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The Equestrian team will progress to Nationals on May 8 to round out their season. pg.16

The RESTRICT Act: Goodbye to TikTok?

BY JENNA MELMAN

STAFF WRITER

On March 7, The White House endorsed a bipartisan bill, The RESTRICT Act. The RESTRICT Act's full name is the Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk Information and Communications Technology Act. It is currently a piece of proposed legislation under consideration by Congress. The bill would make it easier for the U.S. Federal Government to ban or force the sale of specific software or equipment from certain countries if it's deemed to pose a spying risk. This bill could be used to ban TikTok, and would empower the Secretary of Commerce to ban apps that pose a risk to U.S. national security.

Boundaries could, in theory, be infiltrated by the Chinese government to spy on its 150 million American users through TikTok. The bipartisan group of senators that introduced the bill made it so that the federal government would be permitted to regulate and even ban foreign-produced technologies. The bill applies to technology connected to a "foreign adversary" of the U.S.. Only six countries fall under this designation: China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela.

The legislation has 10 co-sponsors, five from each party, calling it "a systematic framework for addressing technology-based threats to the security and safety of Americans." The movement was led by Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.).

While the bill doesn't cite TikTok by name, the senators who introduced it repeatedly touched on fears about TikTok. For those who may not know, TikTok is a video based social media app that showcases limitless branches of creative content. Tiktok was created by the Chinese company ByteDance, and in the past years the app has taken the world by storm. Tiktok is used around the world, and the app gives Beijing a steady stream of information about its users, like all social media does, through the use of bots. Tiktok is not unique in this practice, companies gather information and use it to personalize content and ads, etc. The members of Congress supporting the bill think that this collected information is sending information about U.S. citizens to China.

"It is widely acknowledged that TikTok's a threat to our national security," Sen. John Thune (R-N.D.) said at a news conference. "[I'm] concerned about TikTok's connections to the Chinese Communist Party, which repeatedly spies on American citizens," Thune continued.

TikTok spokesperson Brooke Oberwettwe said in an email that the Biden administration already has the power to oversee the app through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. Despite this, it was admitted in December that some employees had spied on journalists' location data in an attempt to identify which of its employees were speaking to the media. The company is said to have monitored journalists' physical location using their IP addresses.

ByteDance and TikTok did not deny the surveillance, but took to Twitter after the story was published to say that "TikTok has never been used to 'target' any members of the U.S. government, activists, public figures or journalists," and that "TikTok

could not monitor U.S. users in the way the article suggested." In the internal email, Liang acknowledged that TikTok had been used in exactly this way. TikTok has repeatedly denied that it stores U.S. user data in China, a primary fear of federal officials.

The investigation, internally known as Project Raven, began this past summer after BuzzFeed News published a story revealing that China-based ByteDance employees had repeatedly accessed U.S. user data.

"The misconduct of certain individuals, who are no longer employed at ByteDance, was an egregious misuse of their authority to obtain access to user data. This misbehavior is unacceptable, and not in line with our efforts across TikTok to earn the trust of our users," TikTok spokesperson Hilary McQuaide said. Others commented as well.

"ByteDance condemns this misguided plan that violated the company's Code of Conduct", ByteDance spokesperson Jennifer Banks added. This situation could fuel the argument to pass the RESTRICT Act.

Despite these controversial actions, many feel that banning TikTok is a violation of freedom of speech. TikTok is a platform that can allow your voice to be heard by a new, younger audience.

Many privacy experts say that while TikTok is a threat to Americans' privacy, it's not unique in that regard. China's prolific cyberspies routinely hack Americans' data. The U.S. has no major data privacy law, and an entire industry of data brokers buys, sells and trades Americans' private information.

"We appreciate that some members of Congress remain willing to explore options for addressing national security concerns that don't have the effect of censoring millions of Americans," Oberwetter said, making her opinion very clear. "A U.S. ban on TikTok is a ban on the export of American culture and values to the billion-plus people who use our service worldwide."

This opinion is shared by youth across the nation, and here at Post. Sophomore musical theater major Riley Webster says that "the other social media platforms are being sent to China anyway and so banning TikTok will make no big difference in China's information gathering." Freshman political science and international relations major Nicole Espanosa thinks that "politicians are overthinking it, it's just a platform of social media like any other."

Deputy director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center Caitriona Fitzgerald said TikTok represents "maybe two percent of the problem" when it comes to Americans' privacy. Without the coverings of privacy law in the U.S., there are millions of apps that are collecting and abusing Americans' data," she said.

Members of Congress think TikTok's content consists mainly of dancing teenage girls, which they admitted when Representatives repeatedly referenced the point that provocative dancing is exploiting youth. Content on a "For You" page is only shown if that is the content the user chooses to watch. "For You" pages are very individualized. When one spends just a little bit of time on Tiktok, Tiktok shows users the kind of content it learns they want to see "TikTok gives us access to connect, share our stories and educate ourselves. TikTok is a modern Library of Alexandria. And we must keep it from burning down," USA Today reporter Hannah Maruyama said in a statement.

Gen Z's obsession with tote bags

BY ALIYA COUILLARD

STAFF WRITER

The tote bag. This accessory has been seen hanging on the shoulders of individuals since the 1860s. Made in many different sizes and materials, the tote bag's practicality makes it perfect for on-the-go use.

Clearly, the tote bag has been around for quite some time now and they don't seem to be going out of style anytime soon.

Generation Z has taken an immense liking to this style of bag. Typically in a canvas style, totes are all the rage amongst this generation.

Junior psychology major Kira Adkins owns three tote bags of her own.

"I use them pretty often. I use them when I go to class or when I'm running errands, especially in the city. [The tote] is convenient to carry around because they are big and roomy," she shared. "I like how they can go with any outfit and can make outfits stylish."

Now, for some Gen Zers, the tote has seemed to take the place of the commonly used backpack.

Sophomore business major Morgan Sigut, like Adkins, uses her tote for school and running errands.

"I like that instead of a backpack you can just easily slide it off your shoulder and get

anything you need out of it. [Also,] it's not really fashionable to walk around with a backpack on, so I think the tote is the best way to go," she stated.

The tote has become a very fashion-forward item amongst Gen Z. What was once just an accessory for convenience has become a whole fashion trend for this generation.

Sigut touched on a key reason why Gen Z is so infatuated with these bags.

"I think it's so popular because you can put anything you want on it like you can support different brands, it's like a way to express yourself," she said. "You can show who you are on [your] tote bag [and] what you like."

Gen Z is very big on self-expression; these bags are just another way for this generation to show who they are. If they like a certain music artist, read a specific publication, or are interested in art, it can be shown right on their tote.

Along with self-expression, the tote bag has other unique qualities, one of which Adkins points out is its diversity.

"[With the tote bag] you have the capability of styling up or down an outfit," she said.

That's just another reason for the tote bag to be so popular among Gen Z. With its diversity, this type

of bag can be paired with anyone's choice of style.

Tote bags are sold all across the retail market and are sold at a variety of prices. So, how much are students willing to spend on a tote?

"Honestly no more than \$20," Adkins expressed. "You can find really cheap tote bags that are cute like at the thrift and they are unique."

Sigut's willing to spend a bit more.

"Depends on the material of the tote bag, but for a canvas, I'd say no more than \$40," she said.

As we usually see with trends, they come and go. However, students believe that the tote is a trend that will stick around.

"I think it will stay [in trend] just because they are so stylish and they are durable and simple. It's just a perfect little basic to go with any outfit," Adkins said.

Sigut made a very good point as well as to why the tote will stay in trend.

"I think it's always been around but just in different forms and it's always going to grow after how many people use it now," she pointed out.

However, the trend cycle is quite fast, so we'll just have to see whether the tote bag will stay or go.

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Students comment on thrifting trends

BY ALIYA COUILLARD

STAFF WRITER

Thrifting, although it has been around for a while, has been a very popular way of shopping for the past few years, specifically amongst the younger generations. These second-hand stores can contain anything from clothing and accessories to furniture and decor.

What once was just an affordable way of shopping for some, has become more of an enjoyable hobby for the younger generations. Clothing and accessories are what is typically sought after. These individuals can spend hours upon hours sifting through thrift stores finding unique and basic pieces to build their closets.

Students on campus discussed why they personally like to thrift.

“It started out because it was cheap, but as I got older I like to do it because it’s sustainable and you can find more interesting pieces than you can find at just local stores,” junior political science major Sami Jablonski shared. “I also like to do it because a lot of times I go with friends. We’ll go for a couple of hours and it’s just a fun way to spend time because you never know what you are going to find.”

That “never knowing what you are going to find” element of thrifting is a big part of why people like to thrift. Senior fashion merchandising major Alexa Jones described that element as being a treasure hunt.

“It’s really fun finding one-of-a-kind pieces and the search is fun; the hunt is fun,” she commented.

Another big reason why people particularly thrift is the sustainability of it. Because these items are second-hand, you are not contributing to the fast fashion culture by purchasing them. Junior fashion merchandising major Ivona Cracana pointed out a big issue fast fashion brings.

“Textile waste is really big in the fashion industry and it’s all we talk about in my classes. If you’re buying second hand you are not contributing to that,” she pointed out.

Cracana went on to mention capitalism as another reason to shop secondhand.

“A lot of brands out there are not really good brands like you know Balenciaga’s whole scandal. If you

don’t want to contribute to capitalism you can just thrift and you can even thrift basics [so] if you really don’t want to contribute to brands just thrift,” she commented.

Uniqueness is a very common word that lingers around thrifting. It’s a word that perfectly describes what types of pieces you’ll find at a thrift store. Pieces from all different decades that you most likely won’t see anybody else wearing or owning. Cracana gave a personal take on this particular aspect of thrifting.

“I find unique pieces that make me feel more like myself if that makes sense. Thrifting helped me find my inner identity where I’m not like going out and buying outfits I see online and on websites. I’m going in myself and finding pieces that are personal to my style and it makes me more me and that’s what I’ve always liked about thrifting,” she expressed.

In the thrifting community the term “heat” is used to mean a good thrift find. Post students shared their best thrift finds or heat if you will.

“I found a pair of Nike Air 270s that were brand new and they were my size and they were only like 20 bucks,” Jablonski said.

“This bag that I got. It’s like a woven, beige, cross body but the bag itself is shaped like a butterfly and it’s so cute,” Jones commented.

“It’s this leather jacket. It looks like a Bratz [Doll] would wear it. When I thrift I like finding statement pieces and that’s like a statement jacket,” Cracana shared.

Recently, thrifting has come about on online platforms as well. Platforms like Depop and Poshmark allow you to not only buy second-hand but also sell your own items on the site. Students do use these thrifting sites as well.

“I actually just bought a pair of Comme des Garçon Converse on Poshmark and I’ve sold some clothes on Poshmark and Depop too,” Jablonski shared.

Cracana has shopped on Depop, however, has come to a recent issue with it.

“Depop, the overpricing on there is insane. I used to shop there a lot because it used to be cheap and now it’s like why am I finding skirts for 60 bucks when I know you got it for 5 dollars,” she shared.

Reselling is big on online thrifting platforms. People even go thrifting

for the sole purpose of reselling the items they purchased to make a profit. Along with Cracana, Jones finds a problem when people over hike up the prices of items they are reselling.

“Second-hand companies like Thread-Up [are] super affordable and that’s still curated in a way because they go through donations and choose what’s conditioned enough to be put on [the] site. There’s ways that you can do it where you don’t have to sell a 5-dollar skirt for 45- dollars,” she commented.

For Jablonski, the idea of thrifting for the purpose of reselling doesn’t sit right with her.

“I personally don’t go with the goal of reselling and I don’t know how I honestly feel about people that thrift with the sole purpose of reselling. I think you should resell stuff if you don’t use it anymore,” she said.

Regardless, everyone does have the access to thrift and buy second hand. If you want to start thrifting and don’t know where to start, students shared some of their favorite thrift stores.

“Here, there is Crossroads which is a little pricey but they pick through the stuff for you and buffalo exchange is good too. Then there are local ones. There’s a place in Huntington called Island Thrift,” Jablonski said.

Cracana believes the best thrift stores are in the city, but she does have a favorite local store.

“Personally, I always stick with Savers because it’s near me and I have the rewards.”

It’s safe to say that thrifting is a great way to shop sustainably and build your closet. It can be a bit time-consuming, but why not make it a day? Grab some friends, a beverage of your choice, and get to hunting.



“Thrift Store Sign” by pixeljones is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

The One and Only: Andrew Scarpaci

BY JOSEPH FRESCOTT

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



Not many people can say that they have spent five years at one university. Even fewer can say they did so as just an undergraduate student.

Andrew Scarpaci began his time at Long Island University (LIU) well before he enrolled as a student. It all started in the summer prior to his senior year of high school, when the Hicksville native made a decision that would change his life forever.

With the pressure of picking a college around the corner, Scarpaci attended the Summer Honors Institute at LIU, a free week-long program in which high school students are invited to choose and study a topic of interest.

A seemingly minor decision, Scarpaci chose journalism, as he had written columns for his high school newspaper that year.

Little did he know, this decision in 2018 would change his life forever.

"We had one day in the radio station where I met the legendary Dan Cox a month after my 17th birthday. I asked him if they covered school sports and I signed up to intern. I had no idea what to expect. I said I was interested in calling football games for the upcoming fall. I didn't hear anything back for a while, until the day of the first meeting," he said. "There were three guys in a room and that was the first sports department meeting I've ever been to, the first of very many. I interned for the WCWP Sports Department that year and I went on air for the very first time during the first basketball game I ever worked... I knew I wanted to go to LIU. They gave me one of the best scholarships and it didn't feel like a transition coming here because I already had a friend group, I already had an extracurricu-

lar, and I was a tenured member of the radio station... From the very beginning here, I took a leadership role in wanting to get myself involved, and that's how it all started."

Scarpaci committed and enrolled as a sports management major the ensuing fall, continuing to work for the radio station. He also began writing for the student newspaper, *The Pioneer*.

His first year at Post "could not have come at a better time," as LIU underwent a transitional period in 2019. Ditching the green and yellow *Pioneers* colors that had become a staple of everything LIU for nearly six decades, LIU rebranded to become the *Sharks*, donning the baby blue and gold colors that are draped throughout the campus today.

This transition led to a big change in the athletics at LIU as well, with the Brooklyn and Post campuses combining their sports programs and announcing the move to Division 1 in all sports.

This worked out well for Scarpaci, as he was able to see the change firsthand and cover the new programs for both the newspaper and radio station.

It wasn't long before he was thrust into a leadership role, as after just one year of writing for *The Pioneer*, Scarpaci was named sports editor, a position he has held since. In his time writing for the student newspaper, he has written over sixty stories and was at the forefront of the transition from *The Pioneer* to *The Tide*.

With all of this working in his favor, it didn't come without a few bumps along the way.

"My dream was always to call a baseball game. Since I was 15 years old, I've always wanted to call a baseball game and I was supposed to do the opening day baseball game my freshman year. It was supposed to be a Friday game, but they called for rain on Friday. So the game was moved to Thursday. I had a midterm that Thursday, so I couldn't do the game and that Saturday and Sunday I was working," he said. "I was supposed to do the game the following week, and that was when the season got shut down due to COVID. So I had to wait to my sophomore year to do my first baseball game, and it was well worth the wait. I've been the voice of LIU baseball on NEC Front Row for the last two years... My time as the voice of LIU baseball is probably always going to be most memorable for me because that's what I've always wanted."

Scarpaci has continued to work sports broadcasts for LIU Sports Radio and NEC Front Row, calling games for an array of sports at LIU. After working for three years in WCWP's sports department, Scarpaci was named the sports director his junior year, a role he vied for since his time as an intern.

The sports management major credits for-

mer Director of WCWP Dan Cox, who helped him develop both personally and professionally during his time at Post. Cox, who retired this past year, has since been replaced by Peter Bellotti Jr., a former sports director of WCWP and member of the 2007 graduating class. Like Cox, Bellotti Jr. has undertaken a mentorship role for Scarpaci.

"Two months after meeting Pete [Bellotti Jr.], I was able to develop enough of a rapport with him here to get a job at CBS Sports Radio, where he produces. I've been cutting tape for the producers and anchors for the one of the biggest national sports radio stations in the country for a couple of months now. You cannot get any better than that. Audacy is one of the biggest radio companies in the country, and I'm doing tape for one of their biggest sports stations. I didn't expect to have that before I graduated," Scarpaci said. "I also work for BSE Global, which is the company that owns the Brooklyn Nets, the Long Island Nets and the [New York] Liberty. I was working game nights for the G League team. That's an experience I'll take forever because that was my first job in professional sports and I'm hoping I can stay with that company too."

Scarpaci currently works part-time as a game night attendant for BSE Global for Long Island Nets games, as well as a tape operator for CBS Sports Radio and WFAN. But his aspirations for the future don't stop there.

"I would say my number one dream would be to have my own sports media company, but obviously I have to get myself in the industry first. So obviously keeping my job with CBS, I would love to get a full time on-air role eventually, whether it's with the WFAN side or the CBS side ... Calling games would be the dream, but obviously those full time jobs are few and far between. If I can hypothetically get a writer's job with either the New York Post, the New York Times, something with that end so I can keep writing stories. If I can keep my job with the Nets, maybe working game nights or doing something in sales for them. If I can do something in college athletics, that would be a great route. But if I can have multiple part time jobs where I'm doing a little bit of everything that I like, that would be the goal right off the bat," Scarpaci said. "In terms of a big picture, I don't have any plans necessarily for it yet. But if I had my own sports media company that worked games, had its own network, had its own branding, merchandise and equipment, just kind of a sports company that has every sector of sports all in one. So everything from media to business, everything sports in one company."

Scarpaci was selected by the faculty of the college of management as the recipient of the academic excellence in sports management award for this year's graduating sports management class.

Senior Feature: Emma Robinson

BY ALEXANDER MOUSA

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Club founder, newspaper editor, marketing student and hard-worker.

The Tide's Editor-in-Chief Emma Robinson is approaching the end of her four year career at Post, four years of leadership and hard work for the marketing major.

Originally from Melbourne, a medium-sized city on the east coast of sunny Florida, Robinson came to New York to attend Long Island University as an English major in the fall of 2019. She had always wanted to attend a university in New York since she was a child, after visiting the city years ago.

"I always wanted to go to a university in New York since I was 12 years old, which was the first time I ever came to New York... I loved it, but I wasn't sure what exactly I wanted to do in college when I was going to [high] school," she said.

Robinson applied as an English major, in hopes of finding another area of interest that she could either double-major in, or switch her major to. She knew that she wanted to major in a creative field, and pursue a career where she can use her creativity to grow and thrive.

"At first I wanted to be an English major, and LIU had so many different programs that I thought 'this is great.' I can start with English, and then I started a job at The Student Body Collective—then the Boutique—and realized I loved social media marketing."

Robinson was attracted to the school

because she felt that the smaller class size would allow her to create relationships and learn better. She describes her love for "experiential learning," and how that played a factor in her success at Post. Post has small class sizes compared to other major universities, which has helped many students grow meaningful relationships with their professors and peers.

She eventually made the decision to change her major to marketing, and work towards a career in the business world.

Robinson joined The Tide as a staff writer, and feels that this extracurricular has helped her pursue her passion for writing and her marketing career at the same time. She quickly rose to the position of News Editor of The Tide during her sophomore year, and has served as Editor-in-Chief for the entirety of her junior and senior years.

"Working on the Pioneer and creating what is now The Tide has been one of the most amazing experiences for me," she shared. "I love writing and editing stories, and getting to work with the editors for two years has been great. Our team is so talented and hard working."

Robinson won three awards in 2022 from the Press Club of Long Island, including an award for being one of the best college news reporters.

Robinson says that the most valuable thing she has done while in college is, along with fellow classmates, founding RISE, a club on campus that advocates for sexual assault education, prevention and awareness.

RISE holds events on campus dedicated to community building, acceptance and creating safe spaces for students to thrive and feel comfortable on campus. The group donates their earnings from events to various organizations dedicated to sexual assault prevention and resources for domestic violence victims. Their most recent event, Take Back the Night, was held on Monday evening. The event had mental health resources, tabling from different events and a candle-lit march to spread awareness about sexual assault on college campuses. She has served as the president of RISE during its first year on campus.

"I got to see people that I was friends with and people that I knew on campus become leaders and I got to show them what I know about leadership, as well as working together and collaborating, and I got to learn a lot from them. Our main goals are community, advocacy and strength, and I have seen so much more of that [on campus] now," she said.

Robinsons says that she believes RISE

has helped students deal with hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as issues with their mental health during isolation.

"It's so worth it to me, because when I see people talk about it, how happy they are and that's my ultimate goal is to help people in any way I can, and I think that's been one of the best ways I have been able to effectively reach people on campus," she said.

Robinson hopes to be in a creative career after college, where she can utilize the tools she has learned in her marketing classes. She hopes to have a career doing some sort of creative marketing in the business or media worlds.

"I definitely see myself as a creative person, I'm not someone that's analytical, or really a finance person, I see myself more on the creative side of marketing, of communications and of media. I'm trying to be open-minded to the different opportunities," she said.

Robinson feels that her work on the newspaper, as well as other extracurriculars, have given her a broader perspective on her career.

"I think that having experiences outside of the classroom is so essential to really understanding how to do things, and what you want to do with your life. I think without the newspaper, without RISE and without my work experience, I would just have no sense of what I wanted to do, whether it is in marketing or communications, I would feel a little bit lost," she said.

Robinson says that she encourages students currently studying at Post and other schools to experience new things, learn new things and to not be afraid to make mistakes.

"You don't have as much risk as when you have a full time job...When you're 18, 19 or 20 years old, you have time to make mistakes, you have time to learn new things and to try new things and decide if it's right for you or not, and you don't really get that back," she added.

Her advice for students is to "have as much experience as possible to really understand yourself and what you like, as well as immersing yourself in things, and keep pushing yourself to do better."

Robinson will be receiving an academic excellence in marketing award from the Post college of management on May 4 before graduating.

"I am so grateful for all of the great opportunities that I've gotten to pursue during my time here, and I can't wait to continue my career after graduation."

Beloved Oscar-Winning Composer, Ryuichi Sakamoto Passes Away at 71

BY MIKAELA RUSSELL

STAFF WRITER

Japan's trailblazing composer Ryuichi Sakamoto sadly passed away on March 28th after battling rectal cancer. The unfortunate news came when a post was made on his Instagram account, with no further details besides the date of his passing.

Back in 2021, Sakamoto publicized his diagnosis of rectal cancer and announced he was receiving treatment.

Ryuichi Sakamoto was born in Tokyo on January 17, 1952. His father, Kazuki Sakamoto, was a prominent literary editor, while his mother, Keiko (Shimomura) Sakamoto, designed headwear for women.

He began piano lessons at the age of 6 and began composing shortly thereafter. Early influences included Bach and Debussy, whom he once described as "the door to all 20th-century music," and he encountered modern jazz as a teenager when he fell in with a group of rebellious hipsters.

Sakamoto shared his creative process and philosophy for music.

"My concept when making music is that there is no border between music and noise," Sakamoto said in a past interview with the Guardian.

Mr. Sakamoto composed music that was melodic, evocative, and profoundly attuned to the sounds around him. He was poised in futuristic techno, orchestral works, video game music, and intimate piano solos.

Before his greatest achievements, Mr. Sakamoto was drawn to modern art, particularly Cage's avant-garde compositions. At Tokyo University of the Arts, he studied composition and ethnomusicology before beginning to experiment with synthesizers and perform in the local musical scene.

1978 marked the publication of Mr. Sakamoto's debut solo album, "Thousand Knives," a trippy amalgam that begins with the musician reciting a poem by Mao through a vocoder, followed by a reggae beat and a series of Herbie Hancock-inspired improvisations. The bassist Haruomi Hosono invited him and the drummer Yukihiro Takahashi to establish the Yellow Magic Orchestra trio that year.

Using synthesizers and sequencers to create hits like "Computer Game" while also parodying Western conceptions of Japanese music, the band's 1978 self-titled album was a massive success and influenced a variety of electronic music genres, from synth-pop to techno. In 1984, the group disbanded in part due to Mr. Sakamoto's desire to pursue solo activity.

Mr. Sakamoto was also gaining widespread recognition in the early 1980s when "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" director Nagisa Oshima asked him to co-star alongside David Bowie in the 1983 film about a Japanese POW camp. Mr. Sakamoto,

who had no acting experience, agreed on the condition that he could also compose the film's score.

The synth-heavy title track of the film remained one of Mr. Sakamoto's most well-known works. He adapted it frequently, including for "Forbidden Colors," a vocal version featuring the singer David Sylvian, as well as piano renditions and expansive orchestral arrangements.

A few years later, after the 2011 nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, Mr. Sakamoto became an activist in Japan's anti-nuclear movement. In 2012, he organized a No Nukes concert featuring a reunited Yellow Magic Orchestra and Kraftwerk, one of Yellow Magic's major influences.

The day before the concert, he spoke at a demonstration in front of the residence of the prime minister of Japan.

"I come here as a citizen," he declared. "It is essential that we all do what we can and speak up."

In 2014, Mr. Sakamoto was diagnosed with throat cancer. During his treatment, he stopped working, with the exception of composing music for Alejandro G. Iñárritu's film "The Revenant." Mr. Sakamoto collaborated with Carsten Nicolai, who performs under the name Alva Noto, to create a widely acclaimed score of luminous foreboding.

A handful of students were aware of Sakamoto's achievements and were also influenced by his composing style.

One student, junior digital game design major Josiah Alvarez, shared his experiences with Sakamoto's music in video games. Specifically "Dawn of Mana", which Sakamoto scored.

"In high school, especially during the pandemic, I played a lot of video games, specifically 'Dawn of Mana'. I was able to recognize his sound, it's a distinct memory of mine actually, his piano melodies are so calming, almost lullaby-like, it would put me in this zen headspace and would distract me from the madness of the world, it would have me forget about all my missing assignments, drama in my family life, everything. I love video games but staring at a screen for hours on end, my brain needs to be mellowed out, and his music definitely did that for me. I'm grateful for his work and his influence in the video game industry," he said.

Another student, sophomore music technology major, Julian Pastelli also shared his past encounters with Sakamoto's music and the effect it had on his life and future career in music.

"Being in a music major, I listen to a lot of elements in sound, and there was nothing more enjoyable than decompressing a stressful day of school than listening to Sakamoto's catalog. Learning about his passing a few weeks ago was heartbreaking. I remember watching "Call Me By Your Name" for the first time with friends and after watching and listening, I knew I could hear his work, his sound, and after the credits rolled down the screen, I saw his name and I was ecstatic. I added his

tracks from the movie to my library and I swear I still listen to it. Since I was in 8th grade orchestra I would routinely listen to his music. I feel like a lot of people would be surprised to know how many songs he's credited for in movies, he is the blueprint to modern jazz and his legacy will live on in music forever," he shared.

After running into another sophomore, music major, Kaliegh Rhodes, she was asked her opinion on if certain individuals could listen and interpret Mr. Sakamoto's music, she said

Sophomore music major Kaliegh Rhodes shared her opinion on Sakamoto's music style in comparison to more popular artists.

It depends on how you interpret his sound, most people in our generation are influenced by the biggest artists like Taylor Swift, SZA, or Billie Eilish, but people who are truly interested in exploring and evolving their interest in music genres might come across his sound, some people might think his style is a little boring and drowsy, while some people like myself can point out how captivating and expressive his melodies are. It's definitely not for everyone but for those who like to sit down and reflect on life will find him soothing. It's not like he's the first artist that your Spotify or Apple Music recommends or maybe he is, he's definitely underrated and if you're looking for something to listen to after a long day of work or class, don't be shy to try and listen," she shared.

Lastly, junior digital arts and design major, Angela Yen shared her thoughts on Sakamoto's impact on the rising Asian/Asian American generation who also have an ear for classical music and her personal connection to his music.

"Not to be stereotypical, but any Asian who took orchestra or did NYSSMA in high school will tell you they've heard his work or played a rendition of his work. For myself, I played the piano for my solo NYSSMA performance, and played Sakamoto's '20220302' and 'Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence' pieces. Both were pretty lengthy pieces that I rehearsed for months. I can still play them, maybe with my eyes closed even...I remember being brought to tears just by how powerful and moving they were. Though I'm not Japanese, it made me proud to be Asian. To be able to bring your sound across the world and influence so many young artists to perform your piece and be confident to do so, it's impressive, it's innovative. So many kids at my family's local church love to play some of his music after service, his music and legacy will live on forever and I know so many artists in the future will surely sample his sound and incorporate it into their own," she shared

It's evident that Ryuichi Sakamoto's work has left an indent in the music world, as well as as an activist and environmentalist. One of the most memorable quotes he has left with this world is short but impactful.

"Art is long. Life is short," he said.

Don't smoke and drive: the dangers of marijuana and driving

BY JOSEPH FRESCOTT

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



"LEGAL Colorado Marijuana Grow" by Brett Levin Photography

Marijuana has been at the forefront of conversation in the U.S. for the last decade, as Colorado and Washington became the first to legalize the drug for recreational use in 2012.

With many states following suit, New York became the 15th state to do so in 2021 and is seen by many as one of the major contributors to the industry's already \$13.2 billion market in the U.S. alone.

The widespread legalization and acceptance of the drug have not come without their fair share of concerns, however, as issues such as increases in underage use and other societal effects have been reported.

Although these matters are essential, initial reports from states who have legalized cannabis indicate another unforeseen impact that could affect not only the 16 percent of Americans that smoke marijuana but the entire country.

It is no secret that driving while impaired remains a significant issue in the U.S., as despite the increase in rideshare companies such as UBER, driving while under the influence (DUI) accounts for 35 percent of all fatal motor vehicle accidents across the country.

According to the Department of Transportation, there was a 10.5 percent increase in accident-related deaths in 2021 compared to the previous year, with an estimated 42,915 people falling victim.

With deaths on the rise, the initial findings regarding the recreational use of marijuana and its effects on crash rates indicate that the drug's recreational legalization has led to increased crash rates that result in injury and death.

Researchers at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety concluded in their 2022 study that the "legalization

of the recreational use of marijuana was associated with a 6.5 percent increase in injury crash rates and a 2.3 percent increase in fatal crash rates."

It is statistics like these that make individuals like Ellen Willmott hesitant about the legalization of cannabis.

"Hearing about the change in the laws is that I'm agnostic in some ways, and not that I think that you should never be impaired and it shouldn't be just marijuana. I mean, you shouldn't be impaired on prescription drugs, You shouldn't be impaired on alcohol," the former interim chief executive officer (CEO) for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) said. "You should not get behind the wheel of what is essentially a two-ton killing machine in the wrong hands. Because if you have any kind of impairment that slows your reaction times, that skews perspectives, that create any kind of impediment for you to be a responsible user of the roads or waterways."

Ellen Willmott served as the interim CEO for two years until January 2023, when she took another position as general counsel for Doctors Without Borders.

During her time leading the organization, she helped MADD make tremendous strides in their fight against drinking and driving, with their most notable being their influence on President Biden's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed on Nov. 15, 2021.

With billions allocated to public transit, renewable energy, and more, the bill included \$17 billion for road safety, with a mandate that MADD had been campaigning for years. This mandate was a requirement for all automakers to install an anti-drunk driving system for all new cars by 2026, marking a tremendous milestone for the organization.

Willmott clarifies the purpose of this mandate.

"The goal is to detect impairment to ensure that the driver is brought safely to the side of the road and does not create or cause injuries or deaths by impaired driving mistakes or accidents," she said. "Actually, we don't use the word accidents at MADD, use the word crash. Because alcohol, at least it's a decision to drink and drive. It's not an accident. If you drink, don't drive."

There are two systems that are currently being experimented with when it comes to detecting impaired driving. The first, which is required by all new

cars in the European Union starting this July, is a driving monitoring and assistance system (DMAS) which uses cameras to monitor an individual's driving, having the capacity to emergency brake if needed. The other, which is still being assessed, would test a driver's blood alcohol content before they are allowed to start their vehicle.

While technology such as the DMAS is still being developed, as MADD states in their 2019 Cannabis Report, "law enforcement officers are our best allies in the effort to reduce drugged driving and are the heroes who make our roads safe."

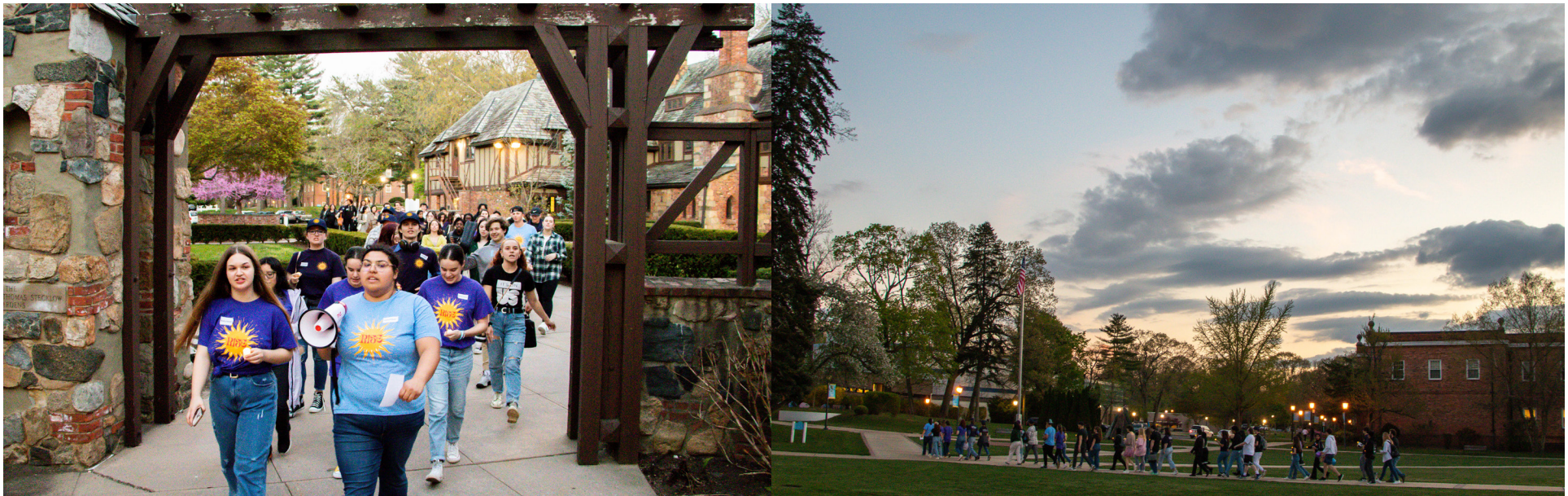
The legalization of marijuana has only complicated things further for law enforcement, as there are currently no tests to determine when a person last smoked, and how impaired the individual is.

This only makes the need for systems such as DMAS even more apparent, as these technologies have the capability to detect the common effects that marijuana has on drivers. According to the CDC, driving under the influence of marijuana leads to "slower reaction times, impaired coordination, and distorted perception," all of which are detrimental to one's ability to operate a motor vehicle effectively.

With that being said, there are still many questions regarding marijuana, its effect on driving, and how it can be enforced. In the meantime, Willmott thinks people need to take personal responsibility.

"I think that ensuring that parents are having the conversations that they need to have, open and honest conversations with their kids, I think that's really important. I think that creating a culture of and I'm not a prohibitionist in any way, shape, or form, but creating a culture where you take personal responsibility so that if I choose on a Friday night to go out to dinner with my friends and have a glass of wine at dinner, I Uber home. It doesn't matter if I have one drink or twenty," she said. "I think working and partnering with the alcohol industry to ensure that appropriate messaging about alcohol, maybe we do the same with the cannabis industry to ensure that the marketing of products comes with a reminder that it's not drinking responsibly or smoking responsibly. It is if you smoke [or drink], don't get behind the wheel of a car."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICH SIRIO
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SHARKS: our mascot or our killer?

BY JENNA MELMAN

STAFF WRITER



"Shark" by steve.garner32

The shark is LIU's cuddly, beloved mascot. However, new developments say that sharks may be more of a threat to Long Island's safety than we might have suspected.

In the past century, New York State has had only 12 unprovoked shark bites on record. Now, in 2022, there were eight unprovoked shark bites reported.

Regional Director for the New York State Park System on Long Island George Gorman referred to the recent shark interactions as "extraordinarily unusual." Summer is coming up, and some may want to reschedule beach plans.

To hone in on our Long Island's shark developments, there were five shark bites in the course of two months in the summer of 2022, in June and July. There were six shark attacks off beaches on Long Island three weeks in July, so there had to be increasing patrols across beaches over the Fourth of July weekend. These included boats, helicopters and surveillance/research drones that were put in place on July 1, when these attacks were recognized as a serious threat by Nassau County executive Bruce Blakeman.

There was a drop in shark interactions on beaches worldwide in 2020, partly because of COVID-19 restrictions, and because the number of sharks in the world's oceans has decreased. So, why do we now have this upsurge of active shark presence in Long Island?

Though the number of sharks in the world's oceans globally have decreased, conservation efforts have led to

a rebound in shark populations in the northeastern U.S, such as New England, in which there has been a large increase in the seal population that has led to a surge of hungry great white sharks. There have been a number of kills on Cape Cod and Maine beach-goers by sharks in recent years.

The most significant reason for the Long Island shark activity is because baby sand tiger sharks have taken up residence in the Great South Bay between Long Island and Fire Island. The sharks use the sheltered bay as a nursery, and the majority of Long Island bites are likely from sand tiger sharks hunting bait fish in the surf zone. Interestingly enough, both climate change and conservation efforts are the culprit of this scenario.

Some believe that climate change is a harmful factor in Long Island's increased shark activity because warm waters draw in sea creatures. As greenhouse gasses trap more energy from the sun, the oceans are absorbing more heat, resulting in an increase in sea surface temperatures and rising sea levels. The results of this phenomenon can be seen, for example, with manatees who swim right up to the beach in Puerto Rico, and with baby tiger sharks here in Long Island.

Experts say sharks are not intentionally targeting people, they are simply chasing the bunker fish near beaches.

"When there's a food source close to shore, they'll come close to shore to feed on that," Executive Director of The South Fork Natural History Museum Frank Quevedo said in a statement. "If people are in the water, they may interfere with or get in the way of shark feeding."

"Bunker fish populations are thriving due to conservation efforts. Recent shark bites are likely mistakes," according to Gorman. "The juvenile sand tigers will follow the fish, which in some cases leads to an uptick in encounters with people."

Even if a shark were to attack a human, it's usually because they mistook the human for a fish, and they let go immediately.

"We're the animals with the brains, they're the ones with the teeth, and we're in their house, so it's incumbent upon us to adjust our behavioral patterns and not to expect the animals, be they sharks, jellyfish or whatever, to adjust theirs," Director of the Florida Program for Shark Research George

Burgess said in a statement.

Francesco Ferretti said that if people learn to avoid being near shark food during feeding times, we become far less likely to become the food. Sharks do sometimes grab humans by mistake, and other times a bite may protect a shark's space, like how dogs bark at intruders if they're feeling territorial.

Despite the rise in shark bites in Long Island, the yearly average of unprovoked shark bites on humans globally has been 70, resulting in about five deaths. These worldwide numbers are small given the millions of humans that enter the water, and can be a comfort to Long Islanders during these treacherous times. Experts say that you have a better chance of dying from a bee sting, a dog or snake bite or lightning than from a shark bite. If you do come into contact with a shark, there are precautions you can take.

When sharks see bright colors, they think they've spotted a fish, so keep that in mind when choosing a bathing suit. They are also stimulated when they see people moving around excessively, and simply giving off the scent of an animal's sweat, spit or blood essence. They are attracted to that, being carnivores after all. Make sure to remove reflective jewelry and avoid areas where people are fishing, just to be safe. It is also a good idea to be with a group, as that discourages shark contact.

If a shark does get near you, maintain eye contact with it, slowly move away and if possible, exit the water. If the shark tries to bite you, hit it in the eyes and gills, which are sensitive areas that can be hurt regardless of personal strength. Hit the shark on the snout and push away. Keep in mind water-resistance weakens your punch.

To put it in perspective, humans kill an average of 100 million sharks across the world annually. Sharks are important predators in the marine world, with a reputation as bloodthirsty killing machines. But sharks are being snubbed. Sharks are not unique in consuming animals. For example, humans are predators, eating cattle, pigs, chickens, fish and other creatures. We may be the real killers to be frightened of. As apex (top) and meso (mid-level) predators, sharks limit the populations of the animals they eat. This maintains the balance of nature. To maintain your spot on the top of the food chain, be careful on Long Island beaches this summer.



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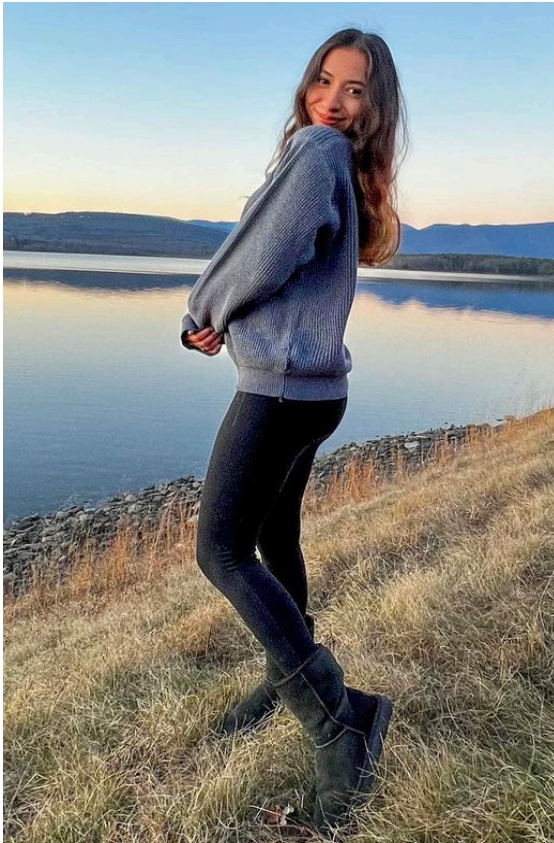
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Senior Feature: Nicole Sanchez

BY ALEXANDER MOUSA

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



One young woman, two major changes and four years of college experience.

Like many students, New York City native Nicole Sanchez is wrapping up her time at Post and preparing for her future.

Sanchez is graduating with a degree in communications, with a minor in public relations. However, she came to college on a very different path than she ended up on, going through two major changes before finding something she was truly passionate about.

"I applied to LIU as a nursing major, and then I didn't like science, so then I switched to education. I actually really liked education and I wanted to do it," she said.

Sanchez switched her major from education to communications after realizing that it was a financially sound decision.

"All my education friends are scared that they are not going to make ends meet and have the luxury life that they want, so I was like 'Ok. I want to switch to something else,'" she added.

She browsed the over 40 undergraduate majors that LIU offered, trying to find something that

would fit with her creative, lively personality. Sanchez has a love for writing, and has been an avid fan of the entertainment industry for years. She decided that she wanted to pursue a degree in something that could fuse together her love for entertainment and her passion for writing.

"I always knew that I liked to write, and I love anything about the entertainment industry, so I decided to do communications. I really like communications because like, it's everything. It's not just like the other majors. We get to learn about TV and journalism, and it was just so much fun and I really liked it," she said.

Sanchez is currently a staff writer for The Tide, and has been writing for the paper over the past two years. In addition to writing for the paper, she is a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi, a campus sorority. She served as public relations chair for the sorority, managing social media accounts and the image of the organization.

"I feel like newspaper really was a valuable thing for me because I was able to publish my writing, do interviewing and put all the stories that I wrote on my personal website. So all the stories will be there and that's the first thing that people will look at when I apply for jobs, so that's the most valuable thing. I wish I joined the paper earlier, but I'm glad I found it," she said.

She plans to pursue a career in public relations, as that has been much of the focus of her studies in college. She loves public relations as well as the entertainment industry, and has a goal set for herself to move to arguably the best place to fuse those two passions into a career. Sanchez feels that her communications degree will give her many options within the media industry, as the degree is known to be broad and versatile. She has done a great deal of work in video production, editing and social media.

"I want to move to California, that's my biggest thing. I want to go there for at least a year and see how the world is on that side of the country. Even with writing, I'll be a writer. I just want to do some-

thing that's within my major. I love communications so I feel like I can do anything," she added.

Similarly to many students today, the COVID pandemic affected her college experience. Sanchez spoke about how her first two years were very different from her last two years, as there was not much to do on campus. She joined the newspaper and her sorority in junior year, and feels that that has given her an opportunity to be involved on campus.

"I just started to do newspaper and joined the sorority, so I feel like I got the best of both worlds of commuter life, but also being a commuter and being involved on campus," she said.

Nicole's advice to students is simple: get involved on campus.

"The best advice I would give is 'get involved,' that's the biggest thing, especially at a commuter school, it's so hard to make friends. Joining clubs and sororities is such a huge thing that can help," she said.



WWE and UFC merger

BY MIKAELA RUSSELL

STAFF WRITER



Courtesy of Andrius Petrucenia

Endeavor, UFC's Parent Company, announces that the WWE and UFC will combine into one public trading company, ending a decades-long family-owned business empire. Endeavor Group, founded by Ari Emanuel, has now purchased World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and plans to spin out a new publicly traded business that merges WWE and UFC. The McMahon family has owned and operated WWE for decades, and the agreement values the company at \$9.3 billion, while the UFC, which is owned by Endeavor, is valued at \$12.1 billion. Endeavor Group Holdings will hold a 51% controlling interest in the new company once the deal is complete. While existing WWE shareholders will hold a 49% stake in the new company.

Ari Emanuel, the chief executive officer of Endeavor, will lead the new, unnamed enterprise. WWE executive chairman Vince McMahon will operate in the same capacity at the new company. Dana White will continue to serve as president of UFC, while Nick Khan will lead WWE. All three chairholders had provided their thoughts on the new business venture, with Dana White stating his appreciation of Emmanuel's effort in getting it done. "I like the [WWE/Endeavor] deal, I'm very supportive of it. I knew that they were working on it a long time ago, and Ari is super respectful like that," he said in an interview with Scott Wapner of CNBC. "Ari wanted to make sure that everybody was good with this before we move forward with it, and I think that Ari is gonna bring a lot of value. It doesn't change anything over here."

In a separate interview with LightShed Live, Nick Khan voiced his reasoning for why now was the perfect time to go through with this process. "Vince and I had many conversa-

tions about adding the things that Endeavor adds. Could we do them on our own? Maybe, but it would take 10 years. But in 10 years, Vince would be 87, and Endeavor would have 10 years more experience if we sold now. The cards lined up at this moment. It was a fulsome process with multiple offers, but we got the right offer, at the right time, with the right partner." Vince McMahon confidently expressed the combined value of this partnership in his statement. "Together, we will be a \$21+ billion live sports and entertainment powerhouse with a collective fanbase of more than a billion people and an exciting growth opportunity," he said.

"The new company will seek to maximize the value of its combined media rights, increase sponsorship monetization, develop new forms of content, and pursue additional strategic mergers and acquisitions to further strengthen their brands," McMahon added. The agreement between Endeavor and WWE propels WWE into a new era after decades as a family-run business. In 1982, McMahon purchased Capitol Wrestling from his father and expanded the regional wrestling business to a national audience with Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan, and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. In 1985, the company that later became World Wrestling Federation and World Wrestling Entertainment hosted the first WrestleMania. In the past, it was speculated that Endeavor, Disney, Fox, Comcast, Amazon, and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia might be interested in purchasing WWE. The WWE was viewed as an attractive acquisition target by industry experts due to its global reach and devoted fanbase, which includes people of all ages and income levels.

But what do the beloved fans of the UFC and WWE truly think of this merger? Junior economics major, Isaiah Duvall, expressed his thoughts. "I'm a huge fan of the UFC, my dad got tickets for us to see UFC 200 back in 2016 for my birthday, and that's when I truly fell in love with the combat sport, but I am aware of the merge, and I have mixed feelings about it," he said. Duvall feels these corporations operate for entirely different markets and fanbases. "I can't say I'm a fan of the WWE, it's too artificial for me. They coordinate who wins and who loses in those matches, they have celebrities entering the ring, which is a bit odd, and it doesn't seem fitting for sports entertainment. I feel only trained wrestlers should be introduced, while the UFC, it's raw, it's more intense and there is no previous chosen winner. Whoever gets KO'd, loses the fight, and they're trained combat fighters," he said. "That's how it should be in sports entertainment. I don't think true combat fans are really interested to see Bad Bunny, a singer, jumping off ropes. If

they wanted to see him, they would buy tickets to his concert."

Sophomore business major, Chris Dasantis, shared his thoughts about where he expects both brands to go. "As a kid, I loved the WWE, but I grew out of it after learning that style of fighting is planned, but then I grew more into Boxing and the UFC because of its unpredictable fighting style. I think this merge is just a way for the CEO's to make more money," he said. I think they'll keep things the way they are, I think UFC fans would be shocked if they started predicting winners before their fights, and it would be bad for business, but it would be interesting to see the WWE changing their ways of predicting fights." Sophomore business major, Casey Lovett, shared his thoughts as well, projecting his desire to see both groups of fighters tackle the idea of competing at each stage. "It's an interesting discussion made by both companies. There's a lot of potential with fighters having an opportunity to perform in a different ring. I know that Logan Paul is new to the WWE, and it would be interesting to see if he would stay just in WWE or switch stages and be in [the] octagon. He would obviously have to train for MMA, but I'd watch it. I would be entertained by the idea to switch fighters around," he said.

Lovett speaks on the possibility of having Dana White commentate a WWE match. "I highly doubt it, he never was in favor of the WWE, but when money is involved, anything is possible. It would have to be like Jon Jones making his WWE debut or McGregor, then I feel like he would be interested in being involved," he said. Senior sports management major Kaden Farley, a UFC fan, believes this merger will do big things for the sports and entertainment industries. "Nothing is set in stone, but this move will do a lot for sports entertainment. I think the merge will bring new opportunities to allow fighters to switch off different stages, and bring more viewers in, as the fights will bring a new type of hype to it, introducing new faces to either the WWE or UFC. I definitely feel as new details unfold, fans will be interested to tune into either one depending on how more exciting one fight is than the other," he said. "It's all about who will be on the cards now that Endeavors have taken most of the reign. I'm staying optimistic, something like this has never happened in sports entertainment, so it's all new to me, but also exciting."

In the upcoming months, more details will emerge. For now, WWE and UFC fans continue to wonder what the future holds for sports entertainment and if any other shocking surprises will be announced because of the merger.

Jon Rahm takes home Masters win after thrilling tournament in Augusta

BY BRADY CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER



Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Masters has always been the pinnacle of the golfing season since its inception in 1934. With this year's tournament came a lot of different storylines, including many players that have defected to the new LIV Golf Tour returning to this Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) event.

Players such as Brooks Koepka, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson and Patrick Reed were invited to play in this year's Masters event.

Broadcasting alumni Ryan Boettcher was not surprised with the strong play or reception of the LIV golfers.

"I think that the LIV golfers themselves were going to be publicly shamed by people. The main issue with LIV is that players sold out to take more money with LIV Golf. Now with them returning for The Masters, which is the biggest tournament of the year, I would not have been surprised if they won, but I think that they would have been hated if they did," he said.

Ray Garvey, a pro shop associate at the Pine Hollow Country Club in East Norwich, agreed with this sentiment.

"I felt like the LIV golfers were going to make an impact on the Masters, and I figured that a couple of them would contend for the title, which did end up happening," he said.

The weather did not do the golfers

any favors as the rain caused play to be suspended on both Friday and Saturday, April 7-8, meaning they had to make up holes the next day. Garvey believes that the weather definitely hurt the player's game.

"Some golfers like to get into a routine and like things a certain way," he said. "So once the delay happened, it threw some of them off."

One particular golfer that was heavily affected by the weather was Tiger Woods. Woods, a five-time Masters champion at 47 years old, has had his career interrupted several times due to injury. This time he re-aggravated his plantar fasciitis.

Despite all of these injuries, Boettcher thinks that Woods still has some golf left in him.

"I think he will still play in the majors like he said he would. I'm going to say about five more years. Potentially when his son becomes a professional, I think that is when he will retire completely and pass it off to him," he said. "That would be fun to watch."

While the veterans continued to dominate on the course, a young amateur by the name of Sam Bennett shook up the tournament when the 23-year-old had a great start before dropping a little in the leaderboard in the final days, finishing tied for 16th at -2.

Although he dropped off a little at the end, Bennett opened a lot of eyes with his performance two years after losing his father to Alzheimer's.

"I love the story with his father and his pursuit of becoming a golfer, but I do not really see him being a star or beating out these guys that are in LIV or the PGA. Never say never, but I don't see it happening. He had a great run on the first day or two though," Boettcher said.

One of the LIV golfers that caught the eye of many was Phil Mickelson, who has won the Masters three times. Against all odds, the 52-year-old had an incredible final round to come from behind and finish tied for second with Koepka.

Garvey believes that Mickelson proved that he still has some good golf left in him.

"Phil is getting up there in years, and I think he has been lucky with no major injuries, and he isn't getting any younger. I believe he can play at a high level for three to five more years," he said.

Koepka, who had a four-stroke lead on Jon Rahm heading into the final day

of play, seemed to be in a good spot. However, a string of bad holes cost him the victory, and he ended up losing by four strokes.

"I'm not worried about Koepka at all," said Garvey. "Brooks is one of the better majors players we've ever seen. He had an off day, and Jon Rahm deserved it."

Jon Rahm, the 28-year-old from Spain, had only one major victory, the 2021 U.S. Open. Rahm has always been in the mix in a lot of tournaments, but previously the victories had eluded him. He finished tied for fifth in the 2021 Masters and fourth in the 2018 Masters, the closest he came to a green jacket before this year.

Boettcher believes that this win will help Rahm continue to be a force in the PGA for years to come.

"I think that he is going to have a strong run for the next five years. He has proven that he can do basically everything at a top-tier level. He came back and played a consistent game," he said. "He capitalized when Koepka failed, and he has shown that he is by far the best golfer in the world right now, and I don't see anything that can change it."



Courtesy of Erick W. Rasco/Sports Illustrated

Mets and Yankees gear up for 2023 MLB season

BY BRADY CAMPBELL

STAFF WRITER

Major League Baseball (MLB) has been trying for years to find a way to make the game more enjoyable for both the hardcore and the average fan. With constant discussion and little action for many years, it seems the league has finally hit its stride.

The first rule change came in 2020 and implemented a “ghost runner” on second base in extra innings to get a result to the games quicker. Two years later, the National League would finally adopt the Designated Hitter so the pitchers would not have to bat, something that the American League has been doing since 1973.

However, this season has changed the speed of the game by using a pitch clock to make the pace quicker. Both pitchers and batters now have to move faster, otherwise they will be given an automatic strike or ball respectively. Pickoff attempts and mound visits have also been heavily limited.

The bases have also expanded by three inches to reduce injuries and increase steal attempts. The defensive shifts have been banned, with a new requirement that you must have two infielders on each side of second base, and every infielder must be touching the infield dirt. While the rules have divided many baseball fans, they seemingly have gotten a positive reaction overall.

Broadcasting alumni Ryan Boettcher believes that the new rules have made the game more exciting.

“Steals are up, and there are more hits happening,” he said. “Even with all of these increases in pace, the game just flies by now.”

One major discussion has been to replace umpires with robots to get more accurate calls.

“If they start touching more rules like maybe robot umps, things could get bad, and the game will not feel the

same,” Boettcher said.

As for the New York Mets and New York Yankees, both teams are once again looking to find the magic that has eluded them for about a decade.

The Mets have not won a World Series since 1986 and have only made the playoffs a few times since. After being three wins away from a championship in 2015, the team struggled to make any significant playoff runs, leading to current owner Steve Cohen going on a spending spree over the last couple of seasons since taking over to make the team a contender.

Junior broadcasting major Brendan Kaufman does not see much changing for the Mets in the near future.

“I think that the Mets are just eternally doomed for mediocrity. They got a new owner, but it does not seem to be changing much of the fate of their franchise. They spend as much money as they want, but they just can’t win,” he said.

After losing multiple-time Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom and starter Taijuan Walker in free agency, the Mets signed another multiple-time Cy Young winner Justin Verlander and Japanese superstar Kodai Senga.

The Mets also have top prospects Brett Baty, Francisco Alvarez and Mark Vientos barely seeing any playing time in the MLB. Boettcher believes that the time has come for the youngsters to play a larger role.

“Brett Baty has thrived in both spring training and Triple-A to the point where he undeniably has a higher upside than Eduardo Escobar. Alvarez should get playing time due to the injury to Narvaez, but Vientos could end up just being a trade piece for this team,” he said.

The Yankees’ last world championship was in 2009, and what was once a franchise known for fielding championship teams has not made it back to the fall classic since. They have constantly made it to the playoffs, only to come up short every time.

The Yankees may have found their future shortstop in Anthony Volpe, who is finally getting a chance with the big club this season. At just 21 years old, there are still a lot of questions surrounding Volpe.

“I don’t think that he is going to be the next Derek Jeter, but if he’s good, then they should give him a chance to prove himself,” Kaufman said.

Boettcher agrees with this sentiment.

“Volpe can definitely be the answer at shortstop for the Yankees,” he said. “He has the talent, I’m just worried about how he can handle the New York media and fanbase.”

With two starting pitchers in Carlos Rodon and Luis Severino out with injuries, as well as outfielder Harrison Bader, the Yankees are missing some key players at important positions. Meanwhile, the Mets lost All-Star closer Edwin Diaz for the season after his injury in the World Baseball Classic and starting pitcher Jose Quintana for the first half of the campaign.

Despite all of the injuries and slow starts for some players, neither Kaufman nor Boettcher are worried for either New York team.

“It’s the beginning of the season,” Kaufman said. “The Washington Nationals started 19-31 in 2019 and won the World Series. The Braves struggled early on in 2021 and won it all, as did the Phillies, who won the National League pennant last year. It is a 162-game season, so there is no reason to panic yet.”

Boettcher knows not to make any judgments too early based on the long and grueling season.

“I’m not worried for either New York team as the season has just started, and we’re so young into it all. I’ve seen the Mets blow countless 10 or more game leads to know that it is still early,” he said.

LIU Tennis wraps up strong season’s

BY JENNA MELMAN

STAFF WRITER

The LIU men’s and women’s tennis teams competed at the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship this past weekend from Friday-Sunday, April 14-16, with the women’s team capturing the NEC Title, sweeping both St. Francis Brooklyn and Sacred Heart four sets to none.

After this tournament, the women’s team sits at 12-10 overall, 6-1 at home, and finishes the conference schedule at a perfect 6-0 in the NEC. The men’s team closes out their season at 8-14 overall after beating Wagner College in the semifinals four sets to none, but fell to the #1 Seed St. Francis Brooklyn four sets to two in the finals.

Jan Griga and Pavlos Stephanides coach both teams. This is the men’s second season, and Griga is very proud of where this team has gotten. After winning six matches in a row this season and making it all the way to the NEC Championship round, Griga speaks on the team’s growth.

“We kept working at it, and we ended up getting some traction. We ended up salvaging the season at the end, we turned it around,” he said.

Stephanides spoke on the competitiveness and consistent success of the women’s team.

“The players we brought in are all tournament players, we recruited some players who have experience at

the highest junior level. We’re also bringing transfers from other universities. We have a lot of experienced grad students and international students, a lot of experience on the roster this season”, he said.

Griga believes these groups have incredible teamwork and work really well together.

“The players have become a real family. Half of them have a house together off campus, and a lot of them are international from different countries. We have a couple from France, the rest from all different continents. Despite their differences, they’ve all found a way to come together and be very close”, he said. “They share dinners, some with the women’s team, and the men’s and women’s teams go to each others’ games to show support.”

Griga adds that this cooperation and team chemistry has led to immense success on the court.

“We’re stronger if we’re a family, a cohesive team. We encourage them to take care of each other. We’ve been able to foster that culture through the years, and they’re all friends,” he said. “Winning brings the teams together the most. Having a good season and winning tournaments and matches and on trips, singing in the van, and everyone’s in a good mood, that’s the best, there’s no replacement for that.”

While there is no replacement for winning, the teams

always have an amazing time in Florida for their trip over spring break, according to Stephanides.

“The teams AirBnB a house in Florida every year for some intensive bonding. Players cook, play games, go to the beach and everyone’s in a good mood having a good time,” he said.

Stephanides believes Tennis is an amazing sport that anyone can take part of, no matter what level.

“Stick with it. It can be challenging at first because it’s a very technically demanding sport, and it really takes some years before you feel you can hit the ball well and be consistent, but it is a really beautiful sport once you do, and my advice is to not give it up and keep going,” he said. “It’s a sport you can play forever, until you’re in your 90s. The key is to keep playing consistently so you can get traction and improve and play forever.”

Griga wants all his players to make the most of their experiences as a member of LIU Tennis.

“We try to make sure that our players are happy. The big thing for us is we try to foster character and good relationships and give them a good experience that makes them better people coming out of this program,” he said. “Not just LIU’s academic side but the athletic side they can use in their next steps. Most of them might not go pro, but they’ll hopefully use some things they learned here.”

Game Results	Equestrian team looks forward to Nationals following incredible season		Upcoming Schedule	
<p>Baseball Tuesday, April 18 vs Sienna Loss 2-8</p> <p>Softball Friday-Saturday, April 14-15 at Stonehill College 3 wins, 0 Losses</p> <p>Mens Lacrosse Saturday, April 15 vs Marist Loss 10-16</p> <p>Womens Lacrosse Wednesday, April 12 vs Stonehill Loss 11-15</p> <p>Men’s Tennis Saturday, April 15 at #1 St.Francis Brooklyn in NEC Tournament Loss 2-4</p> <p>Women’s Tennis Sunday, April 16 vs #2 Sacred Heart in NEC Tournament Win 4-0</p> <p>Women’s Waterpolo Saturday, April 15 vs VMI Win 21-5</p> <p>Men’s Volleyball Wednesday, April 19 vs #6 Merrimack in NEC Semi-Finals Win 3-1</p> <p>Men’s Golf Monday-Tuesday April 17-18 at The Shark Invitational 3rd of 9</p> <p>Equestrian Saturday, April 8 at Zone Finals 2nd Place</p>	<p>BY AMISHA TEMAL <small>STAFF WRITER</small></p> <p>The Equestrian team will progress to Nationals on May 8 to round out their season. On April 8, the team scored second place at the Zone 2 finals in Saratoga Springs, NY.</p> <p>Athletes Kendra Moore, Tatum Cawley, Kathryn Gargiulo, Sophia Mirando, Julia Bonvino, and Anna Perlow competed and represented the team. In addition, Nicole Kravetz, Sarah Stayton, Sophia Mirando, Juliana Linger, Peyton Lafrenz, Sam Koeppel, and Bianca Tornecrantz rode. All individual riders received ribbons by the end of the day.</p> <p>The team finished their scheduled season as IHSA Zone 2 Region 4 champions. Twenty-one riders have qualified to move on to the postseason.</p> <p>The first opportunity for the team to showcase their skills this academic year was on Oct. 2, in a Horse show at St. Josephs University. The team finalized as the high-point team. The following week-ends, the team was again appointed as the high point team at Stonybrook University and Molloy University. At Sagamore Hill Stables, the team competed against the prestigious NYU and Princeton teams on Oct. 30.</p> <p>The Sharks ended the show as the reserve high point team. The Fall season concluded with the team’s horse show on Nov. 13 against Hofstra University.</p> <p>The Spring semester started with a horse show held by Adelphi University on Feb. 26. The Sharks finalized as the high point team. The second show of the season was at Pratt Institute on March. 5. Once again, the team finalized as</p>	<p>the high point team.</p> <p>Junior finance and marketing major Anna Perlow placed second in the Cacchione Cup. Throughout the year, she has been the starting rider opening fences. Sophomore fashion & merchandising major Sam Koeppel has consistently followed Perlow throughout the season in open fences.</p> <p>Senior health sciences major Tara Lauther spoke on her performance in the Equestrian Team throughout this academic year.</p> <p>“The Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 season was full of growth. I learned so much from both my instructor and my peers. The most memorable part of the season was being surrounded by my friends through sleepovers, team bonding, painting together, and riding together. I am excited to take this next step in my academic career. Riding is a part of my life that I will always hold near and dear,” she said.</p> <p>“Graduating is bittersweet because while I am excited about this next step, I will miss seeing my teammates every day. I have made some of my closest friends through the team. My gratitude to Coach Brooke Chasin and Mackenzie for encouraging me and nourishing my skills on this team is beyond words.”</p> <p>In an interview with “The Sports Shark Tank” on WCWP, Junior Fashion Merchandising major Grace Cantanese spoke on the team’s preparation for tournaments and Nationals in May.</p> <p>“Every show starts out with schooling. We watch the horses being ridden by non-competitors. Then we start with jumping. That goes through all the levels of jumping,” she said. “After that, we do the</p>	<p>flat courses. For practice, all the girls are split into lesson times. I’m a limit flat. Limit riders jump and do flats in the show. Flat courses are just ground skills.”</p> <p>This year the nationals will be in Kentucky. Catanese spoke on the selection process for this tournament.</p> <p>“The amount of points you accumulate over time determines whether you go to nationals or finals. 1st place is 7 points. 2nd place is 5 points. It goes on from there. Only the select girls go to Nationals,” she said. “This year, most of the seniors are going to Kentucky with some other team members as well. It’s about 1/3 of the team. It’s similar to what we’ve done before. If anything, we would compete against a bigger class.”</p> <p>With Nationals being the final stage, the Equestrian team had to practice and prepare continuously.</p> <p>“We have our practices leading up to the nationals. Our coach obviously plays a huge part in that. She is the biggest support system we have. She critiques all of us on things we wouldn’t have noticed before. She looks at things that the judges would be looking for at Nationals that aren’t looked at in the typical shows because Nationals is pretty intense,” Cantanese said.</p> <p>Catanese claims that all the teams bring their own horses to each show, but it is random what horses any rider is assigned.</p> <p>“We all pick out the horses we want to bring. Last year we brought around 5 or 6 horses. We all compiled them. It’s a horse draw, so you don’t know which one you’re going to get,” she said.</p>	<p>Baseball Friday-Sunday, April 21-23 vs Merrimack College</p> <p>Softball Friday-Saturday, April 21-22 vs Merrimack College</p> <p>Mens Lacrosse Saturday, April 22 at Quinnipiac @ 12 p.m.</p> <p>Womens Lacrosse Saturday, April 22 vs Sacred Heart @ 1 p.m.</p> <p>Women’s Waterpolo Friday-Sunday, April 28-30 in MAAC Championships</p> <p>Men’s Volleyball Thursday, April 20 vs #2 Daemen in NEC Championship @ 4 p.m.</p> <p>Rugby Sunday, April 23 at Quinnipiac 7s</p> <p>Men’s Golf Sunday-Tuesday, April 30 - May 2 at NEC Championship</p> <p>Women’s Golf Sunday-Tuesday, April 23-25 at NEC Tournament</p> <p>Men’s & Women’s Track & Field Friday-Saturday, April 21-22 at Aggie Classic</p> <p>Men’s & Women’s `Rowing Saturday, April 22 at Spring Metropolitan Championships</p> <p>Equestrian Friday-Monday, May 5-8 at Nationals</p>