schwarz, the officers involved in Jamar Clarke’s shooting, are still work at the fourth precinct.

I am not minimizing what Noor did in any way. Everyone should be held accountable for what they do. But what does it say about our criminal justice system when justice is not served? The fact of the matter is Noor is black, and Damond is white. At the end of the day, in this country, that’s all people see. Noor does not deserve to have his life destroyed because of a decision he made when he thought his life was in danger. Minnesota is such a great state, but our criminal justice system needs to do better. We need to strive for equality for all regardless of race or gender.†
Easily Accessible Art: Six Local Places that will Enrich Your Life

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

1. Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia)
This museum contains art from six continents, covers around 5,000 years of history, and is free. Paris has the Louvre Museum, Italy has the Uffizi, London has the National Gallery, New York has the Metropolitan Museum... Minneapolis has the Mia, and it holds its own astounding collection including Van Gogh, Monet, Matisse, and Warhol (and those are just the more recent contributors).

2. Walker Art Center
The Walker Art Center is a place that exposes, explores, and challenges, the questions of the modern to the postmodern era of art/living. One could say that the art here does not hold back; it does not try to please viewers, but rather provoke. “Focusing on the visual, performing, and media arts of our time, the Walker takes a global, multidisciplinary, and diverse approach to the creation, presentation, interpretation, collection, and preservation of art.” On Thursday evenings it is free to the public, and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (located outside the main building) is free 24/7. If you need more to do, check out the Groveland Gallery and Lowry Park within walking distance.

3. Museum of Russian Art
The focus of this museum is multifold, celebrating the culture of a particular region but also exposing the universal language of art. American school systems generally do not spend enough time and energy exposing students to history and art beyond the post-Columbian era and classical Europe. Places such as the Museum of Russian Art, Mia, Swedish Institute, and All My Relations Gallery are dedicated and designed to immerse visitors in cultures, not just art.

4. Fredrick R. Weisman Art Museum (WAM)
This is the University of Minnesota’s museum space, catered toward education and diversity. Their collection includes a variety of traveling exhibitions, art of the masters, reflections of differing cultures and historical periods, interactive pieces, as well as dissimilar media and subject matter. While a person can spend an entire day at the Mia, the Weisman is a place where you can experience a wide range of artwork but in a smaller space. Not to say that one couldn’t spend a day there too! It is located right along the river and near the heart of Dinkytown too.
5. **Minnesota Museum of American Art**
We live in Minnesota and America, so why do I need a museum to see the art? To learn about yourself! “The M” strives to be a national example of a space that is “responsive, relevant, and integral to the vibrant city and state.” It showcases a variety of local and visiting artists; all focused on exposing our identities as Minnesotan Americans. For example, May 16–Sept. 22, Minneapolis-based artist Dietrich Sieling is exhibiting his artwork that is inspired by his visual experiences on public transit, his “long-time love for the interior rectangular world of the city bus.”

6. **Williams H. Teaching Gallery and the Concordia Gallery**
Located on our very own CSP campus, you have no excuse not to experience the ever-changing collections presented for the educational benefit of us, the students. Much like the Weisman, CSP’s gallery is intentional in creating teachable moments through the artists and artworks invited. Just Google “CSP art galleries” to find the information on upcoming shows, including when the receptions are (artist-talks, free food, good conversation). If nothing else, be sure to stop by at the end of April and beginning of May, when the Student Juried Exhibition is on display; support your friends/classmates and be wowed by the talent existing within our intimate community. SEE ART!

Tip: Download the Metro Transit app to help you with transportation! It tells you exactly which buses to take, when they are coming, and how long the commute will take. Or you can split an Uber/Lyft with your friends; If you schedule your ride ahead of time, it’s cheaper! †
Minnesota Twins Season Preview

BY ANDREW WYLIE

The Minnesota Twins baseball season is off and racing with some tempered optimism this year, while keeping an eye on the future. They are starting the season without Joe Mauer for the first time since the early 2000’s. The Twins have plenty of talent on this year’s squad to give the Cleveland Indians a run for first place in the Central Division. The Indians have dominated the division for many years, but they lost a few key players in the offseason. They still have one of the best starting pitching rotations in the entire league.

While the team has plenty of gifted players, the Twins will need their young players, like Byron Buxton and Miguel Sano, to bounce back with solid years in order to make the playoffs. While Buxton and Miguel Sano, to bounce back with solid years in order to make the playoffs. Pitching will also be an important position to watch this year. After ace Jose Berrios, the Twins have a pedestrian starting staff. The bullpen has some talent too, but needs to stay healthy in order to be effective and keep the team alive in close games.

The Twins are in the third year of Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey and CEO Thad Levine’s regime. They have used the last two years to evaluate the current roster and stock the minor leagues with talent for the future. The last two trade deadlines have seen the front office trade away established and popular stars like Brian Dozier and Eduardo Escobar for minor league prospects.

Manager Paul Molitor was let go this last offseason, just one year removed from winning the AL Manager of the Year. They replaced him with the 37-year-old Rocco Baldelli, who was previously a major league player and most recently was the Tampa Bay Rays’ bench coach.

The current roster is loaded with potential to win this season and contribute for seasons to come. RF Max Kepler, SS Jorge Polanco, and RF Eddie Rosario are consistent bats who play excellent defense. Williams Astudillo is quickly becoming a fan favorite with his hustle and impressive hitting. But the x-factors in the lineup for the 2019 Twins are Byron Buxton and Miguel Sano.

Buxton’s defense is phenomenal in center field, he makes plays that no one else can make and is one of the fastest players in the entire league. Sano had a breakout 2017 campaign, showing impressive power while hitting 28 home runs. Last season was effectively lost for both players after a rash of injuries and poor play. Buxton entered the offseason motivated to come back strong and gain over twenty pounds of muscle in order to stay healthy. Sano was reportedly looking good in spring training this offseason, but once again became injured while celebrating a win and is out until early May. If both players return to form, the Twins will have a lot to look forward to this season.

The Twins have a lot to look forward to in the years to come as well. They have some exciting players that are maturing in the minor leagues. Their top three prospects are all expected to make their big league debuts next season. Highlighted by SS Royce Lewis, the 19-year-old first overall 2017 draft pick. Lewis is tearing up the minor leagues and looks to be a superstar in the making. The Twins will also be expecting 2016 first round draft pick Alex Kiriloff to get called up next year.

CSP’s New Sport Makes a Splash

BY HARRY LIEN

Concordia St. Paul continues to send ripples through their expanding line up of sports. The university has just announced the addition of women’s swimming and diving, which will begin competing in the 2020-21 school year. The team will join as a member of the Northern Sun conference (NSIC) at the start of their inaugural season at the Division II level. They will be immediately eligible for postseason competition as well.

As far as logistics go, the university has entered into a 22-year facility use agreement with nearby Henry Sibley high school around plans for a new facility. This facility will be located on the high school’s campus which is located in Mendota Heights, a St. Paul suburb south of the Mississippi River. In an article by Josh Deer on Concordia’s athletic page, university COO and Provost Dr. Eric LaMott praised the agreement between the two parties. “The facility use agreement with Henry Sibley is a perfect example of how a public-private partnership can allow both parties to achieve its goals.”

As of right now, Concordia is already in the search for hiring a head coach and laying the groundwork to ensure a smooth and successful program. With the introduction of women’s swimming and diving, Concordia has now seen the addition of three sports since 2015. This equates to a total of 18 sports offered at Concordia University.
CSP Baseball Comes Crashing Back Down to Earth

BY BEN DIERS

After starting the season red-hot, going 10-4 in the first 14 games of the season, the Golden Bears have come crashing back down to earth. The Bears record is currently sitting at 17-16 overall, with a conference record of 8-13. The team has been in a slump as of late, going 3-7 so far in the month of April including a stretch of 6 consecutive losses.

Despite their recent struggles, there have been many bright spots and reasons for optimism this season. One of the most consistent contributors on offense for the Bears this season has been sophomore Ryan Christopher. Christopher’s batting average currently sits at .340, with 36 hits in 106 at bats. Following closely behind is junior Patrick Bordewick with an average of .333 (39 hits in 117 at bats).

On the other side of the ball, senior Blake Stelzer leads the Golden Bear pitching staff with an era of 2.01 in 22.1 innings pitched. As far as starting pitchers go, senior Josh Gaworski leads the pack with an era of 3.34 in 29.2 innings pitched (among pitchers with a minimum of 5 starts). Other standout starters for the Bears this season include junior Louie Varland and senior Keanu Mendez.

The Golden Bears will play 14 more games before wrapping up regular season play on May 4 against the University of Sioux Falls. Heading into the nsic Tournament at the end of the season, the team is looking to build on last season’s deep tournament run. In 2018, the Bears made it all the way to the nsic championship, losing 9-10 in a heartbreaker to Augustana University. The Bears are looking to get over the hump this season and take home the nsic tournament title. The team also hopes to take it a step further and make the NCAA Central Region tournament. Be sure to keep an eye on the Golden Bears baseball team as they attempt to bounce back and make a deep postseason run.

Golden Bears Lacrosse Season Update

BY BEN DIERS

The Golden Bears lacrosse team has continued their strong start to the season, posting a record of 8-4 through their first 12 games. The team has strung together a few solid win streaks, winning as many as three in a row in a streak that is still active. The team has also bounced back nicely after losses, as they have not lost back-to-back games so far this season. The Bears record in conference games is even more impressive, as it currently sits at 5-2. All four of the Bears remaining games are against conference opponents.

In the net, Katie Lottsfeldt has been the top goalie for the Golden Bears this season. To this point, she has posted 83 saves with a save percentage of .459. On the offensive side of things, junior Alina Boyce and Junior Maddie Hentges lead the charge for the Bears with 36 goals each. The duo has been strong the whole season, with each of them topping the team in many statistical categories. Boyce and Hentges are also currently tied for second on the team in assists with 10 each while freshman Sara McNicoll leads the team with 14.

The Bears will play Ashland University and Indianapolis here in St. Paul before wrapping up the regular season on the road against Grand Valley State (ranked 5 in the Midwest region and 22 overall) and Davenport University. This season, the team hopes to do something that they have not done in their brief three year history: make the conference tournament. However, meeting this goal and making the tournament will be no easy accomplishment as only the top four teams in the conference get the chance to compete in the tournament. Be sure to keep an eye on the Golden Bears lacrosse team as they try to finish the season strong and set their sights on their first postseason appearance in program history.
**SPORTS**

**Logan Hermes To Lead Concordia’s Historic Move in eSports**

**BY VICTORIA TURCIOS**

Last November, Concordia announced that it would be adding eSports as its 17th Varsity athletics program. This made the university the very first in Minnesota to launch an official eSports athletic program. 2019-2020 marks the first academic year for the endorsement of a team. On the CSP Bears news website, Josh Deer stated that this program will give student athletes the opportunity to have access to scholarships that are administered by the department of athletics as well as other institutional financial aid. It is a big move by the university as it moves forward with an eSports coed team with both men and women competing together.

CSP is aware of the unconventional move it is making as the first university to offer eSports scholarships in Minnesota, but stands behind its bold move as it attributes it to being responsive to their market. “We’ve been tracking on the growth and popularity of collegiate eSports for some time now, and consider the program a chance to provide competitive educational opportunities to an entirely new and unique population of students,” stated the CSP director of athletics Regan McAthie in Josh Deer’s CSP Bears news article.

Along with the new sport comes a new head coach to overlook the eSports program. Logan Hermes has now filled the position for the 2019-2020 academic year. Hermes has been active in the gaming community, as an avid player in the League of Legends Minnesota history as the first to lead a varsity esports program in the state. Even the new Head Coach Hermes appreciates the effort by Concordia in higher education from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse. Way back before CSP made its historic announcement of including eSports into its athletic programs, Hermes was already looking into how he could make it a reality to have a college varsity team in the Upper Midwest that would fill the eSports void.

Even the new Head Coach Hermes appreciates the effort by Concordia to pursue an athletics program in uncharted territory amongst the Minnesota region, stating to CSP Bear news that, “The Twin Cities is the perfect place to not only foster an eSports team, but also a community that can flourish behind gaming.” Logan Hermes will now go down in Minnesota history as the first to lead a varsity esports program in the state. Welcome to the Bears family, Coach Hermes.

**Track and Field Starts Outdoor Season With a Bang**

**BY EDEN GARMAN**

The outdoor track-and-field season has commenced, despite the winter-like weather that has lingered in Minnesota. The first meet of the season brought the track and field team to sunny Emporia, Kansas on March 30th. The athletes were excited to compete in events unique to the outdoor season including javelin, hurdles, steeplechase, and hammer to name a few. Senior Nasru Wado was especially motivated as he broke the school record for hammer at the first meet, then again at the meet in Pella, Iowa the following weekend with a throw of 53.89m. Along with sunburn, the team brought home first place finishes in the men's 4x100 (William Ray, Brian Szutzkowski, Matthew Marrin, Andrew Leck), men's discus (Marcus Gustaveson), men’s pole vault (Drew Dockendorf) women's 100m hurdles (Christabelle Mulcahy), 5000m (Lucia Mesfin), men's 5000m (Zeke Green), and men's 800m (Ben Allen). Tia Donlan broke the school record in discus with a throw of 44.48m.

CSP Junior Hannah Gustafson says that the atmosphere of the team is very close-knit which she attributes to the poor weather conditions at practices. “You have to rally when it is looking bleak outside,” she said. The team works hard to support their athletes across all events and focuses on being there for one another. “It is really cool to compete and have seventy other people cheering you on,” Gustafson noted. The team is large this year consisting of nearly eighty athletes. Though the team lost some strong all-American athletes from last year, they are rebuilding with strong sophomores and juniors that are moving up quickly.

Also contributing to the successful Track and Field program is CSP’s well-rounded staff. The team has specialized coaches for almost every event, being led by Sam Johnson which helps to refine every athlete’s technique. The coaches lead not only by authority but by example, with many of them partaking in the workouts alongside their athletes. This has created a strong bond of trust and made for good role models for the team.

Due to the snow storm the second weekend of April, the meet in North Dakota was cancelled. The rest of the season will go by quickly. The men have their next meet on April 18 at St. Thomas while the women have their next meet on April 19 here at CSP. The season will wrap up with the NSIC Outdoor Championships May 10 and 11 in Duluth and the NCAA Outdoor Championships May 23-25 in Kingsville, Texas. Make sure to cheer on the Golden Bears as they finish out their season!
Writer Spotlight - Dana Murphy
Poetry Contest Winner

BY MACKENZIE KNORR

All Along by Dana Murphy
Perhaps our time
Well spent and wasted
Was but a long afternoon
An exchange of lessons
Learning each other’s language
And after all this time
This afternoon
Although souls do not speak
Ours speak fluently

Scientist by Dana Murphy
She skims the pages of a book,
Noting items in her mind.
Red nails dusted with white powders
Leave fingerprints behind on cabinet doors.
Lace and embroidered flowers,
Tied tightly around an ill-fed waist.
Earth and spices fill the warm room,
A dozen and one small things sit still.

Too much time has gone by,
or maybe too little.

Reaching into the fire,
She gathers them with care.

Tears begin to fall down her cheeks,
Too much time after all.

The small things break apart,
Crumble upon being touched.
Yet he takes one with a smile,
Then sweetly reaches for another.
Through damp eyes,
She softly smiles back at him…
Perhaps she’ll try again tomorrow.

THE 2019 CSP writing contests poetry winner is Creative Writing major, Dana Murphy. Murphy submitted three poems to be reviewed by the judges, two of which are published in this issue of The Sword. The first poem she submitted, titled “Rose on Fire,” highlights the cost of addiction from a personal standpoint. The second poem, titled “Scientist,” has an encouraging feel to it, as it talks about baking fails and the need to try again. Lastly, the third poem (also printed in this issue) is titled “All Along,” and discusses how everything in life is a lesson, both good and bad.

Murphy’s inspiration for a lot of her poetry deals with life, usually the sadness it can bring. She says, “I like poetry because it is forgiving and it allows me to express words in so many ways that I may not be able to say out loud.” Having a creative outlet to express feelings and ideas is one of the things that draws Murphy to writing.

Murphy was not always a writing student; she pursued studies in Communication before making the switch to Creative Writing, after realizing her childhood passion for writing stories was still something she enjoyed doing and wanted to make into her career. The writing contest is one of the first places Murphy’s writing can be seen publicly as she usually does not share her writing with anyone. As for her own writing goals, she says she wants to pursue a career that will enable her to write creatively. She would also like to publish a book of poems in the future.

A Brief Overview of My Experience at NCECA

SKYE FULLER

You may have noticed the scattered ceramic shows around campus over the last month. That’s because, during the last weekend of March, the Twin Cities hosted the convention for the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, or “NCECA” for short. I had the opportunity to attend the conference this year since we were lucky enough to have this event in our backyard.

The conference kicked off with a bang with the keynote speaker Winona LaDuke. Her speech included topics such as sustainable living, touched on her experiences as a water protector and the art that arose out of the Dakota Access Pipeline controversy. Her speech was inspiring and informative, and her advocacy work is equally so.

Winona LaDuke’s talk was followed by a musical performance from the group neo-jazz group Nooky Jones. During their performance, people moved right up to the stage and started to dance and groove along to the smooth tunes. This would characterize the celebratory mood of the convention and the sense of joy and community that I experienced throughout the event.

The Minneapolis convention center hosted a variety of events aside from the lecture and musical performance. The k-12 art exhibition was a wonderful display of creativity and craftsmanship from America’s youth and resulted in many scholarships being awarded to high school students to continue in their artistic training. It was exciting to imagine the sort of art these students will go on to create.

Next door to the student exhibition was a cup sale. This sale was unique as attendees of the conference would donate their handmade cups to be sold. The $42,000 generated from the sales were allocated to scholarships in ceramics. The work available for sale ranged from well-known artists to student work. The variety of styles available was informative and interesting, and I definitely walked away with less money than I came in with.

Wallets also became lighter in the dealer’s room. Here, there was a variety of functional work for sale by a variety of artists. If you’ve ever wanted to start a collection of cool hand-made coffee cups, this would be the place for you. Additionally, there were several ceramics-related companies represented in this space, each offering a helpful tool, glaze, or instructional video for sale. It was also a common space for demonstrations and artistic comrades.

I also managed to attend a variety of panels throughout the week involving different topics. A lecture on the history of the teapot was one that I found particularly memorable. The room was packed full of artists and art-appreciators geeking out over a 500-year-old tradition and cramming themselves together to make room for the others attempting to make their way inside to hear the lecture. Not only was the lecture intriguing, but the sense of community was, once again, astounding.

All in all, my experience at NCECA was a memorable one that I will cherish for a long time. I learned about art and craft and gained some artistic inspiration. But, more importantly, I had the opportunity to experience a unique group that immediately made me feel welcome, despite my inexperience with ceramic media. The community was a joy to experience, and I would love to attend the conference in another city someday. Besides, now I need to increase my collection of cool hand-made coffee cups.

NCECA is an event for art-makers, collectors, and appreciators alike. Even if ceramics isn’t your medium of choice, there is plenty you will learn. With this year’s conference being so close to home, it also served as a reminder of all the artistic and cultural opportunities our cities offer. Get out there! †
Writer Spotlight - Gabie Yang
Short Story Contest Winner

MACKENZIE KNORR

Gabie Yang takes the first place prize for the fiction portion of CSP’s writing contest. Her short story, “Where ‘We’ Can Exist,” encapsulates a secret love story between a moon god and the daughter of the sun goddess. The story shows the yearn for love, regardless of background and identity, through a mythical format.

Yang’s writing is heavily inspired by music; this particle story is inspired by a Korean Pop group’s song that also deals with the idea of two forces that can’t exist at the same time.

Yang attributes her passion for writing to the book series Percy Jackson and the Olympians. Since middle school, Yang has continued to create worlds for her characters to exist in while finding her writing style. Once in college, Yang decided to major in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing in order to learn more about crafting her writing style. Comparing it to painting or songwriting, Yang finds writing to be a form of expression as well as a way to articulately express her thoughts and ideas. She describes how fun and rewarding it can be to invest in creating a new world and new characters. Yang has had writing published in an online journal and hopes to have her books published someday. †

Photography provided by Gabie Yang - Pictured above is Gabie Yang

Artist Spotlight: Alicia Bjorkedal
The Art of Sharing

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

Senior Alicia Bjorkedal has discovered not only her love for art but also her love for sharing it. This likely began as a child when she and her cousins would gather around her grandmother’s dining room table to create. She has explored diverse media since then, from painting, drawing, collage, and her favorite – photography.

Since her journey began at CSP, Bjorkedal has realized that she wants her future to include sharing art and its health benefits. She began as a community arts major, but after discovering her interest in psychology, she changed that to her major and took a minor in photography, setting her up for a future in art therapy. “Art has always helped me, through the good and bad times. I want to show others that it is an option for them too,” she stated.

Bjorkedal has always held her art-making process as one rooted in community. While she does have personal art that she keeps to herself, she is also very generous with what she creates. She enjoys making friendship bracelets and postcards in particular, “because they spread joy.” She uses her art as a way to bring out the best in others, whether it is capturing them in a moment in time through photography, letting them know she is thinking about them through personalized mail or reminding them of their connection through a bracelet.

Photography is the artist’s medium of choice though because it allows her to experience the person and place uniquely and intimately. She enjoys going on impromptu adventures with groups of friends or individuals; they have coffee, wallow in each other’s company, and first create a beautiful experience. She always brings her camera and simply waits for the right moment to appear. “I’ll see an area where the lighting is good or the background is awesome, or the person is just in the perfect spot, and I stop them,” Bjorkedal explains. It is an informal process that is brought about naturally and with the help of patient and photogenic friends!

These photos are shared publicly through primarily her vsco account (@artistalicia). For those who are unfamiliar, this is an app and website that allows people to view her photos anonymously, without the option of “liking” or “favoriting.” It is on this format that Bjorkedal feels the least pressure and the most liberty in her artistic expression.

Her practice has expanded and changed during her time at CSP, adopting her own style, new methods (including experimenting with film photography), and much more sophisticated thought put into the creation of an image. “I used to just take photos. Now I think about where I am, what/who my subject is, and how I can make the image the best it can be and also mine before I snap it.”

Bjorkedal encourages others to try out different artistic media in pursuit of an activity that brings them joy too. If nothing else, sharing art (or an artistic setting, such as a gallery, museum, or unique coffee shop) is sure to bring about happiness. †

Photography provided by Alicia Bjorkedal
Pictured above is Alicia herself with a camera
Pictured to the left is her photography
Christian Stromley
Music Spotlight
BY ELIZABETH REYNOLDS

Expansive Musician
Christian Stromley has pursued music for almost a decade. In this time his repertoire of instruments has expanded from clarinet, piano, saxophone, organ, and voice. Through this exploration, Stromley has developed a love of music which has led him to pursue a lifelong vocation of Organ Performance. From Wisconsin Rapids, Stromley is a junior here at Concordia St. Paul. Widely involved in many areas of musicianship, Stromley is currently a member of the Christus Chorus and will be accompanying the choir on the organ during their Holy Week tour for one of their pieces, as well as performing with the group as a member of the choir. Stromley was previously in the Jubilate choir, but in addition to this, he is currently in the Christus Chorus, Concert Band, Handbell Ensemble, and Blue Rondo here at Concordia.

Stromley's musical growth has been strengthened and inspired by the faculty here at CSP. “Every one of my music professors has had a special impact on my life, and I feel incredibly blessed to study under such intelligent, talented people.” These meaningful relationships allow Stromley to experience the full benefit of private education, stating “I feel that I can come to them with anything, and they are willing to go the extra mile to be there for their students.” Anticipating graduation in Spring of 2020, Stromley hopes to find a job working in a church as a music director directing choirs and playing the organ. This May, Stromley will be playing one piece on the organ in the student recital, while his full solo organ recital will be in spring of 2020 to showcase his work done here at Concordia. “My favorite thing about music is the freedom it gives everyone, and the communities it builds. The ensembles here at Concordia are truly like a big family.” This appreciation of musical diversity, fellowship, exploration, and hard work have shown to be a true example of the music department at Concordia St. Paul, as well as the dedication Stromley has shown to his passion for music.

Dancing the Semester Away
Theatre and Dance Spotlight: Hannah Wudtke
BY EDEN GARMAN

Two Truths and a Lie: Hannah Wudtke is a senior Biology major. She is going to attend grad school at Indiana University next fall to become an optometrist. She is involved with four dances in CSP's upcoming production of Spring Into Dance. It may seem odd to mix dancing and science, but Wudtke balances both and will appear on stage seven times in Spring Into Dance VII! Hannah took first dance class as a kindergartener and knew it was something she wanted to pursue. She has danced for a studio, competed with her high school's team, and graced the stage in theatre productions both at her community theatre in Illinois and on Concordia's stage.

Participating in CSP's annual end-of-year Spring Into Dance production has been a favorite memory of Wudtke's because it is fun for her to work with a lot of different people on a lot of pieces. Her favorite styles of dance include modern or tap, and Hannah's tap choreography will be showcased in this year's Spring Into Dance show. The tap number will be performed to the song “Find My Way” by The Gabe Dixon Band. She drew inspiration for the piece pulling from her own experience as a senior deciding where to go next in life. The dance is about finding one's way through life with the help of friends and family. Though she only rehearses her tap piece about three hours a week, Hannah is in the dance studio about 20 hours total a week practicing and perfecting all her dances. “It’s not work for me. It’s fun,” Wudtke says. She puts a lot of importance on practicing and advises aspiring dancers to do the same. Dance may not seem like a team sport, but everyone has to work together to pull off a show. A cast has to have a good community. Dance professor and Spring Into Dance director Jan Puffer has helped shape this welcoming community for Hannah. Wudtke says, “Jan is a huge role model for me. She’s been so supportive of everything I am doing dance wise and with other school things; she’s a great mentor.”

Through dance, Hannah is able to let go of her other worries and just be herself; it’s a way to reduce stress. She loves it because she can express emotion and connect with others.

See Hannah Wudtke and a host of other CSP students in this year's Spring Into Dance production May 2nd-5th; Thursday – Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm in the EM Pearson Theatre. Student tickets are free! There is also a student preview May 1st @ 7:30 pm. Hannah says that audience members can expect a night of fun and storytelling through dance. There will be contemporary pieces that touch on some important subjects, an energetic jazz dance, an upbeat tap number, some duets, and a musical theatre piece to name a few.
Book Review: Station Eleven
Creating Light in Darkness

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

No one is prepared for the world, as they know it, to end. It is no secret to us that our current way of life is fragile, our bodies are penetrable, and we are unequipped to cope with an apocalypse.

Author Emily St. John Mandel creatively spawned a potential outcome within the vast unknown of our future and in doing so, brought to light the true wonder of life: survival. Her book, Station Eleven, flows back and forth between a past and future way of life, the first which describes contemporary living and the second which is a desolate, post-catastrophe wasteland. After an epidemic virus wipes out most humans, those who remain recreate their lives in old Dairy Queen buildings and other abandoned structures. They revert to a former way of life, one they had only known about through history textbooks; it is a life without internet, running water, electricity, phones, cars, international travel, powerful government systems, fast food, high-heel shoes, or disposable cutlery wrapped in thin plastic sleeves. Resources are scarce, community is hard to come by, and security is a matter of sleeping with one eye open. And in the midst of it all, readers follow a horse-drawn caravan, a traveling theater, full of people seeking to provoke happiness through performance art.

The book is a beautiful blend of bleak and charming, as one realizes the will of humans to adapt and endure, rewarded by powerful yet simple moments of joy and hope. The complex plot line is rich in description, realistic explanations of the new world, and an enticing unraveling of events that accelerates the reader’s heartbeat. Smoothly, the plot uncovers an intimate connection between two characters, each from the different eras.

If you are intimidated by the grim-sounding setting of a post-apocalyptic world, worry not. It is not so much a sad story as it is one packed with adventure, bravery, and perseverance. The characters’ loyalty will inspire you, as well as their vision to improve the world, and motivation to do more than just survive, but rather to strive, love, and create beauty.

Food Review: La Vieux Carre

BY ALEXANDRIA ROSE GOSEN

Located in the basement of the historic Hamm building, La Vieux Carre is a New Orleans speakeasy-themed Jazz Club. I really enjoyed the restaurant’s theme and ambiance; I felt very cool and classy by being there. The restaurant originated in 1985 by the Minneapolis-Dakota Co-owners and was once located at what is now Nicollet mall.

The staff was kind, the setting was cool, and the food sounded phenomenal! I went to La Vieux Carre with my parents. Though we were there around six, the place looked like a bar at 10 am—nobody was there. This could have been red flag number one. But, we assumed that it would get busy when the band started at 7:00 pm.

While waiting, we got slow marinated apricots for our appetizer— which was essentially an apricot marmalade made with olives, fennel, tomato, feta, and prosciutto on toast. It was both savory and sweet. I quite enjoyed the marmalade, but the toast was like a rock. I’m very glad no member of my family broke a tooth on it.

I ordered a coffee, which came in a French press. I thought this was really neat. And, our water was poured from a wine glass, which my mom thought was just the neatest thing. My dad ordered some whiskey, but it was a little too strong, so he didn’t finish it.

Our waitress, though nice, was very slow. It took her about 40 minutes before she came around to take our order—we were the only customers. If it had been busy, I would not mention anything, but we were the only customers in the whole establishment.

Once 7:00 pm hit, my parents and I were very excited to see the band! We all quite enjoy jazz music. And just as suspected, there were a few more customers. Unfortunately, the band was an hour late, and their jazz music was basically elevator music—nothing super fun and bouncy. Just stuff to talk over.

The food was also incredibly overpriced. Mom and I ordered gumbo, and my dad ordered a Catfish Po’ Boy. Both dishes were fairly small, and our bill came to about $80.00.

La Vieux Carre is an establishment filled with a lot of good, but seemingly incomplete ideas. I think they’re also a situational establishment. Meaning, if the group had been different, we showed up later, and had a different waitress, it would have been worth it. But, we just didn’t have much luck with this restaurant.†

Movie Review of Green Book

BY ELI GRUBBS

Director Peter Farrelly brings to life for a new generation the true story of musician Don Shirley and his bodyguard/driver, Frank “Tony the Lip” Vallelonga and their cross-country tour through the deep south during the 60s. The title is inspired by The Negro Motorist Green Book, a travel guide for African American travelers in the United States during the 1960s. The movie itself focuses on the development of the two men as they gradually stop looking at each other through racial lenses and become friends.

Viggo Mortensen (The Lord of the Rings) and Mahershala Ali (Moonlight) wholeheartedly and convincingly embody their roles as Frank Vallelonga and Don Shirley respectively. Mortensen plays a resourceful, gruff, and street smart but not book smart New York bouncer who is contracted by Don Shirley. He carries with him a strong racial bias that he is forced to question and overcome by his relationship with Mr. Shirley. His ability to think on his feet gets Mr. Shirley and himself out of one precarious situation after another on their journey through the American deep south at a time of great civil injustice.

Ali plays to perfection the intelligent, philosophical, and depressed Shirley, who travels across the country performing his “white man” classical music. He is gifted, but feels he is doing nothing but perform tricks for white people who come to see him play the piano. The color of his skin also gets him into...
It may appear at first that Mortenson maintains a white-savior role in the film, but through the movie’s progression, the symbiotic relationship between Shirley and Frank becomes clear. Green Book shows a timeless story that is not only relevant today, but incredibly important. The story delves into the issues of the then and now, and while it doesn’t present an answer to the problems we face today with racial inequality, it gives an example of what two men did to overcome the barriers between them.

Music Review: The Claypool Lennon Delirium – South of Reality

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

The Claypool Lennon Delirium, a musical collaboration between Primus bassist Les Claypool and Sean Lennon, one of John Lennon’s sons, released their debut album The Monolith of Phobos in 2016, which was received very highly by critics and the music community. Their sophomore album, South of Reality, seems to be a more focused project, though much of the lyrics and music is as far fetched as they were on The Monolith.

“Little Fishes” kicks off the album with cutting, cynical lyrics about the craziness of today’s youth and modern society, underlined by a quick, aggressive, bassline and maybe even some harpsichord here and there. One of the big highlights and the one single from the album, “Blood and Rockets” is a two-part story about a young boy obsessed with rockets and fire who goes too far and causes his own demise. Set in a chord progression which could easily be used for any Halloween song, it blends madness and innocence just perfectly to give the listener a sense of playfulness with a nagging unease. It closes with some very fine guitar work by Sean Lennon in an easy, natural, 5/8 meter, which is impressive to say the least.

The title track does not stand out much, unfortunately. It sounds like a basic 60s rocker, though the lyrics give an interesting perspective on watching lunar eclipses. Almost ironically, the following track completely overshadows it. “Boriska” is quite musically fresh. The vocals are layered with otherworldly effects, and it is evident that there was experimentation with the instrumentation, as it is ripe with various sounds, from calm mellotron strings, to actual orchestral strings, bright synth brass, and pleasing chord progressions. The bassline flows like water on an alien planet. “Easily Charmed by Fools” resembles some of Pink Floyd’s stuff from 1970-72, which they made their own by doing interesting work with filters on the electric guitar part, especially at the end of the track.

“Amethyst Realm” is another big highlight on the album, also the longest track clocking in at a little over seven and a half minutes. This song follows the strange story of a woman who has an affair with a spirit. And though the lyrics are not overly explicit, it is quite clear what is going on. It is a strange tale of love, and believe it or not is actually based on the true story about a woman named Amethyst Realm who claims to have had sex with least 20 ghosts. Sometimes it is odd to find that the stories which seem the most “south of reality,” are actually our realities.

“Toady Man’s Hour” is chock full of fun keyboard fills, utilizing both organs and different synthesizer sounds, and even an accordion, all supported by goofy lyrics about a “Toadyman” who had it all and then lost it. “Cricket Chronicles Revisited” is probably a continuation of “Cricket and the Genie” movements I and II from The Monolith of Phobos. It incorporates lots of Indian influence, as is made evident by the presence of a sitar riff and tablas. The scales used in the song are also oriental, making the style lean towards that of Indian culture along with its timbral qualities.

Finally, the album closes out with “Like Fleas,” a groovy, existential song that delves into the idea that Earth is one big organism and we are parasites, living like fleas on a dog, and the natural disasters thrown at us are just attempts to shake us off. Since I discovered this duo in 2018, I have been looking forward to the release of this album, and I was not disappointed. It exceeds the expectations that were set by The Monolith of Phobos, and hopefully is a sign that we will get funkier, psychedelic, mind-melting progressive rock from two of the world’s greatest rock musicians.
April 2019 Horoscopes

BY ALEXANDRIA ROSE GOSEN

Aries | March 21-April 19
Easter Break should’ve left you feeling well rested and ready for the end of the year. Now is a great time to focus on your studies and planning for summer!

Taurus | April 20-May 20
You’ve been working like an Ox! Now is the time to get your friends together and let loose. Go on an adventure soon.

Gemini | May 21-June 20
Life has been pretty stressful lately. It’s okay to take a breath and take some time to yourself. Treat yourself to a self-care night.

Cancer | June 21-July 22
Time to make those plans you’ve been dreaming about official. Set your goal and follow it.

Leo | July 23-August 22
This month it’s important to look at your shortcomings and use the reflections to try and grow :) Maybe start with that spring cleaning you’ve been procrastinating.

Virgo | August 23-September 22
Practice, practice, practice… all you’ve been doing is practicing! Time to unleash everything you’ve perfected and learn. Practice makes perfect, but it doesn’t make new experience. You will grow through stepping outside your comfort zone.

Libra | September 23-October 22
You’ve been struggling with a decision for a while. Now is the time to do the thing that scares you.

Scorpio | October 23-November 21
Opportunity to opportunity, you have been pushing yourself and moving from one thing to another. Take some time to unplug. Find yourself again before committing to another project.

Sagittarius | November 22-December 21
Working hard, though rewarding, kind of sucks. But, you are almost there. Now is not the time to ease up on yourself. Push through.

Capricorn | December 22-January 19
Take a step back. You are very focused on the big picture right now; it’s important to focus on one thing at a time.

Aquarius | January 20-February 18
Summer is just around the corner; you can see the sunshine. Are you ready for it? Now is a great time to plan your trips, work, and all that jazz.

Pisces | February 19-March 20
With the end of the semester peaking around the corner, now is a good time to say what’s been on your mind lately. Take initiative and speak up in class, or tell that person you like them.
Easter Wordsearch

BY EDEN GARMAN

ANGEL CROSS LAMB TION
BASKET EGGS LILIES SPRING
BUNNY HOLY PARADE SUNDAY
BUTTERFLY JELLYBEANS PEEPS TOMB
CELEBRATION JESUS RESURRECTION TULIPS
ARTS & VARIETY

Floral Daze

BY MADISON BUCHANAN