Students flocked to Hearn Plaza to Roll the Quad after news broke on Saturday morning that Joe Biden was projected to win the presidential race, as he picked up key votes in the state of Pennsylvania.

Students react to Biden win in 2020 election

Students celebrated high turnout and President Donald Trump’s defeat after a long election week

BY AINE PIERRE
Asst. News Editor
pieravo@wfu.edu

On Saturday morning, the Associated Press, as well as NBC, CNN, and Fox News all announced that Joe Biden had been elected as the 46th president of the United States after carrying Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes.

Though President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign has not conceded defeat and is pursuing legal challenges in a number of states, the announcement gave a sense of finality to what had been a long week. Almost immediately after the race was called for the former vice president, students took to Hearn Plaza to Roll the Quad. By nightfall, every tree on the plaza was covered in toilet paper.

“[Rolling the quad] was really fun. I loved seeing everyone out there, and I was there later than most, but it was fun to see we were all celebrating in our own way,” said freshman Mary Grace Gower.

Most of the students interviewed expressed happiness for Biden’s win. Similarly, as approximately 89.1% of students indicated that they supported the Democrat in an Old Gold & Black poll.

The Old Gold & Black has also reached out to both College Democrats and College Republicans for comments, but, as of publication, neither has provided a comment.

“I’m really proud of how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Nina Nichols.

Some, like junior Zoe Clay, were surprised by the inter-party appeal of the new president-elect.

“I really appreciate how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Mary Grace Gower.

Most of the students interviewed expressed happiness for Biden’s win. Similarly, as approximately 89.1% of students indicated that they supported the Democrat in an Old Gold & Black poll.

‘The Old Gold & Black’ has also reached out to both College Democrats and College Republicans for comments, but, as of publication, neither has provided a comment.

“I’m really proud of how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Nina Nichols.

Some, like junior Zoe Clay, were surprised by the inter-party appeal of the new president-elect.

“I really appreciate how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Mary Grace Gower.

Most of the students interviewed expressed happiness for Biden’s win. Similarly, as approximately 89.1% of students indicated that they supported the Democrat in an Old Gold & Black poll.

The Old Gold & Black has also reached out to both College Democrats and College Republicans for comments, but, as of publication, neither has provided a comment.

“I’m really proud of how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Nina Nichols.

Some, like junior Zoe Clay, were surprised by the inter-party appeal of the new president-elect.

“I really appreciate how Biden and his voters kept their calm and trusted the democratic process,” said freshman Mary Grace Gower.

Most of the students interviewed expressed happiness for Biden’s win. Similarly, as approximately 89.1% of students indicated that they supported the Democrat in an Old Gold & Black poll.

The Old Gold & Black has also reached out to both College Democrats and College Republicans for comments, but, as of publication, neither has provided a comment.
Nine days after Election Day, North Carolina has yet to be called in the race for president. While President Donald Trump has a modest lead, President-elect Joe Biden is only trailing by 1.3 points. As the state’s demographics change, so does its electorate, which means that North Carolina will definitely be a battleground state for the foreseeable future. What does this mean for the university?

First and foremost, we must ensure that students’ engagement in politics continues in a post-Trump America. This election has been unique in many ways, but it is also consistent in the truths it presents: citizens have the power to change the course of our country, from the local to federal level, by voting. The energy and excitement conjured up this November must be remembered in 2022, 2024 and beyond. The Editorial Board is excited by the work that Deacs Decide has done this semester to build a get-out-the-vote infrastructure on campus, and is confident that they will only build upon it in the coming years.

Continuing on the point of creating excitement about exercising one’s right to vote, we believe that the addition of the First Assembly Church as an early voting site was pivotal in ensuring that Wake Forest students exercised their right to vote. College students have been historically disenfranchised, and the ability to secure this polling place should be applauded. According to the Old Gold & Black’s election poll of 221 students, 53% voted early and 65.6% voted in North Carolina. We hope that the university, in a COVID-free future, would consider adding a polling place on campus that is available both for early-voting and voting on Election Day.

National politics has always held a presence on Wake Forest’s campus. Tour guides still often reminisce with families about the presidential debate that took place within the hallowed halls of Wait Chapel between then-governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore in 2000. Twenty years later, Wake Forest seems primed to take on an even more active role in national politics, as our campus remains more politically engaged than ever. Many have chalked up this election to a "once in a lifetime" event that garnered record turnout to the likes of which we may never see again. Rather than accept this as fact, university students should view the election as a jumping off point in which we can continue to advocate for better voting processes and promoting the importance of civic engagement to their friends and peers.

As North Carolina maintains its status as a swing state with an increasingly divided electorate that captures a roughly equal percentage of the state’s votes, any small movement in voter turnout produces massive waves. Wake Forest students have the ability to shape both the North Carolina and national outcome for years to come. Until then, the Editorial Board extends our gratitude to political student organizations as well as the students, faculty and staff members who volunteered their time and prioritized voting rights for Forsyth County residents.

This column represents the views of the Old Gold & Black Editorial Board.

Election engagement must extend into future
Deacon Profile: AJ Mazaris

BY JULIA OCHSENHIRT
Staff Writer
ochsj20@wfu.edu

AJ Mazaris is the Founding Director of Wake Forest's LGBTQ Center and the Assistant Vice President for Equitable Policy within the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). They also teach in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Mazaris holds a PhD in American Studies from Brown University.

What led you to Wake Forest?

I came to Wake in 2011. I was hired to be the Founding Director of our LGBTQ Center. I had graduated a year before that with my PhD from Brown [University], and I’d taken a job right after graduation doing institutional diversity work at the national level for the IRS. What I discovered was that it’s hard to do effective diversity, inclusion and equity work if you don’t understand and deeply resonate with the mission of the organization. I really didn’t know anything about what it took to make this huge agency responsible for administering our federal budget work, so I wasn’t very good at my job.

What I realized was that there was a type of institution that I knew really well and loved, and that is higher education. I desperately missed being at a college or university, so when I saw the announcement that Wake was hiring an inaugural director for their LGBTQ Center, I jumped at it. It felt like the right move for me and an amazing opportunity to be part of building something from the ground up.

What has been your favorite part of serving as the director of the LGBTQ Center?

I think one of my favorite things has been seeing the amazing structural and institutional changes Wake Forest has made over the past nine years. Things that just weren’t imaginable when I got here are now just part of how we do business. We have all-gender restrooms all across campus. We have a gender-neutral housing program. We have health insurance plans that have full coverage for trans-affirming care. We have a really robust LGBTQ center that didn’t exist nine years ago.

On a personal level, I think that my favorite part has been getting to have relationships with students. I see people come in as first-year students with the questions of, “How do I find my place at Wake? How do I make peace with this aspect of my identity?” and I get to walk alongside them as they figure those things out and then ultimately move out into the world.

How has the LGBTQ Center’s programming been affected by the pandemic?

If you’d asked me a year ago, “Is it possible to do all of the programming, community-building, support and advocacy you’re doing remotely?” I would’ve laughed and said absolutely not. But we [the LGBTQ Center staff] have adapted to the pandemic because we have to. We’re still offering almost all of the same programming that we were at this time last year. We still hold our identity spaces, which are important ways for people to build community around different aspects of their identity, whether that’s as first-year students, queer trans students of color or as trans and non-binary students. We’re still meeting with students, usually over Zoom and occasionally through outdoor meetings in person.

We’ve done a few in-person events as well, which I think have been great. During Queer History Month, we did a mask tie-dyeing event, and we just did another event to give people a place to check in after the elections.

A lot of what we’ve done we’ve taken online. Some of it has worked, some of it hasn’t, and we’re still trying to figure it out as we go. What we’re really trying to be intentional about doing is continuing to give students ways to connect.

What does your position as Assistant Vice President for Equitable Policy for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion entail?

What it entails is being available as a thought partner and consultant to our university leaders as we’re making policy decisions. We want to ensure that we’re building equity as a core value in our policies. So we’re asking, “Will this policy or practice disproportionately impact one group of people? How do we make sure that everyone is benefiting from these changes?”

For example, I’m the co-chair of the ODI’s Committee on the Intersection of Incidents of Bias, Expression and Conduct. The committee was charged by President [Nathan] Hatch to examine the tensions between wanting an institution where free speech is one of our core values and recognizing that environments with no limits on what it’s acceptable to say can often cause harm to our marginalized student communities. So I’m working with a committee of faculty, staff and students to evaluate our policies on expression. We’ll ultimately produce a report that makes recommendations to the Vice President for Campus Life.

How have you seen attitudes towards issues of diversity and inclusion change during your time at Wake Forest?

It’s been a pretty profound and monumental shift. When I got to campus in 2011, the LGBTQ Center was down in the basement of Benson in a space that had housed a student-led group, the Gay Straight Student Alliance. When I got there, one of the things that I did was keep the door open during the day so that people could find us and come in. I remember the students saying to me, “if you have the door open, people will be able to see who’s in here.” There was this sense of deep anxiety and fear. It’s been pretty amazing to see the shift over nine years, going from that to having a campus where our students are so proud of the LGBTQ Center space and their identities within it.

I think that mirrors changes in our national discourse and conversations in North Carolina about LGBTQ rights. When I got here, North Carolina had just put an anti-LGBTQ marriage bill on the ballot, which was funny because there was already no federal or state recognition of marriage equality. North Carolina legislators spent the entire year campaigning for marriage equality to be really, really, really illegal. That was a really different moment than we’re in now.

I also think that in the past nine years, I’ve seen the greater student body developing a sense of consciousness around what it means to advocate for equitable and inclusive spaces and work for justice across different identities. Watching our students articulate intersectional social justice and work to find ways to live that out has been amazing.

POLICE BEAT

COVID-19 Violation/Underage Consumption

• Offender was found intoxicated on Wake Forest Rd. at the Porter B. Byrum Welcome Center and was transported to the WFBMC. The report was filed at 4:32 p.m. on Nov. 5.
• WSPD officers responded to off-campus location at Fares Lane about a large party and COVID-19 violations. One offender fled from officers and was arrested. The report was filed at 12:20 a.m. on Nov. 7.
• Offender was observed outside North Campus Apartments sick due to consumption of alcohol. The report was filed at 1:40 a.m. on Nov. 7.
• Offender at Collins consumed alcohol underage and was subsequently transported to the WFBMC. The report was filed at 12:03 a.m. on Nov. 8.
• Two offenders were found to be in violation of COVID-19 guidelines in Taylor. The first offender was not wearing a mask and the second offender had two guests present in a single dorm room. The report was filed at 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 8.

Miscellaneous

• Unknown subject(s) broke into victim’s vehicle parked at Deacon Place. The report was filed on Nov. 3 at 2:50 p.m.
• Multiple offenders were playing music and yelling on the outdoor patio of Martin. The report was filed at 4:32 p.m. on Nov. 5.
• Offender was found to be in possession of COVID-19 Orange Alert Operation Status signage on Reynolda campus. The report was filed at 12:20 p.m. on Nov. 5.

JULIA OCHSENHIRT
Staff Writer
ochsj20@wfu.edu
The curriculum change, which has been ongoing for years, is intended to expose students to problems of systemic inequities on a national level, while providing a greater understanding of other peoples and cultures. It offers for four required courses: Cross-Cultural Analysis, Community in the U.S., Ethical Inquiry and Quantitative Data Analysis. In particular, faculty have targeted the College Curriculum Review Committee (CCRC), which wrote the proposal, as lacking expertise in the necessary areas.

"Part of our critique of the 21st Century Citizenship proposal is that the committee that developed it was well-meaning, but they didn't include folks with expertise on the issues," said Professor Kristina Gupta, a member of faculty group Wake Forward. "We think the 21st Century Citizenship proposal reflects that. It reflects that it wasn't based on sufficient expertise.

Likewise, some professors worry that the concept of "non-Western" civilizations described in the Cross-Cultural Analysis requirement might not be clear enough.

"I feel concerned that the definition of a category as being basically the non-Western world can really underscore for students the idea that there's kind of a white Western world can really underscore for students the idea that there's kind of a white Western" or at least, it used to be.

Senior Emily Claire Kibbe, the student voting member of CAP, said that the Black Lives Matter protests over the summer are a major driving factor in getting the proposal, in some form, off the ground.

"I think that any curriculum change is going to be in line with the culture of the university, and the university is such a large organization that it's going to be a slow change," Kibbe said. "However, the CCRC received almost unanimous support in the aftermath of George Floyd's death and so many things that have happened since, there is a greater push among faculty and students to make this change.

Though change is slow, faculty and students expressed the desire to move forward. Senior Emily Claire Kibbe, the student voting member of CAP, said that the Black Lives Matter protests over the summer are a major driving factor in getting the proposal, in some form, off the ground.

"I think that any curriculum change is going to be in line with the culture of the university, and the university is such a large organization that it's going to be a slow change," Kibbe said. "However, the CCRC received almost unanimous support in the aftermath of George Floyd's death and so many things that have happened since, there is a greater push among faculty and students to make this change.

Eudaimonia Institute quietly fades away

The controversially-funded research institute is "sunsetting" from the university

BY ALEXANDRA KARLUNCHAK
Asth. Opinion Editor
karlae3@wfu.edu

In addition to exploring theories of law, physics, computer science, the arts and the humanities, Wake Forest University is dedicated to exploring an even more complex academic question: What is happiness? Or at least, it used to be.

On Nov. 6, a number of students noticed that the words "Eudaimonia Institute" were removed from the street signs on either side of the building, signaling an end to the brief project.

The Eudaimonia Institute (EI) was a research institute sponsored by the university to explore the political, economic, social and cultural institutions that impact human happiness. Located on Reynolda Road, just a one-minute drive from campus, EI was housed in a beautiful, two-story building that used to serve as the official home of the Pro Humanitate Institute, now the Office of Civic and Community Engagement.

"We are a community of scholars dedicated to developing an interdisciplinary understanding of what eudaimonia is, what the institutions are that support it, and what its chief obstacles are, all in the hopes of enabling more people to achieve eudaimonia," the official institute description states.

By definition, eudaimonia is a Greek word that roughly translates to "human flourishing." These past few months have allowed the organization to do anything but.

Founded in May of 2016, EI opened as a research institution that provided grants for research projects that supported the institute's mission. In addition, EI hosted student seminars for Wake Forest undergraduates interested in learning more about political, economic and social theories regarding happiness and human development.

Junior Alli Pluemer took advantage of one of the faculty members' junior fall seminar, attending a session for a class.

"There were 12 people in my class called Conservative Political Thought," Pluemer said. "The group was really great, it was discussion based and the group was really diverse... We talked about readings and because there is no syllabus, we guided the discussion based on what we're interested in or we just wanted to talk about.

"Also, students were given a participation stipend and our meals were paid for when we went to the Institute. Don't ask at the conservative Dairy put a lot of money into it. It had to have been expensive," Pluemer added.

In May of 2019, the Offices of the Provost and the President renewed the Eudaimonia Institute's stay on campus. But just one year later in May 2020, things took a turn in the opposite direction.

Then-Executive Director of the Institute, Joe Ottesen served as the head developer of EI for the entire duration of his stay. Thanks to his fundraising efforts, the Institute raised millions of dollars to support research and education efforts.

In May of 2020, he was offered a position at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, where he now serves as a professor of Business Ethics in the Mendoza College of Business. When he decided to take the position and travel up to South Bend, Ind., he remarked that the last time he had spoken to the provost about his departure, a closure plan was potentially brought into motion.

"When I left, the provost indicated that he was thinking about allowing the EI to sunset," Ottesen said. "I think that both COVID-19 and my departure had a huge impact on this closing, as I was the sole fundraiser for the institute.

Other members of the EI Advisory Board echoed Ottesen's claim. Scholarship in Residence at the EI, remarked that Ottesen's departure was likely not the only contributing factor to the institute's closing, but it was not looked upon favorably by a large number of faculty members," Hammond said. "And I think that is a shame.

This distaste that the EI left among faculty members stemmed from the very reason the organization was able to flourish: the grant money that it was run on.

Funding came in the form of a $3.69 million donation from the Charles Koch Foundation.

The Koch brothers are famed for being conservative philanthropists and, as stated in a Wall Street Journal opinion article surrounding the investigation around the grant, some faculty members who opposed using Koch funding believed that "Eudaimonia was really a way of sneaking capitalism ideas into the university.

Wake Forest administrators accepted the grant money on behalf of the EI despite some faculty members' wishes, but the institute insisted that it accepted funding from a variety of sources and acted independently of all of them. In other words, the research projects that EI pursues are meant to be broad, diverse and objective.

No matter what the goal of the EI has been, its time has come and gone. The program is, as its former executive director said, "sunsetting." The script that spelled its name in gold letters in front of the building was replaced, and now the building is as empty as the sign that sits in front of it—that is, until another program comes along.

"It's as if the Institute can't continue," Ottesen said. "I don't know what the future will hold, but at least for those few years that we had the Institute and I was there, I really had a great experience.

The Office of the Provost has not responded to the Old Gold & Black's request for comment.
As the semester comes to a close, the university is offering voluntary asymptomatic testing

BY ISABELLA MASON
Staff Writer
isma2@wfu.edu

Following biopharmaceutical company Pfizer’s announcement of a 90% effective vaccine on Nov. 9, the focus around the country has been slowly shifting to distribution efforts for when the potential COVID-19 vaccine will come. Dr. Tahir Rue, the Service Director of CeCe Price, these efforts are well underway at Wake Forest. Price explained that the university has assembled a group that meets every two weeks, made up of administrators, that discusses the university’s vaccine release plans when one becomes available.

“We have no idea when the vaccine will be available, but we are learning a lot about how to administer the vaccine to everyone, faculty and staff included,” Price said.

The group that meets to discuss vaccine release has “interaction with the county health department and state emergency management.” Logistics such as the necessity of adding infrastructure to handle the vaccine like purchasing freezers, should the vaccine need to be frozen, have also been discussed.

“The Dean of Students Office put together the vaccine clinic, so we have experience with this,” Price said. “We are working on this as part of the university’s plan to address COVID-19,” Price said. “The Pfizer info is very good info … and 90% effective is very good news, specifically for our planning department to make a big difference in people getting the vaccine.”

Rue echoed the planning. “Scaling up production and distribution, and setting priorities for who gets access to a vaccine first, are matters of public policy,” said Vice President for Campus Life Penny Rue. “We are well-positioned to gain access because of our relationship with a major medical center, and if we can, we will definitely want to distribute the vaccine when it becomes available.”

New developments on a potential vaccine come as the university prepares for the last week of in-person classes. Most students around campus seem to be proceeding carefully as they prepare to leave campus for two months at the week of Thanksgiving.

Nov. 9, the university sent an email to all students notifying them of holiday departure procedures and testing opportunities. It was suggested in the email, though not mandated, that students quarantine in order to protect their friends and family back home. The university will also offer departure testing to allow students to further protect their loved ones at home.

Another point of concern for the Wake Forest community has been the recent onset of a COVID-19 spike on campus. According to Rue, roughly 600 students have signed up for pre-departure testing.

“We require our employees to utilize the SneezeSafe symptom tracker and be cleared in order to be able to access campus. We use the same process of contact tracing and quarantine or isolation for those who are exposed or test positive. We will continue to aggregate employee case numbers as the numbers are small,” Rue, however, did not indicate whether staff and contract workers will be covered by its weekly random testing efforts.

The COVID-19 dashboard featured a surge in cases for Monday and Tuesday. When asked about this small surge and its potential relationship to Halloween celebrations, Price stated celebrations occurred without any indication of a superspreader event on campus.

“There were not a lot of huge parties, only some small gatherings, that could have impacted that [surge],” Price said while also cautioning that he “cannot conclude that the surge is Halloween-related.”

Campus officials have repeatedly stressed the importance of conscientiousness at small gatherings, seeing as those gatherings with fewer people tend to be the ones that cause cases to spike when proper mask-wearing etiquette is not in place.

In addition to small gatherings at Halloween being problematic, Price noted that numbers in Forsyth County have been rising, which may correlate with the slight rise in cases on campus.

“Wake Forest and Forsyth County had bars and restaurants open,” Price said, “and that affects students.”

University prepares for COVID-19 vaccine

Campus Kitchen tackles food insecurity

Amid high food insecurity zones in Winston-Salem, campus kitchen seeks to serve local families

BY WILL ZIMMERMANN
Sports Editor
zimmwj05@wfu.edu

Turkeypalooza — the student-run organization's largest annual event — will kick off this Sunday and coincides with Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, so there's a lot to do.

"We’re going to be cooking around 350 full Thanksgiving meals and delivering them to our community partners: Azelea Terrace, Samaritan Ministries and the Slalom Project," said Michelle Lazaran, a senior and the co-president of Campus Kitchen. "Simultaneously, we’re also hosting events in regard to Hunger & Homelessness week as we try and raise awareness to those issues as well."

Among these events are a food packing drive on Sunday — where over 600 items will be boxed and prepped for delivery to local residents — a friendly pumpkin painting competition on Monday, a food and solidarity event featuring individuals who have worked closely with homeless and food insecurity, locally, on Tuesday, and a meet Campus Kitchen event on Wednesday. The festivities will conclude on Friday with the final Turkeypalooza delivery.

Campus Kitchen's substantial efforts are part of a larger initiative to address the monumental problem of food insecurity in Winston-Salem.

As Braham Ahmadi — a food justice advocate and local entrepreneur who has spent the better part of the last two decades working to solve the complex issues of food and nutritional insecurity on the other side of the country — explained during his keynote lecture: ‘Changing Food Systems through Access Equity & Empowerment,’ lack of access to fresh, healthy, affordable food was not distinct to the nearly 30,000 people who lived farther than one mile from a grocery store in West Oakland, Calif.

Situations are known as ‘food deserts,’ and according to a Newsweek article published in 2014, 23 million Americans live in one. In 2015, the Food Research and Action Center declared Winston-Salem to be the No. 14 worst area in the nation for ‘families with children reporting food insecurity.’ In total, there are 21 different food deserts in Winston-Salem and more than 62,5000 people who are food insecure.

The students, faculty and staff who took to Zoom on Oct. 28 to hear Ahmadi’s lecture gained an understanding that the systemic issues which have long disenfranchised the populations Ahmadi has spent years working on behalf of are not unique to West Oakland. The economic and health disparities of those who reside in these inner-city neighborhoods, predominantly people of color, are a result of the same issues present just beyond the gates of our Wake Forest bubble.

“Inequality and racism are at the foundation of the issues that historically marginalized communities face, and those issues are really just symptoms of deeper structural problems,” Ahmadi said. “The work of environmental justice is to develop strategies to address the structural underpinnings that perpetuate and drive these issues.”

Ahmadi recognized that in order to develop strategies to begin addressing these issues, he had to talk to those who understood the struggles firsthand: community residents.

What would often come up in our conversations was residents’ lack of access to a built environment which supports fresh food choices,” Ahmadi said.

“Food insecurity is something that is so close to campus, but that we don’t see on a daily basis because on-campus, it’s not a problem,” said Brian Cohen, assistant director of engagement with the Office of Sustainability.

“Scaling up production and distribution, and setting priorities for who gets access to a vaccine first, are matters of public policy,” said Vice President for Campus Life Penny Rue. “We are well-positioned to gain access because of our relationship with a major medical center, and if we can, we will definitely want to distribute the vaccine when it becomes available.”

New developments on a potential vaccine come as the university prepares for the last week of in-person classes. Most students around campus seem to be proceeding carefully as they prepare to leave campus for two months at the week of Thanksgiving.

Nov. 9, the university sent an email to all students notifying them of holiday departure procedures and testing opportunities. It was suggested in the email, though not mandated, that students quarantine in order to protect their friends and family back home. The university will also offer departure testing to allow students to further protect their loved ones at home.

Another point of concern for the Wake Forest community has been the recent onset of COVID-19 cases among staff and non-staff workers, as reported by the Old Gold Black on Oct. 29. Rue explains that the university submits all employees through the same symptom tracking and testing protocols that are applied to students.

“We require our employees to utilize the SneezeSafe symptom tracker and be cleared in order to be able to access campus. We use the same process of contact tracing and quarantine or isolation for those who are exposed or test positive. We will continue to aggregate employee case numbers as the numbers are small,” Rue, however, did not indicate whether staff and contract workers will be covered by its weekly random testing efforts.

The COVID-19 dashboard featured a surge in cases for Monday and Tuesday. When asked about this small surge and its potential relationship to Halloween celebrations, Price stated celebrations occurred without any indication of a superspreader event on campus.

“There were not a lot of huge parties, only some small gatherings, that could have impacted that [surge],” Price said while also cautioning that he “cannot conclude that the surge is Halloween-related.”

Campus officials have repeatedly stressed the importance of conscientiousness at small gatherings, seeing as those gatherings with fewer people tend to be the ones that cause cases to spike when proper mask-wearing etiquette is not in place.

In addition to small gatherings at Halloween being problematic, Price noted that numbers in Forsyth County have been rising, which may correlate with the slight rise in cases on campus.

“Wake Forest and Forsyth County had bars and restaurants open,” Price said, “and that affects students.”

My hope is that we can share some of what we’ve been through, both the good and the bad, as others begin their own journey to solve the needs of their communities,” Ahmadi said.

Campus Kitchen is one of several organizations embarking upon this journey here in Winston-Salem, while their efforts are heroic, there’s still a long way to go.

Students hoping to become involved with Turkeypalooza or Homelessness and Hunger Week should be on the lookout for an announcement coming during the week whether or not additional volunteers will be allowed given COVID-19 restrictions. Donations are also being collected by Campus Kitchen to offset the cost of grocery and packaging for the hundreds of meals that will be delivered to local community partners.

“[Hunger and food insecurity] in Oakland mirrors what we at Campus Kitchen are trying to do to address the food desert problem in Winston,” said Julia McElhinney, a junior minoring in environmental studies and shift leader at Campus Kitchen.

Over 600 meal items will be prepared by Campus Kitchen.
Election: Biden win sparks hope, reflection

Continued from Page 1

Kat Pitchford, a Resident Advisor and a senior, expressed that they were proud of their personal involvement in the election.

"I felt more involved in this election, having raised awareness for early voting, arranged post-election self care practices for student staff and accompanied friends to the voting station near campus to make as much of an impact on campus as I could," Pitchford said. During the lead up to the election, the whiteboard outside Pitchford's door read “vote, young people.”

Sophomore Turner Jones, who worked for the Biden campaign, expressed relief and pride.

"I think many Americans [have] hope for their country again. Our democracy hasn't been challenged this way since the Civil War, and it is encouraging that we have made it to the other side," Jones said. "I'm very proud of the campaign we ran. We were able to get record turnout, which... makes me feel the work paid off.”

Get-out-the-vote efforts worked, as the rate of voter turnout is set to be higher than any election in recent memory. In North Carolina, turnout hit nearly 75%—a number that could be restored as forests, helping to reduce the increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"Our food systems, locally and globally, are vital to reducing the impact of climate change," said Nathan Peifer, the Campus Garden manager.

Through the freshly grown produce, Campus Garden also encourages eating a plant-forward diet. The New York Times believes it could save 82 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions if everyone simply reduced meat consumption by one-fourth. A reduction of meat consumption could also free up 25 million acres of land that could be restored as forests, helping to reduce the increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"Our food systems, locally and globally, are vital to reducing the impact of climate change," said Nathan Peifer, the Campus Garden manager.

The educational component of the garden is one of the main ways that students are encouraged to think more critically about the importance of food systems.

"I was at Campus Garden before I was even on campus," Blake said, laughing as she recounted her first experience at the garden as part of her pre-orientation program.

For many students like Blake, Campus Garden is a place of familiarity and community, as well as a space to encourage sustainability and living.

The garden is a small-scale demonstration of regenerative agriculture and encompasses many of the aspects of sustainable growing—crop rotation, cover crops and the lack of pesticides. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, these practices are essential to maintaining a healthy soil, minimizing pollution and promoting biodiversity.

“The garden has had a better turnout this year compared to other years,” said junior Anna Loynes, a Campus Garden Intern. “I think people just want a break from studying and need to get outside.”

As one of the few in-person activities left, the garden seems to be one of the only things the pandemic did not greatly affect since its outside component is conducive to preventing the spread of the virus. It has even attracted more students from outside of the sustainability sphere, garnering interest from people with different backgrounds.

Christian Barnard, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, began his time at the garden to get the required volunteer hours for Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. He soon became a regular.

“I just wanted to do something rewarding about manual labor and get down on your knees and getting dirty,” Bernard said about his first experience at the garden. “It’s just fun, I mean, I got to learn what a garage plant looks like.”

The pandemic has also driven members like junior Caroline Walker to become a leader on the Cultivation Leadership Team, which runs Connect and Cultivate hours, since her usual position as a content assistant for the Office of Sustainability was taken from her because of COVID-19.

“It’s been a blessing in disguise,” Walker said. “Even though I’m not working with the office in an official capacity, I’m still able to see the positive impact I’m making by working in the garden.”

Even with the changes, Blake and other volunteers are still able to hear the leaves crunching beneath their feet, watch the plants grow, and weed together in the cool air.

“I’m really glad the garden can be a safe place for students to gather and connect during this time,” Blake said.

Garden brings green life to WFU backyard

Wake Forest’s Campus Garden aims to teach sustainability while providing fun opportunities

BY JESS SCHMIDT
Staff Writer
schmjag@wfu.edu

As the sun was quickly setting on a chilly November evening, sophomore Olivia Blake stood at the entrance of the metal fence, hands shoved inside her sleeves, waiting to keep warm as volunteers arrived.

The other director of the Cultivation Leadership Team, junior Karl Gustafson, stood next to her and made easy conversation, laughing and smiling as inside jokes were exchanged between the leaders and the volunteers. In front of them, stood a table with a bottle of hand sanitizer, a social distancing sign, and a box full of used gardening tools.

“I was at Campus Garden before I was even on campus,” Blake said, laughing as she recounted her first experience at the garden as part of her pre-orientation program.

For many students like Blake, Campus Garden is a place of familiarity and community, as well as a space to encourage sustainability and living.

The garden is a small-scale demonstration of regenerative agriculture and encompasses many of the aspects of sustainable growing—including crop rotation, cover crops and the lack of pesticides. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, these practices are essential to maintaining a healthy soil, minimizing pollution and promoting biodiversity.

“The garden has had a better turnout this year compared to other years,” said junior Anna Loynes, a Campus Garden Intern. “I think people just want a break from studying and need to get outside.”

As one of the few in-person activities left, the garden seems to be one of the only things the pandemic did not greatly affect since its outside component is conducive to preventing the spread of the virus. It has even attracted more students from outside of the sustainability sphere, garnering interest from people with different backgrounds.

Christian Barnard, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, began his time at the garden to get the required volunteer hours for Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. He soon became a regular.

“I just wanted to do something rewarding about manual labor and get down on your knees and getting dirty,” Bernard said about his first experience at the garden. “It’s just fun, I mean, I got to learn what a garage plant looks like.”

The pandemic has also driven members like junior Caroline Walker to become a leader on the Cultivation Leadership Team, which runs Connect and Cultivate hours, since her usual position as a content assistant for the Office of Sustainability was taken from her because of COVID-19.

“It’s been a blessing in disguise,” Walker said. “Even though I’m not working with the office in an official capacity, I’m still able to see the positive impact I’m making by working in the garden.”

Even with the changes, Blake and other volunteers are still able to hear the leaves crunching beneath their feet, watch the plants grow, and weed together in the cool air.

“I’m really glad the garden can be a safe place for students to gather and connect during this time,” Blake said.
E. coli: Runoff causes pollution in Reynolda stream

Continued from Page 1

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the leading cause of water pollution is storm runoff. As climate change continues to cause more frequent and larger rain events, stormwater management is becoming increasingly important, especially on campus.

In 2017, as Hurricane Harvey struck Houston, 60 inches of water overwhelmed the water management system and flooded the urban area, leaving $125 billion in damage. Engineers concluded the flooding was mainly a result of 40% of the ground in the city being covered by impervious surfaces.

“When it rains, the best possibility is for the rain to soak into the ground where it landed,” said Courtney Di Vittorio, a professor of engineering teaching a class in water management. “When water cannot soak into the ground, it will flow downhill.”

The 1914 Soil Survey of Forsyth County found the soil around Winston-Salem to be heavy clay with an abundance of impervious surfaces. “Lot Q is a really large impervious surface,” said Tony Schallert, the university’s infrastructure and utility engineer. “All of the water and any debris on the surface goes through a 24-inch pipe and dumps into the stream. There’s no filtration.”

Chris Zarzar, a former assistant research professor of biology, worried that this may affect wildlife on campus and downstream. Zarzar collected water samples from the stream and where the storm flows, Lake Katherine at Reynolda Village, this summer and found unusually high concentrations of E. coli and heavy metals.

“High levels in those streams would most likely be the direct result of on-campus activity,” Zarzar said. “This is concerning for amphibian species because high concentrations of heavy metals in the water are toxic to amphibians.”

Other biologists agreed. Dave Anderson, a professor of biology, feared that the lack of runoff filtration may harm students and our neighbors along the stream.

“Anyone with a small cut or anyone who gets water in their mouth could face a serious intestinal problem,” Anderson said. “Wild E. coli are much more virulent than the strains we normally experience.”

While the lack of stormwater management systems along the stream likely has a cost on the environment, it also costs the university. Excessive amounts of flowing water cause erosion of the stream banks that could impact buildings and infrastructure on campus.

“No only do we have to worry about Lot S falling into the stream,” Schallert said. “But the dance studio behind Scales is awfully close to the stream, too.”

Partial emergency repairs to reinforce the stream banks along part of Lot S, which is 300 meters downstream of Lot Q, have cost $100,000. Estimates to fix the Lot S repair and reinforce the stream banks behind Scales predict a $1 million price tag.

Ideas to address the financial and environmental effects of stormwater runoff have been floated.

Anderson suggested that Lot Q be paved in part with porous concrete, but admitted it likely would be very expensive to renovate and maintain. Di Vittorio said a retention pond or rain garden would help reduce the quantity of water and improve the quality by filtering pollutants.

“Id love if we could filter the water and we even developed a plan for a retention pond in the stream,” Schallert said. “But the Corps of Engineers said, ‘No, you can’t mess with the stream.’”

Although Wake Forest’s 1952 construction did not prioritize stormwater management, Schallert said that the Facilities & Campus Service Office is implementing improvements where they can.

The Byrum Welcome Center, for example, has a series of water retention tanks that run water through a layer of sand to filter it and slow its flow. On the east side of campus, water flows through a series of tiered ponds behind Angelou Hall before entering Lake Katherine.

This is a helpful start, but as Shurtleff now seeks the waters for her herpetology class, she is sure of one thing, “I’m not going in that water again.”

Tides are changing for national climate policy

The Trump administration did not prioritize climate change, but Biden-Harris promise to

BY SOPHATOMPKINS
Contributing Writer
thompson09@wfu.edu

With a new administration comes plenty of new changes. One of the many issues President-elect Joe Biden’s new administration intends on tackling in their first few months in office is climate change. Based on recent statistics from Statista, global temperatures are consistently among the hottest ever reported, which is the direct cause of a multitude of crises including the rise in sea level, a decline in arctic ice and more weather-related disasters like hurricanes, fires and droughts.

As of October, there have been 16 weather or climate-related disasters, which ties with the highest annual record set in both 2011 and 2017. There were 11 severe storms, three tropical cyclones, one major wildfire spanning much of the northwestern part of the U.S. and one drought since January 2020. These events caused almost 200 total deaths and economic losses of more than $1 billion each. This is the sixth consecutive year in which more than 10 events had at least a $1 billion impact on the U.S. economy, according to the National Center for Environmental Information.

There has been significant criticism of how President Donald Trump’s administration handled climate change, including Trump’s refusal to acknowledge its existence. Trump was particularly vocal on Twitter with comments such as, “I don’t believe it,” “I don’t know that it's man-made,” “It’s freezing in New York — where the hell is global warming,” and “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”

In office, Trump dismantled the Clean Power Plan, refused to ban super pollutants, rolled back limitations on methane pollution from oil and gas infrastructure, loosened emissions standards for transportation vehicles and withdrew from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Part of Trump’s 2016 campaign platform was to dissolve many of the environmental regulations that impeded manufacturing and fossil fuel industries, which he consequently did. Despite Reuters’ 2019 poll claiming 70% of American’s wanted immediate and aggressive action against climate change, the Trump administration prioritized industry over public health in favor of manufacturing and fossil fuel industries.

However, some environmental relief may have been provided because of CO-VID-19. Based on a 2020 study from National Center for Biotechnology Information, nature benefited from the social, industrial and urban shut-down. There were notable improvements in air quality, river cleanliness, noise pollution, and wildlife. In only a few months there were drastic improvements to the environment, but experts warn that this will not last.

Associate professor and epidemiologist Jill Baumgartner from McGill University reported to the New York Times that “[the pandemic] is not a sustainable way to reduce air pollution, and the long-term economic and well-being impacts of this crisis are going to be devastating for many people.”

In contrast to Trump’s focus on industry over environment, Biden promises to reform the current climate change plans to sustain a healthier planet. According to the Biden-Harris campaign website, there are several goals to try to help the planet now and in the future:

Goal 1: By 2050, reach a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions.

Goal 2: Rebuild the national infrastructure to avert, lessen and resist climate change by making “smart infrastructure investments.”

Goal 3: Incorporate climate change into foreign policy and national security plans and motivate other nations to recommit to climate change reform. Biden also aims to rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Goal 4: Prevent environmental injustice, specifically to low-income communities and those of color.

Goal 5: Support workers and communities who contributed to the industrial revolution and resulting economic growth.

In order to reach these aspirations, Biden committed to making a “historic investment in our clean energy future and environmental justice paid for by rolling back the Trump tax incentives that enrich corporations at the expense of American jobs and the environment.”

His proposal intends to invest $1.7 trillion in the environment within the next decade. It also hopes for additional investment from the private corporations and states to aggregate an additional $5 trillion. Biden’s website states the desire to overturn Trump’s tax cuts and incentives to push profits internationally. Biden believes this reversal will jump start a Clean Energy Revolution that generates new domestic employment opportunities.

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris note the brevity of the climate crisis on their website, stating that it is the “greatest challenge facing our country and our world.” The Biden climate plan promises to immediately begin work on policies that will mutually benefit the economy and the environment.
Election Reactions

Election poses opportunity for unity

Amid widespread division there exists a chance for dialogue, education and unity

Joshua Yama
Staff Columnist
yamajb19@wfu.edu

On Saturday, Nov. 7, Democrat Joe Biden became the president-elect of the United States of America and Kamala Harris became the United States vice president-elect. While the anxieties of democracy throughout the presidential race appear to have settled down (I hope), the concerns regarding the outcome of this election are still here on campus.

As I was walking towards the north side of campus Saturday evening, I noticed that the quad had been rolled by students. I immediately turned to my roommate and asked: did the football team win a game today? He said no and speculated that it was a celebration of Biden’s victory over Trump. This instance brought me back to the stories I’ve been told by Black voices, when I read as a teenager, I used to be-

concerned that racial hostility and division had reached a boiling point. Some have even said that this election is a testament to America’s intolerant racial attitude towards Black Americans. So, as we approached this year’s election, I worried that my dark skin would once again warrant further racial anim-osity.

I decided to ruminate on these episodes of racism because I never thought that I would see division amongst races in a presi- dential election, where political affiliation should be the only point of division. I find it appalling to learn that the color of one’s skin can further divide a campus, let alone country, because of the presidential can-didates. Although the reactions to the elec-tion results are different this year compared to 2016, I hope that we do not revisit the occurrence of racial hostility.

To open ourselves up and listen to the experiences of racism back home in Chicago as a young Black man.

I remember one morning of my senior year of high school, as I made my way to school, I had one ear phone plugged in my ear and the other hanging on the neck of my sweater so that I could be cautious of my surroundings. As a stream of cars passed me by, a loud voice screamed racial epithets at me, even using the “n” word. I turned around to get a look at who la-beled me the “n” word, but the grey car drove away too fast. The entire morning I spent sulking, walking with my head down, through white English halls that was sympathetic when I shared the situa-tion with her, the pain and embarrassment remained.

I decided to ruminate on these episodes of racism back home in Chicago as a young Black man. when I read as a teenager, I used to be concerned that racial hostility and division had reached a boiling point. Some have even said that this election is a testament to America’s intolerant racial attitude towards Black Americans. So, as we approached this year’s election, I worried that my dark skin would once again warrant further racial animosity.

I decided to ruminate on these episodes of racism because I never thought that I would see division amongst races in a presidential election, where political affiliation should be the only point of division. I find it appalling to learn that the color of one’s skin can further divide a campus, let alone country, because of the presidential candidates. Although the reactions to the election results are different this year compared to 2016, I hope that we do not revisit the occurrence of racial hostility. No individual should ever feel uncomfortable or fearful because of what their skin color means to individuals who lie on a particular side of the political spectrum. The anxieties of racial tensions to this day are still prevalent not only for me, but also for my black peers, as well. So, instead of looking to this election as an indication of the racial division that still exists, I would encourage you to see it as an opportunity. An opportunity for our campus to grow closer despite political and racial differences, an opportunity for safe spaces that foster respectful and engaging dialogue, and an opportunity to educate each other about how our peers of different races navigate the world around them.

Poetry

Contemporary poetry shares experience

Readers should venture out into unfamiliar prose and poetry

Connor McNeely
Staff Columnist
mcneecb19@wfu.edu

Poetry, as it exists in today’s world, is unbound. If you have appreciation for poems, you have likely observed the de-}
scent of mean form from the public fore-}
ground and the assimilation of poetic expression into various modes. One does not usually kill time by reading poems, rather they seek poetry from film, television and other artistic mediums. Our modern poets flee the apparent restraints of tradition and craft, wading into the circumference of the universe. At least, this is the picture that is presented.

When the architecture of poetry began its colossal shift, I landed on the side of the traditionalists. Beauty is part and parcel of literary expression. Okay, you wrote a poem, so what? If it doesn’t grab attention, then it’s dull. Even in the poems that tell hor-rible tragedies, or depict revolving im-ages, there is a beauty in the communi-cation of these events. The fat consumer stubbles upon hundreds of beautiful meals of art and will cast out the black and white and grey. Now, our theorists catch our poets ambiguize the difference between prose and poetry. Appar-ently, there is more freedom than ever, although some might argue that there is more freedom within specific poetic structures.

As my generation nears adulthood, I think we have collectively begun to ap-preciate the sophistication of poetry. When I read as a teenager, I used to be-
moan confessional poetry and condemn books like Milk and Honey. Somehow it was offensive to me that an author should be so commercially successful while betraying the conventions of the poetry that I loved. I didn’t understand how people could appreciate those po-ems because I disregarded how the poem spoke to them. When the archi-tecture of poetry began its colossal shift, I landed on the side of the traditionalists. Every contemporary work I looked at seemed hyper-sensual. At the time, I was attracted to more rigid art that illus-trated grand truths and stood for prodi-gious historical events — both past and future.

Today, I would like to think that I’ve matured. There are not many essen-tial tenets of art or poetry that I have construeed or in which I deposit my belief. In poems, however, I know one eternal quality that is useful to the suc-cess of the art as our culture continues to change, which is immediacy. Collectio-

nations like Lunch Poems, written by Frank O’Hara, brings us to easy conversation and personal connection to the poet. The work of contemporary authors like Ocean Vuong delivers the ecstasy of desire and the rawness of experience to any and every reader. In her book Bluets, Maggie Nelson disregards genre and seeks an art form more captivating than anything I have ever read. I understand that many people still have a negative opinion about the poetry that they will find, should they look for poems. The issue with the perception of this art is in the decry of commensurate human experience. Ultimately, successful poets and art-
}
Chameleons

Feelings of purposelessness cause stress

In chameleons as in humans, a sense of purposelessness can degrade mental health

Cap McInerney
Staff Columnist
mcin19@wfu.edu

It might surprise you to hear that chameleons are, in fact, one of the most stressed-out members of the reptile family. They could very well be some of the most stressed-out animals on the planet (aside from a Wake Forest student during finals week). I discovered this first-hand when I was a kid. Growing up, my parents were nice enough to get my siblings and me a pet chameleon.

The one thing that the man at the pet store told my siblings and me was that chameleons really don’t like to be held that much, though he didn’t rule it out all altogether. Their skin won’t fall off like a gecko’s will if picked up and their tail won’t pop off like a leopard Gecko’s. But, he said it just plums stresses them out if you do it the holding. As a kid, that lack of a definite standard was ultimately a recipe for tragedy.

Chameleons’ primary adaptation to their environments is their color-changing skin. They are fundamentally designed to blend into the trees and limbs with which their environments are filled. The way they walk is with an unusual, slow deliberative, bouncy strut that is supposed to mimic brush slightly moving in the breeze. Chameleons’ eyes do not move in sync either. They could look at the tip of the Eiffel tower and their quickie lunch in front of them at the same moment. Ultimately, chameleons are, in fact, one of the most stressed-out members of the reptile family. They could very well be some of the most stressed-out animals on the planet (aside from a Wake Forest student during finals week).

What is our essential trait that, if felt to be dysfunctional, would cause us the same distress as a chameleon?”

In general, children rarely do well navigating grey spaces. So, we took the chameleon home and creatively named it Jack (short for Jackson). We set up the screen from the mist. Staff Columnist
karlae18@wfu.edu

With the victory of President-Elect Joe Biden this past Saturday afternoon, cities around the country let out an audible sigh of relief. In New York City, streets were transformed into the stage for a three-week pre-mature, makeshift Macy’s Day parade, complete with dancing, singing, not bonging and the honking of car horns. People’s elation was palpable.

But underneath all of this joy, I hold the 2020 Presidential election. It has been a historic time and head-splintering, a turn off for me. After all, this statistic was released directly from Pfizer, not a completely independent source. Oddly enough, chameleons won’t drink water out of a dish like other lizards. They will only drink water droplets that condense on leaves or sides of the screen from the mist.

At first, we were really careful to not hold Jack more than once a week. But, over time I suppose we thought he must be getting used to us as a dog might. How could he be stressed out by his best people pals? Over the months, we slowly upped the holding to the point where it might have gotten up to five times a week. Jack was eating, drinking, crawling around like a happy, healthy chameleon and had no visible signs of stress from the holding.

“Maybe chameleons are like dogs!” We all thought optimistically.

COVID-19

Despite Biden’s victory, the CO VID-19 pandemic continues to be a pressing issue in America

Alexandra Karlinchak
Staff Columnist
karlae18@wfu.edu

With over 238,000 deaths related to the novel coronavirus, the end is still nowhere in sight. Though pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced in a press release on Nov. 9 that the vaccine they produced is more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 infections among trial volunteers, this is hardly a solution that is set in stone. After all, this statistic was released directly from Pfizer, not a completely objective third party.

All of this is happening as a massive spike in coronavirus cases spreads across the U.S. You heard me correctly, COVID spike. Again. It is not surprising that news stations have been tripping over themselves to report on the 2020 Presidential election.

It has been a historic time and headlines continue to break as Dan Pearly’s Twitter drama covers the web and virtual reality furries pick up their virtual reality hammers and construct an online replica of Four Seasons Total Landscaping. Yes, you might have to read that again and no, I cannot explain it either. The point is, a lot has been going on.

And I, for one, have never consumed so much media in my life. The problem is, not all media is created equal. News outlets need to make money and covering the Trump campaign’s baseless court cases certainly catches people’s attention and draws in consumers. But as a nation, I feel that we have become desensitized to coronavirus news. It has been nine months since social distancing suggestions were put in place and individuals bought masks in bulk.

While cases and death counts have continued to grow, coverage on the topic has begun to lessen.

Over 10.5 million Americans have contracted COVID-19 and we have lost over 240,000 lives. These numbers grow daily. Yet I worry that these numbers have stopped representing actual human lives. More specifically, I worry that Biden’s likelihood of taking over the role of president in January has allowed people to get lax with the protective measures they are taking.

I am not referring to Wake Forest’s campus specifically. I am not even referring to Gen Z or Millennials. But, it frustrates me to no end to see Instagram activists post pastel graphics that read “Wear your damn mask” at 10 a.m. and then maskless photos from outside an over-crowded bar at 10 p.m. Or the eye-numbing graphics that boast of Biden’s “belief in science.”

I’m not saying we need Bill Nye in office (though I am not denying that I dream of that sometimes), but it is not radical to want a president in office who actually believes in the power and truth of science. In fact, I see it as a bare minimum requirement.

Having Biden on the path to take office does not eradicate the country’s need to continue to take the threat of coronavirus seriously.

We do not have the option to just “get tired” of taking precautionary measures. Additionally, it is so dangerous and hypocritical to vent about the need to socially distance while attending large gatherings in secret.

People with preexisting conditions did not magically heal the moment that Fox News called the election in Biden’s favor. There was no Lazarus moment for the hundreds of thousands of families whose loved ones...
Biden's victory is only the beginning

The fight for democracy will continue forward following the Biden-Harris win

Sam Horowitz
Guest Columnist
horose17@wfu.edu

This past Saturday afternoon felt like a firecracker detonating in a cave. The brilliant sparkle splattered against the black walls, illuminating the space for what seems like the first time in a long while, reminding us that darkness can be driven out by light. The Wake Forest College Democrats’ group chat was exploding with messages; students shared snaps of them celebrating with friends; a meme of President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

Democrats’ group chat was exploding with messages; students shared snaps of them celebrating with friends; a meme of President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

But despite the excitement of a Biden victory, it’s important to point out what this election symbolizes on a broader scale — and that is how much work Democrats have to do to ensure that every American has the potential to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While Biden garnered the most votes of any candidate in U.S. history, Trump secured second place, and (most notably) President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

For starters, Biden’s running mate, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, will be the first woman, first African American, and first Indian American to hold the office of Vice President of the United States. Over 100 years after women secured the right to vote, we can now look at the White House as a place of opportunity and possibility. Biden’s election also means the end of the Trump presidency. Under Trump, the past four years have been marked by bigotry, division and the repeated assault on our democratic institutions.

Biden has promised a welcomed call for unity, a shift from his predecessor’s commitment to divide the nation into “winners and losers,” and to be a president for all Americans. But despite the excitement of a Biden victory, it’s important to point out what this election symbolizes on a broader scale — and that is how much work Democrats have to do to ensure that every American has the potential to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While Biden garnered the most votes of any candidate in U.S. history, Trump secured second place, and (most notably) President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

This year’s election has been repeated multiple times, and (most notably) President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

This past Saturday afternoon felt like a firecracker detonating in a cave. The brilliant sparkle splattered against the black walls, illuminating the space for what seems like the first time in a long while, reminding us that darkness can be driven out by light. The Wake Forest College Democrats’ group chat was exploding with messages; students shared snaps of them celebrating with friends; a meme of President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

But despite the excitement of a Biden victory, it’s important to point out what this election symbolizes on a broader scale — and that is how much work Democrats have to do to ensure that every American has the potential to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While Biden garnered the most votes of any candidate in U.S. history, Trump secured second place, and (most notably) President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

But despite the excitement of a Biden victory, it’s important to point out what this election symbolizes on a broader scale — and that is how much work Democrats have to do to ensure that every American has the potential to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While Biden garnered the most votes of any candidate in U.S. history, Trump secured second place, and (most notably) President Donald Trump leaving office was sent multiple times, and (most notably) friends; a meme of President Donald Trump was sent.

As Emma Hincliffe of Fortune magazine puts it, “of all demographics, Black women most consistently supported Democratic candidates.” Vanessa Williams of the Washington Post wrote that in the 2016 election, 94% of Black women voted for then presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and in 2008, 95% of the total Black voters voted for President Barack Obama.

Black women have been saving Democrats in general elections for more than the past three cycles, but what has the Democratic party done for Black women as a whole? This election cannot be a repeat of past elections that promise “progressive reforms,” then become silent when people such as Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Tiana Brown, and many more Black women are killed due to police brutality and systemic anti-Blackness.

It is time that policies of police reform, gender and race equality in the workforce, and notions of Black women being too loud or their hair being too nappy, be brought to the Oval Office. Fundamental change is vital to rupture racist stereotyping and discrimination at the local and national level.

For Black women, there is not only an ongoing war against COVID-19 but also a war against anti-black and misogynistic rhetoric and behavior that is deeply cemented in the American way of life. Harris will go down in history for being the first Black woman to become the vice president, but we need to have a deeper conversation about why someone with her credibility and experience in politics wasn’t elected the president.

Harris was qualified, but as is the norm in politics, Black women have to do 10 times the work needed to even be considered for the job. This speaks to the way in which too often Black women have to be twice as good. It is not until we see a Black woman in the O’s office that we understand and hear when it comes to the decision-making calculus in this country.

Harris said, she is the first and won’t be the last, and hopefully the work that will be done in the next four years will prove that Black women are here to stay in whatever office they choose to serve in.
Clawson, Hartman look ahead to UNC

Coach and players addressed the media ahead of the team’s decisive game vs. the Tarheels

BY WILL ZIMMERMAN
Sports Editor
zimmwj19@wfu.edu

Playing at Chapel Hill against a highly talented Tarheel squad presents a golden opportunity for Head Coach Dave Clawson and his Demon Deacons to prove their worth to the ACC and the nation at large. Coming off a bye week, the squad has had extra time to prepare for UNC quarterback Sam Howell, and what is widely considered one of the best offenses in the conference.

On Tuesday, Clawson, redshirt sophomore quarterback Sam Hartman and senior defensive back Ja’Sir Taylor fielded questions from the media about what makes the UNC offense so potent, how they spent the week preparing, and what the Demon Deacons need to do to find success this Saturday.

Hear what they had to say, in their own words, below.

Coach Clawson on the tenacity of the UNC offense:

“Statistically, their offense is one of the best in the ACC and [among the] best in the country. They’ve put up over 500 yards in five straight games, and their lineup reads like an all-star team. There’s a bunch of guys [on their roster] that are going to be playing on Sundays.”

“It’s going to be challenging for us to get stops [and contain Howell], whose development has been remarkable. He could always throw it, and he’s so poised … What’s really underrated is his athleticism. He can make plays with his feet, buy time in the pocket and use his strength to break tackles and avoid sacks … and that’s on top of two NFL-caliber running backs.”

UNC’s offense ranks first in the ACC in terms of total offensive yardage (537 yards per game), second in the conference in points per game (40), rushing yards per game (239) and pass yards per game (298).

For the first time in the last 50 years, UNC has recorded five straight games with over 500 yards. A huge chunk of this yardage has come off the hand of Howell, his 95-career touchdown passes land him at No. 3 on the all-time list of sophomore quarterbacks in the ACC.

The two men in front of him: Trevor Lawrence (66) and James Winston (65).

Coach Clawson on the crucial nature of this matchup:

“This is certainly a game that we need. Anytime we play a big rival game is a big deal to us, and this is a huge rivalry game.”

“We’re looking forward to the challenge, but we know we’ll have to play extremely well [to secure the win].”

Saturday’s game marks the 108th meeting between Wake Forest and UNC. Clawson is 1-1 against the in-state rival, and last season Wake beat the Tarheels 24-18 in a victory that helped secure Wake’s eighth Big-4 championship in program history.

Hartman on the benefits of the bye week and UNC’s defense:

“We started the process in July, so we’ve gotten into the habit of treating each week like a bye week and UNC’s defense:

“We’ve always the underdogs coming into games like this and we like that role. Keep picking us to lose. It’s fine with us. [We know that] If we do what we have to do, we can win each week.”

The Demon Deacons enter the matchup as 16-point underdogs, but the coach and players alike have confidence in the units that will take the field at Kenan Memorial Stadium on Saturday. Tune in to the ACC network at 12 p.m. to see if the team has the prowess to down the Tarheels and keep hopes of another Big-4 championship alive.

AP poll drops pre season basketball rankings

Four ACC teams were ranked among the top 25 in the pre-season AP poll

BY BEN CONROY
Sports Editor
conbro1@wfu.edu

Just over two weeks prior to the Nov. 25 start of the 2020-2021 NCAA basketball season, the Associated Press released its first batch of preseason rankings, revealing which squads will start the year on top in the top 25. The ACC maintains its reputation as one of the NCAA’s most elite conferences, with four of its squads cracking the top 25 and Virginia holding the No. 4 spot. The Big 12 has no shortage of competitors this year, as it’s outpaced the ACC with five squads selected in this first round of polling; much will be expected of Baylor and Kansas in particular as they’ve snatched the No. 2 and No. 6 spots to kick things off. No. 18 Arizona State, No. 20 Oregon and No. 22 UCLA bring the rear for the Pac-12., and No. 10 Kentucky and No. 12 Tennessee are the lone representatives for the SEC. The Big East claims two top-25 spots with No. 3 Villanova and No. 4 Creighton, while the West Coast Conference and the American Athletic Conference each contribute one school to round out the top 25.

Early Surprises:

There are a couple squads whose presence on this list is bound to raise a few eyebrows around the NCAA. Iowa, for example, is not typically regarded as a basketball powerhouse and yet they found themselves sitting pretty in the No. 5 spot just a few weeks before regular season play is set to begin. The Hawkeyes went 20-11 last year with impressive victories over teams such as Penn State, Texas Tech and Maryland. The heart and soul of this Iowa team takes the form of Luka Garza, a 6-11 senior center who’s widely considered as one of the most exciting players in all of college basketball. Garza averaged 23.0 points, 9.8 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game last season, leading the team in all three categories. The Hawkeyes will lean on Garza’s veteran leadership as they attempt to navigate a stacked Big Ten Conference.

No. 8 Illinois is another school whose presence in the top 25 is unusual, let alone the top 10. The Fighting Illini are fresh off a superb 21-win 2019-2020 season in which they collected 13 conference victories. They knocked off a fifth-ranked Michigan squad a ninth-ranked Penn State, and might have made their presence felt during March Madness had the tournament not been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Junior guard Ayo Dosunmu will likely provide the spark for the Illinois offense, as he led the team in scoring a year ago with a final average of just under 17 ppg. What’s most impressive about Dosunmu, however, is his shooting efficiency, as he connected on 48.4% of his field goal attempts last season. The Big Ten has yet to release their full conference schedule for the upcoming season, but Illinois is scheduled to lock horns with No. 9 Duke in what’s sure to be a memorable contest.
Previewing football’s bout at UNC

The Demon Deacons look ready for their upcoming challenge at Chapel Hill

BY ESSEX THAYER
Staff Writer
thayse2@wfu.edu

Following their final bye week of the season, Wake Forest is set to travel to Chapel Hill on Saturday to face their in-conference rival, the North Carolina Tar Heels. Last season, Wake Forest defeated NC State, 24-18. The game will be broadcast on the ACC Network at noon, with North Carolina opening as 16 point favorites.

Summing Up the Deacs
Wake Forest (4-2, 3-2 ACC) comes out of the off-week with confidence, having just completed their first un-defeated month in over 10 years. After a poor start to the season that included losses to Clemson and NC State, the Demon Deacons have turned a corner on their season and might be playing their best football in years. During their 4-0 stretch, Wake Forest downed three straight ACC opponents, including Virginia Tech, which was ranked No. 19 in the nation at the time.

Summing Up the Heels
North Carolina (5-2, 5-2 ACC) is one of the most challenging teams to judge in the ACC this year. There were very high hopes leading up to this season for the Tar Heels, who were looking to build on a 7-4 season that included breakout performances from fellow first years: Head Coach Mack Brown and quarterback Sam Howell. North Carolina began their season 3-0, with wins against Syracuse, Boston College and Virginia Tech, which vaulted them to a top-five ranking in the nation. Following that start, North Carolina has alternated wins and losses, defeating NC State and Duke, while disappointingly falling to Florida State and Virginia.

Players to Watch For Wake Forest
RB Kenneth Walker III
Kenneth Walker III has been the most dynamic player on the Wake Forest offense this year. He comes off a three-touchdown performance against Syracuse, his third hat-trick of the season. He currently has 11 rushing touchdowns on the season, which places him second in the ACC. That number also has him sixth in single-season rushing touchdowns in Wake Forest history. He only needs five more touchdowns to break the record.

WR Jaquarii Roberson
Jaquarii Roberson also is coming off a big week against Syracuse, which was punctuated by Roberson’s game-changing 80-yard touchdown catch. The red-shirt junior currently has 33 receptions for 490 yards and two touchdowns this season. These are not the most impressive of the statistics attributed to Roberson, though, as he currently is the second-highest ranked wide receiver in the NCAA with a 91.1 grade from Pro Football Focus.

DE Carlos “Boogie” Basham
Boogie Basham is the most prolific defender for the Demon Deacons and one of the best in the ACC. The red-shirt senior leads Wake Forest with five sacks, which ranks fifth in the ACC. Leading into the game against Syracuse, Basham held the longest active streak in the NCAA for consecutive games with a tackle for a loss, which ended against the Orange at 23. Basham was a consensus preseason second team All-American and is currently on the watch lists for both the Bednarik and Nagurski awards.

RB Javonte Williams
Javonte Williams immediately jumps off the page as a statistical mismatch that the Demon Deacons must watch out for on Saturday. He leads the ACC in total touchdowns with 17, 14 of which have come from the running game. The junior is also in third place in the ACC in rushing yards with 767.

Players to Watch For North Carolina
QB Sam Howell
Sam Howell, a true sophomore, is recognized as one of the best quarterbacks in the ACC and one of the most promising in all of college football. He is currently second in the conference in passing yards with 2,081, only trailing Phil Jurkovic by two yards. Howell’s best performance of the season came against Florida State, where he threw for 374 yards and three touchdowns.

S Nick Andersen
Relatively unknown coming into this season, the walk-on freshman has become a reliable starter for the Wake Forest defense and became a national story following his three-interception game against Virginia Tech. In the performance that earned him a scholarship for the remainder of his time in Winston-Salem, Andersen also became first Demon Deacon to intercept three or more passes in a game since 1987.

Players to Watch For Virginia
Centerback and sophomore Nico Benalcazar has played a monumental role in the Deacon’s defensive successes this season.
An in-depth look at fall athletics

With a monumental win over Clemson, Notre Dame assumed No. 1 on the Week 11 AP Poll

With the entrance of the MAC and the Pac-12, this past Saturday was the first to feature all 10 FBS conferences in action, but the headline moment of Week 10 had nothing to do with the new arrivals on the college football scene.

If you have not yet heard, the top-ranked Clemson Tigers fell in dramatic fashion to the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish 47-40 in the weekend’s premier showdown. The Tigers were without star quarterback Trevor Lawrence for the second-straight week due to a positive COVID-19 test, and for the third week in a row, the Tigers started a bit slow, trailing 23-10 in the first half before getting back into the game late to score a pair of touchdowns and force overtime.

Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards, but Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book and a relentless 310-yard performance from Notre Dame Fighting Irish RB Jordan Howard led the Irish to a 27-20 win.

An inconsistency in the Tigers’ defense led to a balanced play for the Deacs. Wake Forest is third in the country in points per game and against, with seven different players scoring touchdowns during the game. The Deacons defense did not allow the Deacs to go over 100 yards in the first half.

Despite the COVID-19 shortened season, the Deacs came out strong, winning their first four games with a combination of defense and offense. The Deacs have yet to suffer their only loss of the season to the Clemson Tigers. They have compiled half of the season ranked atop the nation, wreaking havoc on their opponents. Junior Kyle Holcomb leads the team accounting for five goals during the season, two of them game winners, placing him second in the country for scoring, respectively.

How Things Have Played Out

Despite the Deacons failure to come out strong, winning their first four games with a consistent defense and offense, their success can be attributed to two things. First, they have taken advantage of the talent on their roster. Second, they have played well against top teams, including a shutout victory over heavily-favored Virginia Tech.

The Deacons are looking for some sweet revenge after their two losses to the Cavaliers last season.

What’s to come

Wake Forest and Virginia are set for a battle of the ages Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. in the first round of this year’s ACC men’s soccer tournament. The Deacons are looking for some sweet revenge after their two losses to the Cavaliers last season.

With the entrance of the MAC and the Pac-12, this past Saturday was the first to feature all 10 FBS conferences in action, but the headline moment of Week 10 had nothing to do with the new arrivals on the college football scene.

If you have not yet heard, the top-ranked Clemson Tigers fell in dramatic fashion to the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish 47-40 in the weekend’s premier showdown. The Tigers were without star quarterback Trevor Lawrence for the second-straight week due to a positive COVID-19 test, and for the third week in a row, the Tigers started a bit slow, trailing 23-10 in the first half before getting back into the game late to score a pair of touchdowns and force overtime.

Clemson quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards, but Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book and a relentless 310-yard performance from Notre Dame Fighting Irish RB Jordan Howard led the Irish to a 27-20 win.

An inconsistency in the Tigers’ defense led to a balanced play for the Deacs. Wake Forest is third in the country in points per game and against, with seven different players scoring touchdowns during the game. The Deacons defense did not allow the Deacs to go over 100 yards in the first half.

Despite the COVID-19 shortened season, the Deacs came out strong, winning their first four games with a combination of defense and offense. The Deacs have yet to suffer their only loss of the season to the Clemson Tigers. They have compiled half of the season ranked atop the nation, wreaking havoc on their opponents. Junior Kyle Holcomb leads the team accounting for five goals during the season, two of them game winners, placing him second in the country for scoring, respectively.

How Things Have Played Out

Despite the Deacons failure to come out strong, winning their first four games with a consistent defense and offense, their success can be attributed to two things. First, they have taken advantage of the talent on their roster. Second, they have played well against top teams, including a shutout victory over heavily-favored Virginia Tech.

The Deacons are looking for some sweet revenge after their two losses to the Cavaliers last season.

What’s to come

Wake Forest and Virginia are set for a battle of the ages Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. in the first round of this year’s ACC men’s soccer tournament. The Deacons are looking for some sweet revenge after their two losses to the Cavaliers last season.

With the entrance of the MAC and the Pac-12, this past Saturday was the first to feature all 10 FBS conferences in action, but the headline moment of Week 10 had nothing to do with the new arrivals on the college football scene.

If you have not yet heard, the top-ranked Clemson Tigers fell in dramatic fashion to the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish 47-40 in the weekend’s premier showdown. The Tigers were without star quarterback Trevor Lawrence for the second-straight week due to a positive COVID-19 test, and for the third week in a row, the Tigers started a bit slow, trailing 23-10 in the second quarter. Freshman backup quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards, but star running back Travis Etienne only ran for 28 yards for Clemson, and a relentless 310-yard performance from Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book allowed Notre Dame to hang around and send the game into overtime tied 34-34.

Both teams scored in the first over-time, but some late sacks prevented the Tigers from answering the Irish’s score in the second overtime. With the win and their relatively light schedule for the rest of the year (until they march into Winston-Salem, of course), Notre Dame nimbly moves the favorite to make the ACC Championship Game, where they very well may meet Clemson again.

The Tigers dropped their first regular-season game since 2017 and now need to run the table and win the ACC if they hope to make the College Football Play-off.

The other big game of the weekend saw eighth-ranked Florida take down fifth-ranked Georgia in the World’s Largest Canceled Cocktail Party. Georgia led 14-0 early in the first quarter, but the rest of the first half saw Florida’s explosive offense take center stage as the Gators’ Heisman-hopeful quarterback, Kyle Trask, torched the top-rated defense in college football en route to a 38-21 lead for the Gators. Muted second-half performances by both offenses did not change much, and the Gators kept their Playoff hopes alive while taking the driver’s seat in the SEC East.

In Big Ten action, Iowa’s 3 ranked Indiana Hoosiers validated their ascendance with a comfortable 38-21 victory over Michigan, simultaneously confirming the Wolverines’ spiral from what they looked like in their opening-game victory over Minnesota. Michigan could not field many game-changers besides Matt Cassel/Pool/Getty Images/TNS

The Clemson Tigers failed to pull out a win in South Bend.

The College football season has finally hit No. 3, and Clemson’s demise this week didn’t do their season any favors. Especially after that game, the questions surrounding who makes the College Football Playoff have gotten even louder. The Playoff Committee will need to balance teams’ records with post-season performance and sit-outs caused by the virus, as well as varying lengths of schedules across conferences. The only way to learn who will take a spot is to watch as the schedule becomes more intense.

With the entrance of the MAC and the Pac-12, this past Saturday was the first to feature all 10 FBS conferences in action, but the headline moment of Week 10 had nothing to do with the new arrivals on the college football scene.

If you have not yet heard, the top-ranked Clemson Tigers fell in dramatic fashion to the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish 47-40 in the weekend’s premier showdown. The Tigers were without star quarterback Trevor Lawrence for the second-straight week due to a positive COVID-19 test, and for the third week in a row, the Tigers started a bit slow, trailing 23-10 in the second quarter. Freshman backup quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards, but star running back Travis Etienne only ran for 28 yards for Clemson, and a relentless 310-yard performance from Notre Dame quarterback Ian Book allowed Notre Dame to hang around and send the game into overtime tied 34-34.

Both teams scored in the first over-time, but some late sacks prevented the Tigers from answering the Irish’s score in the second overtime. With the win and their relatively light schedule for the rest of the year (until they march into Winston-Salem, of course), Notre Dame nimbly moves the favorite to make the ACC Championship Game, where they very well may meet Clemson again.

The Tigers dropped their first regular-season game since 2017 and now need to run the table and win the ACC if they hope to make the College Football Play-off.

The other big game of the weekend saw eighth-ranked Florida take down fifth-ranked Georgia in the World’s Largest Canceled Cocktail Party. Georgia led 14-0 early in the first quarter, but the rest of the first half saw Florida’s explosive offense take center stage as the Gators’ Heisman-hopeful quarterback, Kyle Trask, torched the top-rated defense in college football en route to a 38-21 lead for the Gators. Muted second-half performances by both offenses did not change much, and the Gators kept their Playoff hopes alive while taking the driver’s seat in the SEC East.

In Big Ten action, Iowa’s 3 ranked Indiana Hoosiers validated their ascendance with a comfortable 38-21 victory over Michigan, simultaneously confirming the Wolverines’ spiral from what they looked like in their opening-game victory over Minnesota. Michigan could not field many game-changers besides an inconsistent-but-talented quarterback in Joe Milton, and Indiana’s offense looked strong against a Michigan defense featuring plenty of highly-rated recruits.

The first game of the Pac-12 season was also the first thriller, in a sense. Perhaps thanks to a 9 a.m. local start time, neither Arizona State nor No. 20 USC was explosive out the gate, but the Sun Devils managed to take a 27-14 lead deep into the fourth quarter before a touchdown-scoring kick-touchdown sequence at the very end by the Trojans flipped the script and won the game 28-27 for USC. The win was monumental in maintaining the Trojans’ status as favorites to win the wide-open Pac-12 South, but Arizona State’s performance solidifies their place among the conference’s contenders, and the Sun Devils could still win their division if USC manages to stumble a few times later this season.

Another surprise of the week was the No. 25 ranked Liberty Flames triumph over heavily-favored Virginia Tech, 38-35. The Hokies may have been preparing for next week’s showdown against Miami a bit too early and forgot to prepare for a creative and balanced offense that was able to capitalize. The Flames hung around for the entire contest and controlled the game late before kicking a 51-yard field goal to win it as time expired. Bizarrely, the kick was originally blocked and returned for a Virginia Tech touchdown to win, but the Hokies had called timeout just seconds before the snap, giving the Flames another chance.

Another two losses were to top threats in Florida State and North Carolina, both of which went undefeated this season.

The Deacs finished the season winners of two of their last three games and capitalized on the strong defensive play of the season. The team only scored ten goals on the year and had three wins. However, they were without six players from last season and had a young and developing group. Six different players scored goals this year, showing that the talent is there. Two of the losses came in overtime to Duke (one in double overtime) and the team only lost two games by more than one goal.

With the entrance of the MAC and the Pac-12, this past Saturday was the first to feature all 10 FBS conferences in action, but the headline moment of Week 10 had nothing to do with the new arrivals on the college football scene.

If you have not yet heard, the top-ranked Clemson Tigers fell in dramatic fashion to the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish 47-40 in the weekend’s premier showdown. The Tigers were without star quarterback Trevor Lawrence for the second-straight week due to a positive COVID-19 test, and for the third week in a row, the Tigers started a bit slow, trailing 23-10 in the second quarter. Freshman backup quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei passed for 439 yards, but star running back Travis Eti-
A new chapter begins for NY Mets Baseball

The New York Mets baseball team has found a new majority owner in hedge fund manager Steve Cohen

BY BRUCE HAYWOOD
Staff Writer
haywbc5@wfu.edu

Mets fans, rejoice! New Yorkers have endured decades of frustrating seasons under the ownership of father and son duo Fred and Jeff Wilpon. The Wilpons heavily invested in Bernie Madoff’s Ponzi scheme, which led to their ownership being put on life-support with loans from the MLB. Needless to say, the Mets have routinely been financially hamstrung. The organization has become notorious for teasing rumors of landing big fish free agents only to settle for mediocre bargain chips. Despite these challenges, the team has found ways to reach the World Series as recently as 2000 and 2015. However, fans are hungry for success because they are in the picturesque free-agent destination of New York, and they are forced to watch the neighboring Yankees compete for championships yearly. Their division rival opponents, the Philadelphia Phillies and Washington Nationals, have each won World Series rings within the last 12 years.

Enter Steve Cohen. Cohen, a life-long Mets fan, purchased an 8% stake in the team in 2012. In spring of this year, Cohen began talks to become the majority team owner, but could not reach a final agreement. In the summer, Cohen returned to the table, but this time he competed with another ownership group led by Alexander Rodriguez and Jennifer Lopez. On Sept. 14, Cohen came to an agreement with the Wilpons, and MLB owners approved the sale of the Mets on Oct. 30. Cohen now owns 95% of the Mets and his $2.475 billion purchase is an MLB record. Cohen set another record becoming the wealthiest owner in the MLB with an estimated net worth of $14 billion. Cohen previously founded S.A.C. Capital Advisors, a hedge fund that pled guilty to insider trading, but Cohen settled to be barred from trading from 2016 to 2018. Cohen is believed to have influenced the development of fictional character, Bobby Axelrod, on the show “Billions.” He now runs another hedge fund, Point72 Asset Management.

On Nov. 6 Cohen officially assumed ownership of the Mets and released the following statement: “This is a significant milestone in the history of this storied franchise. I want to thank everybody who helped make this happen. The 2021 season is right around the corner and we’ve got a lot of work to do, so I’m excited to get started. Let’s go Mets.” Cohen’s first move as owner was to guarantee that all employees of the Mets would be paid what they were before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Cohen has also wasted little time on his mission to deliver a winning Mets culture. With expectations that the MLB owners would approve him to take over the team, he re-hired former Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson to be Team President earlier this fall. Alderson is often credited with engineering the Mets 2015 World Series roster. On the same day that Cohen took ownership, he cleaned out the entire front office staff, including General Manager Brodie Van Wagenen. Cohen will reportedly seek to lure successful executives away from other MLB teams, and will revamp the Mets analytics team. There are several exciting free agents that Mets fans hope Cohen will open up his wallet for including catches J.T. Realmuto, pitcher Trevor Bauer and outfielder George Springer.

Cohen’s ownership will likely shake-up the MLB power balance. This is a new chapter in the Mets history, and fans should be excited about their future.

NFL Week 10: Brees shines, Brady dissapoints

As the playoffs approach, several teams shined in Week 10. Brady’s Buccaneers wasn’t one of them

BY CHRISTINA DENOVIO
Staff Writer
denova20@wfu.edu

As another week of football passes, anxious fans are tuning closer to predicting what the playoffs will look like.

Most of this week’s winners were expected: the Baltimore Ravens’ win over the Indianapolis Colts, the Minnesota Vikings’ defeat over the Chicago Bears. Several games, however, were closer than most fans might have thought.

The Pittsburgh Steelers remained undefeated with their win against the Dallas Cowboys, but won by only a small margin. In fact, the 8-0 Steelers were down with just over three minutes left in the fourth quarter before(package)

The New York Giants managed to get a win over the Washington Football Team on Sunday. Somehow, the Philadelphia Eagles are currently first in the division despite a dismal record of 3-4-1.

Moving into the NFC West, the leaders of the division, the Seattle Seahawks, lost to the Buffalo Bills despite putting up a solid offensive performance. The San Francisco 49ers, who are last in the division, lost to the Green Bay Packers on Thursday.

Last season’s NFC champs, have had their fair share of struggles, largely due to debilitating losses to QB Jimmy Garoppolo, and also star players in George Kittle and Nick Bosa. The 49ers are currently last in their division, behind the Los Angeles Rams.

Somewhat surprisingly, The Packers fell to their division rival Vikings, whose defense held Aaron Rodgers’ offense to only 22 points.

The most anticipated NFC game this week has to have been between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the New Orleans Saints, but the game proved anything but exciting. Saints fans can rejoice in a heroic defensive effort and compelling offensive performances, including a dominant game from quarterback Drew Brees, who overtook opponent Tom Brady’s spot atop the Touchdown Pass Leaders list.

Brady’s performance on Sunday was uncharacteristic for the future hall of famer. He has led his new team to a solid 6-3 record this season, but Brady threw three interceptions and was unable to find the endzone a single time against the Saints in their 31-3 bludgeoning.

Tampa Bay fans were looking forward to seeing what kind of help would come from Antonio Brown, who had not played in the NFL for more than a year. Brown has had his fair share of career struggles over the past couple of years bouncing between teams, but his debut for the Bucs finally came on Nov. 8. Brown’s performance (three receptions for 31 yards) along with that of the rest of the team, was underwhelming to say the least.

In the AFC, few expected the tight score between last season’s Super Bowl champions and the 3-6 Panthers, but Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs did secure a 33-31 victory. Mahomes threw four touchdowns and seems to be putting his team in position to make another deep run in the playoffs again this year.

Though it’s still too early to tell exactly what the postseason in January will look like, the Tennessee Titans, Bills, Chiefs and Steelers are currently leading their respective divisions in the AFC. In the NFC, the Eagles, Seahawks, Packers and Saints currently lead their respective divisions.

Teams in the thick of the Wild Card races include the Baltimore Ravens, Oakland Raiders, Miami Dolphins, Arizona Cardinals, Buccaneers and Rams. Week 11’s first game between the Colts and Titans will take place on Thursday, Nov. 12.
The 72-game season has received mixed criticism from players, as many were in favor of a 60-game season starting in January. For NBA.com, the league took the potential loss of revenue into account, seeing a difference of nearly $500 million between the two options. Players who were present in the NBA bubble are more concerned about the lack of rest rather than lack of money for the owners. Eight teams will have not played in a competitive game in nearly nine months due to their ineligibility for the NBA bubble. Along with the training camp dates, details such as player safety, fan attendance and emergency plans will not be decided until the next round of negotiations between the league and players’ association.

The NHL concluded its season in late September and held its annual draft a few weeks later. As rookies are letting the ink on their newly-signed contracts dry, the league is still trying to determine when players can return to the rink. Reports from Greg Wyshanski of ESPN say that the target start date is Jan. 1, but it is tentative as no official announcement by the NHL or NHLPA has been made. Training camp dates are also still unknown, but teams may host voluntary workouts at their facilities if compliant with COVID-19 protocols.

NBA, NHL considering paths forward

The two leagues, which both finished last season with a bubble, deliberate what’s next

BY COOPER SULLIVAN
Staff Writer
sullgs20@wfu.edu

On Nov. 5, after many deliberative meetings and weeks of speculation, the NBA and the Players’ Association agreed on Dec. 22 as the target date for the 2020-2021 season. This decision comes almost a month after Lebron James and the Los Angeles Lakers added another championship to the storied franchise’s legacy. This will be the shortest offseason ever of the major four American sports leagues, clocking in at 72 days long. Prior to this offseason, the shortest NBA break was 127 days during the summer of 2017. The NBA draft is scheduled for Nov. 18 and NBPA team representatives recently approved a proposal to open training camps as early as Dec. 1. If this comes to fruition, it would mean that there would only be about three weeks for rookies and free agents to become acclimated to their new teams, instead of the typical 20 weeks that are between the draft and the season opener. Free agency will begin on Nov. 20 and player can sign contracts beginning on Nov. 22, per Adrian Wojnarowski.

NBA considering paths forward

Gearing up for a one-of-a-kind Masters

The Masters Tournament, taking place this November, will be a strange affair

BY CONNOR MCNEELY
Staff Writer
mcneelybg@wfu.edu

After a long delay, the 2020 Masters is set for a Nov. 12 start date. This will be the first Masters in the fall, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking forward, the Masters will be put right back on schedule, as it is slated for an April return in 2021. This year, the field of 94 offers a great host of options, including key talents that will aim to rely on their shotmaking at Augusta in hopes of earning another green jacket.

Of course, all eyes will be set on Tiger Woods, the defending champion. Though his play in the time of his return has been largely mediocore, one has to acknowledge the possibility that he is the greatest golfer of all time. He can’t be ruled out. With his experience he is the greatest golfer of all time. He has to acknowledge the possibility that Rory McIlroy is looking for his first major victory, and I would give him a good chance for a top finish in this year’s Masters. His inexperience could be a huge problem — bringing a troubling amount of mental pressure. Rahm is looking to get past his late mistakes at the ZOZO Championship and return to his summer form.

As for the course, it is certain that Augusta National will be in great shape. It will make for a soft, long game that favors distance. This isn’t, however, needs work in driving accuracy more than anything. Spieth believes that hitting fairways is the key to getting his advantage. In the Masters, Spieth just might make that improvement. He definitely isn’t one to be counted out. Jon Rahm is looking for his first major victory, and I would give him a good chance for a top finish in this year’s Masters. His inexperience could be a huge problem — bringing a troubling amount of mental pressure. Rahm is looking to get past his late mistakes at the ZOZO Championship and return to his summer form.

The Masters Tournament, taking place this November, will be a strange affair

BY COOPER SULLIVAN
Staff Writer
sullgs20@wfu.edu

On Nov. 5, after many deliberative meetings and weeks of speculation, the NBA and the Players’ Association agreed on Dec. 22 as the target date for the 2020-2021 season. This decision comes almost a month after Lebron James and the Los Angeles Lakers added another championship to the storied franchise’s legacy. This will be the shortest offseason ever of the major four American sports leagues, clocking in at 72 days long. Prior to this offseason, the shortest NBA break was 127 days during the summer of 2017. The NBA draft is scheduled for Nov. 18 and NBPA team representatives recently approved a proposal to open training camps as early as Dec. 1. If this comes to fruition, it would mean that there would only be about three weeks for rookies and free agents to become acclimated to their new teams, instead of the typical 20 weeks that are between the draft and the season opener. Free agency will begin on Nov. 20 and player can sign contracts beginning on Nov. 22, per Adrian Wojnarowski.

The 72-game season has received mixed criticism from players, as many were in favor of a 60-game season starting in January. For NBA.com, the league took the potential loss of revenue into account, seeing a difference of nearly $500 million between the two options. Players who were present in the NBA bubble are more concerned about the lack of rest rather than lack of money for the owners. Eight teams will have not played in a competitive game in nearly nine months due to their ineligibility for the NBA bubble. Along with the training camp dates, details such as player safety, fan attendance and emergency plans will not be decided until the next round of negotiations between the league and players’ association.

The NHL concluded its season in late September and held its annual draft a few weeks later. As rookies are letting the ink on their newly-signed contracts dry, the league is still trying to determine when players can return to the rink. Reports from Greg Wyshanski of ESPN say that the target start date is Jan. 1, but it is tentative as no official announcement by the NHL or NHLPA has been made. Training camp dates are also still unknown, but teams may host voluntary workouts at their facilities if compliant with COVID-19 protocols.

If the NHL’s New Year’s Day start date holds true, this offseason will be its shortest ever at 94 days, five less than the previous spot. The 2013 offseason was shortened as the lockdown during the previous season forced the 2012-13 season to finish later than expected. Calgary Flames center Mark Giordano says that they skate “three or four days a week” but leave the training schedule up to the coaching staff in order to prevent tire before the season inevitably begins.

Both leagues restarted their 2020 seasons with strict bubble rules that lead to zero cases and no postponed games. These are issues that the frequent traveling MLB and NFL have both been struggling to manage. While it has not been confirmed, both leagues are optimistic that fans will eventually be able to return to the stands and cheer on their favorite teams, most likely meaning that there will not be a neutral location where games will be played.

James, fresh off winning another championship, has made it clear he will not partake when the NBA season begins in December.

Gearing up for a one-of-a-kind Masters

The Masters Tournament, taking place this November, will be a strange affair

BY CONNOR MCNEELY
Staff Writer
mcneelybg@wfu.edu

After a long delay, the 2020 Masters is set for a Nov. 12 start date. This will be the first Masters in the fall, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking forward, the Masters will be put right back on schedule, as it is slated for an April return in 2021. This year, the field of 94 offers a great host of options, including key talents that will aim to rely on their shotmaking at Augusta in hopes of earning another green jacket.

Of course, all eyes will be set on Tiger Woods, the defending champion. Though his play in the time of his return has been largely mediocore, one has to acknowledge the possibility that he is the greatest golfer of all time. He can’t be ruled out. With his experience he is the greatest golfer of all time. He has to acknowledge the possibility that Rory McIlroy is looking for his first major victory, and I would give him a good chance for a top finish in this year’s Masters. His inexperience could be a huge problem — bringing a troubling amount of mental pressure. Rahm is looking to get past his late mistakes at the ZOZO Championship and return to his summer form.

As for the course, it is certain that Augusta National will be in great shape. Photography is something required for the Bentgrass greens, which can play very quickly.

Though Woods has a solid chance at a great defense of his 2019 Masters victory, the clear betting favorite in this tournament is the headline king Bryson DeChambeau, who has been making noise in the lead up to this year’s Masters. He recently went for a practice round at Augusta, which reportedly blew away spectators. DeChambeau apparently wants to level expectations with his distance short-cuts that won him the U.S. Open. His recent practice showed this strategy, as he hit with a sand wedge to hole one, an eight iron to the second hole and a 3-wood over the 350 yard green. DeChambeau wants to shock everyone, and these mind-bending shots certainly give him a great chance to do so, if he can nail his strategy early.

There are other great picks in this tournament. Patrick Cantlay comes into this year fresh off a title at the ZOZO Championship with a solid chance of making it into the mix at Augusta. He plays a smart game, and some strong, aggressive golf. He held on in the final round at Thousand Oaks with nine birdies to slip past the former number one Justin Thomas and current number two Jon Rahm.

Rory McIlroy returns to the Masters looking to add some speed to his swing, taking notes from DeChambeau. McIlroy will be looking to complete a career grand slam and to erase the memory of his 2011 final round nightmare. Jordan Spieth is another golfer who has a great feel for Augusta. His absurd scoring average for the course stands at 70.17 through 24 rounds. He’s one that is against the major movement in golf for distance, admitting that his game needs work in driving accuracy more than anything. Spieth believes that hitting fairways is the key to getting his advantage. In the Masters, Spieth just might make that improvement. He definitely isn’t one to be counted out. Jon Rahm is looking for his first major victory, and I would give him a good chance for a top finish in this year’s Masters. His inexperience could be a huge problem — bringing a troubling amount of mental pressure. Rahm is looking to get past his late mistakes at the ZOZO Championship and return to his summer form.

As for the course, it is certain that Augusta National will be in great shape. There are some different factors this year, most notably the colder weather and the conditions of the fairways. It’s looking like the grass on the fairways will make for a soft, long game that favors distance. This isn’t, however, a clear indicator of who will win. At Augusta National, you need a great touch on the greens to win. Fans will eventually be able to return to the stands and cheer on their favorite teams, most likely meaning that there will not be a neutral location where games will be played.

James, fresh off winning another championship, has made it clear he will not partake when the NBA season begins in December.

Golf fans may not be accustomed to golf at Augusta National in November, but strange sights seem to be common-place in 2020.
Netflix releases remake of Rebecca

In the latest period adaptation, Director Ben Wheatley fails to bring a new perspective to the Alfred Hitchcock classic

BY MADDY ROTHFIELD
Staff Writer
rothmwo2@wfu.edu

In a time of limited movie releases, every drop becomes exciting, especially the influx of new films by critically acclaimed directors made exclusively for streaming services. The most recent release of this type is Rebecca, a remake of Alfred Hitchcock’s classic romance-thriller. Directed by emerging writer Ben Wheatley, the film follows the story of a young woman, played by Lily James, unnamed throughout the film as she marries and discovers the secrets of a wealthy English widower Maxim De Winter, played by Armie Hammer. The film begins with the woman serving as a ladies companion to the rich Mrs. Van Hopper, a woman portrayed as a crude archetype of an evil stepmother. The two check into a hotel in Monte Carlo, an exclusive vacation spot for high society and wealthy socialites, a point driving home that the unnamed woman is denied access to the hotel restaurant because she is “staff.” Thankfully, Maxim is there to save the day, inviting the clumsy and naive girl to sit at his table. Upon first meeting Maxim, he is dressed in a mustard yellow suit, which makes for a striking resemblance to “The Man With the Yellow Hat,” from Curious George. Unfortunately, this dreadful suit soon became the main focus of the film. Instead of finding myself locked into the story of the two lovebirds I found myself wondering, why is he wearing that? Did the costume team run out of budget? Who thought a tawdry and jaundiced stain colored suit would enhance Armie Hammer’s natural movie star looks? While it may sound like I am exaggerating, the suit may have been the most memorable part of the movie, a telling sign of how this review is going to go, but I digress. As obscenely long as the film was, the first twenty minutes were absolutely the most concise and momentous, leaving the rest to painstakingly confusing storylines. In all honesty, it would take a whole research paper to unpack all the times I threw my hands in the air and yelled “What?” at my computer screen, but I’ll stick with the most infuriating pieces. Buckle up.

Like a roller coaster taking off without warning, the film immediately dove into the action. Maxim and the unnamed woman began going on picturesque dates all over the coast of the Mediterranean. This could have been the romance we were looking for, but suddenly we see Maxim brings the woman to a beautiful terrace he reveals he and his late wife spent their honey moon. Excuse me, what? Here is where I began to question how normal this character was, and why was the unnamed woman unperturbed by this? It seemed like every time I began to buy into the romance between these two, a random plot point or line ruined the mood. Instead of developing any real feeling between the two, they always felt like actors, attempting to feign attraction while both of them had better things to be doing. It didn’t help that the entirety of the meeting and romance between the protagonists lasted only the first twenty minutes of the film. We witness them kiss once or twice on their romantic dates until Mrs. Van Hopper decides to leave immediately with the unnamed woman for New York, knowing of her romance with Maxim. As the logical reaction of someone whose wife died six months ago and has only known his new lover for a few weeks, Maxim proposes. The overjoyed unnamed woman accepts, surpassing her class and receiving plenty of snide comments about it throughout the film, including from maids and butlers (side note: is this a movie about class system now?). Here’s where things really get confusing. What should have been the climax and resolution of the entire film occurs in the first twenty minutes, and it’s all downhill from there.

Bringing his new wife home to his great estate, which we learn was gifted from Henry VIII to the De Winters, Manderly is a dark and ancient manor with an off-putting feel of decrepit and fallen aristocracy. A huge team of butlers and maids greet the newlyweds outside, all of which look undernourished and dyspeptic, not a good sign for the new Mrs. De Winter (she finally has a name). The next 90 minutes of the film become a horror movie in a whiplashing move from sunny Monte Carlo to the depressing English countryside (why is it always cloudy there?).

With the first villain of the film gone, a new one is swiftly introduced, Mrs. Danvers, the malicious housekeeper. Danvers plots against Mrs. De Winter, coming between her relationship with Maxim through conviving moves to bring up his dead ex-wife, Rebecca. Maxim refuses to tell Mrs. De Winter how Rebecca died or even to speak of her, a strange move for a supposedly happily married couple. The rest of the film centers around a murder mystery in which Mrs. De Winter attempts to learn how Rebecca died, an entire plot that could have been avoided if Maxim had simply told her. Without giving too much away, this plot becomes increasingly confusing with loose ends and unanswered questions running rampant throughout.

Apart from the jarring and constantly changing plot, my largest critique of this film may be in its portrayal of Mrs. De Winter, a woman never even given a name besides that of her husband’s. Throughout the whole film, she is walked all over by her mean-spirited boss, Mrs. Van Hopper, the cruel Mrs. Danvers, and particularly by her husband, Maxim. Maxim treats her more like a plaything than a real human being, seen in his tendency to never speak to her, not give her the development; she just takes the emotional abuse laid on her without complaining or ever standing up for herself. The character of Mrs. De Winter is never given a clear identity or any development; she just takes the emotional abuse laid on her without complaining or ever standing up for herself. In an era of increased vigilance regarding the representation of strong women in media, this portrayal felt tone deaf and harmful. Overall, I would rate this movie a 2.5/10, as a two hour-long event, I felt mentally exhausted by the end and irritated by the one-dimensional characters. My advice? Don’t fix what isn’t broken. The original serves just fine.
In a continuation of the story from last week, Chaz continues to irritate.

**BY ANDY KILLEBREW**
Artist, Life Editor
killebrew@wfu.edu

In order to gain more objectivity regarding my least favorite roommate, Chaz the Cat, I decided to write a formal review of him and his mannerisms. I frequently find myself mired in deep emotional muck when dealing with him around the house and thought it would be beneficial to take a more detached look at my furry friend.

When it comes to aesthetics, Chaz doesn’t earn high marks. He has all the majesty of a lion prancing through the savanna in search of prey if the plain were a laminate floor and the gazelles were cans of Friskies wet food. He’s adorned with beautiful white stripes on his volupitous orange coat and has a magnificent two-white stripes on his voluptuous or-white cheeks. His face is quite charming, featuring long, white whiskers, prominent, triangular ears, green eyes with oval pupils and a petite, pink nose. He has the paw size of a German Shepherd and the teeth of a bobcat, which, while giving some concern for his eventual size and ferocity, combine to make him quite the formidable creature.

Though he is quite the stunner, Chaz leaves plenty to be desired in terms of house training. Miraculously, he seems to have mastered countertoops and tables: he rarely leaps on top, instead preferring the solidity of the ground. However, this does nothing to diminish his outsized presence. Chaz has no respect for class times or quiet hours, making himself known during sleep and study with squawks and scratch- es on the door. He’s mediocre at best cleaning up his litter box; the stench emanating from Chaz’s bathroom is often overwhelming. He also has no respect for personal space, taking any opportunity to stake out under beds or slump from toilets.

Chaz really loses ground in his ability to accept discipline and learn from his mistakes. If he spoke English (which I’ve tried to teach him on numerous occasions), he might be more receptive to my attempts at education. Instead, I’m normally greeted with glassy eyes and a blank stare. Spray bottles have already proved ineffective: Chaz is known to eat multiple squirts to the face with absolute resolve. I refuse to miss a meal or two, so his behav- ioral strides in the future, but for now I award Chaz a 4.5/10.

---

**Album Review | Positions**

Ariana Grande releases sixth album

Grande’s Positions is criticized as a mature, bold take on traditional R&B

**BY CATHERINE REGEN**
Life Editor
regecj@wfu.edu

Every single song off of Ariana Grande’s sixth studio album Positions charted on the Billboard Top 100. The album as a whole hit number one on that chart the day it was released, with over 174 mil- lion streams. Her last album, Thank u, next, was released in February of 2019, a little over a year and a half ago. She was on tour performing songs from both her Sweetener album and her Thank u next album when concerts were forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the tour was cancelled, she has appeared on singles with Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga.

“Positions,” the title track, was released a week before the album with an accompanying music video that featured visuals of Grande in the White House. Many fans found the theme of the video to be timely with the U.S. Presidential election looming. The success of the music video predicted the success of the album as a whole. Grande had only announced the release of the album earlier that month, straying from the tradition of artists teasing their work for months before it is released. The immediate release strategy is akin to that of Taylor Swift’s folklore, which was announced the same day it was released. Interestingly, both women are represented by Republic Records.

The album features songs with other artists as well, including “Move” with Doja Cat, “Off the table” with The Weeknd and “Safety Net” featuring Ty Dolla Sign. Her guests add diversity in sound and rhythm to her otherwise steady harmonic style. Overall the album is typical Grande, solidifying her reputation for delivering catchy synth ballads. It comes at no surprise that a few of the songs have garnered popularity on the video-sharing app TikTok. Her music is particularly on theme for a popular style of acting video on the platform.

There is nothing new about the sound of the album, but the lyrical themes are a little lighter than they have been in the past. It is no secret that Grande has used her music to process trauma, notably when terrorist attacked one of her concerts in Manchester, England in 2017, and when her ex boyfriend Mac Miller’s overdose in 2018. Positions is different however, placing an emphasis on love and relationships. The sexual innuendos in “34+35” alone set a different tone from Grande’s previous, more emotional, work.

Fans of Grande will remember the shock that came from her listing her ex boyfriends by name in her song “thank u next.” While that song fueled gossip for months, particularly about the demise of Grande’s relationship with comedian Pete David- son, her new album refrains from stirring the proverbial pot. While the album is still about love and relationships, the central idea is more about processing those emotions rather than airing them out to dry in public. If you were already a fan of Grande’s music, I have no doubt that you will enjoy this album as well. It doesn’t spark any major revelations about the young artist, and is exactly what I expected from her sixth album.

---

**THE HOT LIST**

Top 10 Reasons to Procreate

By Micah Porter

1. You could use the tax deduction.
2. You always have leftovers and can’t keep them from molding.
3. You need to pass down the old books your parents gave you.
4. Disney vacations always seem to be for families of four.
5. You like to obey the saying “try everything once.”
6. You’re in enough debt already, what would a few kids add?
7. Arguing against a child reassu res your own sense of power.
8. It’s funny when they ask, “why is this wet?”
9. Toddlers can communicate with dogs ***not confirmed.
10. Perfect excuse to get out of any scenario.

---

**DRINK OF THE WEEK**

Homemade Eggnog

- 4 large pasteurized eggs
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 4 cups 2% milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

1) In a large bowl, beat the eggs until they are thick and lemon colored.
2) Whisk in the sugar, nutmeg, lemon juice and salt.
3) Add the milk and cream.
4) Beat with a hand mixer for 1-2 minutes or until the eggnog is frothy.
5) Serve with ice. Makes six large glasses.

*Courtesy of Micah Porter*
In Memoriam | Alex Trebeck

Alex Trebeck leaves incredible legacy

News that the Jeopardy! host passed away hit the stands this past Monday

BY AINE PIERRE
Asst. News Editor
pieravr@wfu.edu

This Canadian-born syndicated game-show host fueled and satirated the curiosity of millions during his time in the spotlight.

Who is Alex Trebeck?

Trebeck, who died Sunday at age 80, was a mainstay in American living rooms as the host of the ABC quiz show Jeopardy! I remember, as many do, growing up hearing his voice at 7 p.m. Jeopardy! appears in many of my earliest memories, of which I still cherish today. Jeopardy! was something I shared often with my grandparents. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents would, without fail, sit with me in front of the TV to watch Trebeck quiz contestants. After my maternal grandparents died and my paternal grandparents moved away, it became a source of bonding for my mother and me, as we would compete with the contestants and each other over dinner. Those memories are inseparable from the man who made them possible.

I always admired Trebeck for his steady and firm, yet kind voice. I came to appreciate it first as a kid who knew perhaps 11% of the answers (or, I suppose, questions) on the show. The host’s ability to correct but not seem overly pretentious was something that likely spurred my desire to know more and not less. In a world where the intelligent are derided as elitist and highbrow, Trebeck was surprisingly down to earth. Even on obvious clues where the answer/question was something like “What is the Declaration of Independence?” and no contestant rang in with the correct answer, Trebeck remained sympathetic. I could never do that; during those times, I am usually screaming at the TV.

I also always loved Trebeck’s sense of humor. In one episode, he had to perform an entire category’s worth of rap lyrics, and he took it in stride.

“I was really starting to get into the whole rap thing,” Trebeck said in an episode. In another episode, this one a bit before my time, he was tricked into coming into the studio without pants, as the contestants had. The difference was that Trebeck did not have the levity to hide behind. The host simply laughed it off.

Perhaps Trebeck’s most admirable quality is his humility. Many have tried to paint him as the star of Jeopardy!, but he has consistently refused, insisting that the contestants are the real stars. This is why, until his final episode airs on Dec. 25, Johnny Gilbert will introduce him as “the host of Jeopardy!” I had the pleasure of reading Trebeck’s memoir, And the Answer Is..., this summer. Trebeck grew up in a middle class family in a cold Canadian town, and he was especially shaped by his father, a pastry chef. It was from his father that his humility came from.

Now that Trebeck is gone, ABC will have to find a new host to fill Trebeck’s gigantic shoes. I am hoping that host will be as kind as Trebeck was; a reminder that curiosity and knowledge are things to be rewarded, not ridiculed.

Music Review | BLACKSTARKIDS

BLACKSTARKIDS hits the music scene

Our writer sat down to speak with one of the artists that make up BLACKSTARKIDS

BY ERIC OMOROGIEVA
Staff Writer
omorec27@wfu.edu

BLACKSTARKIDS have aspirations that extend well beyond the scope of your average young person. “If you need a friend you can call Jeopardy!”

Deiondre’s strength I’d say is production. He’s an amazing producer of rap music before, so I had to adjust to their rhythm. Ty Faizon.

The group signed to notable indie label Dirty Hit Records (which houses acts like The 1975, beabadoobee and Rina Sawayama) this past spring following the release of their mixtape Surf, and have since garnered attention from an expanding fanbase, which includes some of the trio’s favorite artists. After radio appearances with Zane Lowe on Apple Music and gaining cognos from artists like Arca and Charlie XCX, the group is living out the early stages of their biggest dreams. In analyzing both Whatever, Man and BLACKSTARKIDS themselves, Ty Faizon has offered me his assistance in explaining the groups mission and purpose.

Pinningpointing BLACKSTARKIDS’ sound is a challenge because of the variety they add throughout each track of their work.

“Each album we’ll try and blend a bunch of sounds together. We want our albums to all be genre-less because we were inspired by so much. It’s why some people hate us but it’s also why some people love us. No matter what, that won’t change,” said Ty Faizon.

They shine the brightest when the group takes on a fusion of rap and other genres. A big reason for that is the production they rap over, which is handled by Deiondre. “Frankie Muniz” is a great example of this. The song carries an instrumental that blends an indie rock feel with synths right out of a video game (it should also be noted that Frankie Muniz himself expressed his love for this song on Twitter).

Whatever, Man has several highs, the biggest of which comes towards the end of the album with “Beatrix Kiddo.” The song is angry and filled with rage. Gabe delivers one of the strongest choruses on the album, while Ty and Deiondre both take on independently unique rap verses, sharing similar themes of not fitting in and letting your emotions free. As Ty put it in the song, it is an ode to “the kids who lacked attention in class” and a statement rising up to properly represent them. “Cigarettes” also deserves a mention as a strong rock track.

What is most impressive about BLACKSTARKIDS is their group chemistry. Ty, Gabe and Deiondre all bring different skills to the table that blend seamlessly.

“Deiondre’s strength I’d say is production. He’s an amazing producer even without our help. Gabe strength is vocals. She’s such an impressive vocalist with a crazy ass range that fits many genres. My strength is writing. I write all my verses and a lot of the hooks,” said Ty Faizon.

With this grouping of talents, the range that BLACKSTARKIDS are able to achieve is already high on Whatever, Man, but more importantly, shows an even higher potential ceiling as they continue to progress in their careers.

“On one hand it was easy because I was very good friends with Deiondre and Gabe and loved hanging out with them, but on another hand, it was hard because it was a new style that none of us had tried before. I was only used to making rap music before, so I had to adjust a lot as a writer,” said Ty Faizon.

Overall, Whatever, Man is a great listen and is definitely for anyone looking for a new emerging pop band to enjoy a fresh ride with. With Dirty Hit Records and their amazing label mates to take advantage of, the group is in great hands as they continue to improve. “Being on Dirty Hit is amazing, they take care of us on a personal level. It’s like having extended family” were some of Ty’s reflections on the group’s position. BLACKSTARKIDS definitely serve as a unique young group thinking out of the box while still being relatable to their demographic.
If the recent history of Netflix's original shows have been any indication, the creators of these programs most certainly believe that patience is a requisite virtue of the audience. *The Haunting of Bly Manor* is an addition to the unnecessarily long dramas that predominate over the rest of the Netflix content. It is the 'sequel' to *The Haunting of Hill House*, another part of the *Haunting* anthology series. Just like *The Haunting of Hill House*, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* is based on a successful literary work — Henry James' novella *The Turn of the Screw*. Now, you won't find that this drama has copied this story scene for scene, so reading it won't spoil the story for you. Instead, *Bly Manor* has drawn out the meaning of 'The Turn of the Screw' and the mythology of Henry James' other ghost stories into a sprawling nine-episode show.

I'd certainly like to say that the ending is fulfilling and that it makes each episode — which are close to an hour long — worth the watch. Yes, there are fluttering emotional payoffs that tug at your heart-strings and terrifying jump-scares that ensure anxiety throughout the episode. The recurrent problem with *Bly Manor* is the space between progression and explanation that even the best television nowadays struggles to make meaningful. I'm talking about the dreary, exposition heavy dialogue that is null and void of generative activity. There were multiple times where I felt like I was slogging around the English countryside outside of Bly Manor rather than on its grounds where the drama should be unfolding. *Hill House* delivered and stretched tension in a coherence across a ten episode span while *Bly Manor* struggles to balance the past and present and center on a particular theme.

The central character in the show is the au pair Danielle "Dani" Clayton, played by the returning Victoria Pedretti. I don't have any complaints about her performance. Pedretti sells the typical, young 1980s American woman who, under the surface, is anything but typical. The audience connects to this au pair through her dynamic performance. Pedretti's character has a conflicted nature that is a considerable point of appreciation for many, as both the writing of the character and the performance of the actress helped to create a centerpiece of perspective, at least for some parts of *Bly Manor*. Another redeeming aspect of this show is the equality of importance across the different parts. I honestly couldn't decide the second most important role. If you're afraid of tiny British children, you'll get your fill of horror from this Netflix original. Flora and Miles are the two children of Bly Manor, who are left alone after the death of their previous governess at the onset of the drama. Danielle Clayton is brought in by their beleaguered uncle Henry (Henry Thomas) as an au pair for the children, who are apparently undisciplined and prone to mischief. A big mansion in the bleak English countryside, with two young kids and a recent suicide? What could go wrong? Oh, I almost forgot to mention that the parents of these children were mysteriously killed some time before the events of this show.

If you are wondering why this au pair would choose to work at such a dangerous and horrifying location, let me comfort you with the fact that the audience is progressively smacked in the face with an explanation that isn't at all realistically sufficient. Across the length of *Bly Manor*, the episodes are centered on past experiences and flashbacks that detract from the focus of the present tragedy unfolding at Bly Manor. Danielle's traumatic past, and her reasons for working at Bly Manor are revealed too late into the show. Rather than understanding and empathizing with her choice to enter into this hell, the audience is left confused and wanting of an explanation for her character, at least in the first three episodes. However, even though she is in an extremely perilous environment, Dani isn't alone. The staff of Bly Manor make for a lively and impactful cast of misfits that all distribute wonderful acting performances. The housekeeper Hannah Grose, played by the incredible T'Nia Miller, occupies a place in the mind-bending episode five which was a clear highlight for me.

Ultimately, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* felt like much more of a thriller than a horror show or ghost story. If *The Haunting of Hill House* was aiming to capture the decay of a family and the emotional horror tied to it, the show runners certainly hit the target. On the other hand, *The Haunting of Bly Manor* overplayed the bursts of fright — emphasizing the contrast between the overwrought dialogue and the actual moments of action in the story. I'm fairly certain that I fell asleep in the seventh episode and was rudely awakened by the surprise appearance of the Lady of the Lake. Yet even my distraction and disappointment with various elements of the show could not shake the emotional impact of select characters — although when you're watching a 500 minute show, it becomes increasingly harder for the drama not to be impactful. The deceased governess Miss Jessel and Peter Quint make for an engaging love affair which partly hints at a dull theme about class. The prospect of being trapped as a ghost in an area for eternity was horrifying and enough to pull me into caring about these two characters.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the relationship between Jamie, the gardener, and Dani. The subtle, perceptive performance of Amelia Eve was arguably the best of the show and enabled the audience to feel the final heartbeat of *Bly Manor*. My biggest complaint about this show is that this relationship didn't start earlier and that it lacked the brunt of the focus throughout the story. I would recommend this show if you've got way too much time on your hands, though you should definitely check out *Hill House* first.
Steve Frank dives deep with The Queen’s Gambit

Both parts compelling and intriguing, Netflix’s newest original series, The Queen’s Gambit, features a chess prodigy’s life as she balances addiction and social pressures.

BY JAKE GOLDBERG
Staff Writer
goldjny@wfu.edu

On a cold November night, never did my suit- enate and I think that we would witness a Net- flix series as eye-opening as The Queen’s Gam- bit. With most of the news circulating around the recent election and the rise in coronavirus cases nationwide, this series provided not just a refreshing sense of relief, but also an insightful perspective into various societal issues in modern civilization.

Before watching the series and reading numer- ous critic reviews, the most interesting element of the Netflix series to me was the decision of Scott Frank, the director, to make the main character a young woman. Anya Taylor-Joy has received a great deal of praise for her impeccable performance in the show acting as Beth Har- mon, a female chess prodigy who fights count- less obstacles to ultimately become the global chess champion. It was only after reading and doing some research online that I accessed the truth; the story is not real! The Queen’s Gambit is actually based on the 1983 fiction novel of the same name written by Walter Tevis. The charac- ter of Beth Harmon does not actually exist.

However, critics do, in fact, point to the seem- ingly obvious relation between Taylor-Joy’s fic- tional character Beth and Bobby Fischer, the true former American chess grandmaster and eleventh World Chess Champion. Similarities between these characters include their taste in clothes, sense of ambition, eagerness to attack and ability to learn quickly.

Furthermore, the question arises of what Frank’s intention was with Taylor-Joy’s role. Yes, it is based on Tevis’s fiction novel, but Frank had the freedom as the director to adapt the charac- ter of Beth Harmon however he pleased. Ulti- mately, Frank chose to illustrate Harmon’s charac- ter as above and beyond intelligent, likeable, strong and independent (among several other positive traits). The question remains: why?

The Queen’s Gambit stars the charming Anya Taylor-Joy and is matched by the charismatic Thomas Brodie-Sangster, as they are tested through a battle of their wits on the chess board. Critics say Benny Fischer’s character in real life resembled one that was more “antisocial” and “survives the crash.” Although I have not read Tevis’s novel, my interpretation of Frank’s adap- lation in regard to Harmon’s character is that he wishes for her to act as a role model for young women, simultaneously opening up his viewers’ eyes to the gender inequality that still persists.

One of the major reasons for the existing gender inequality is the lack of representation women have in emerging industries. For in- stance, only 30% of the world researchers are women, says Johnny Wood, a senior writer for the World Economic Forum. In addition, women working in STEM fields are publishing less and often receive less pay. According to Wood, this is not because women are not smart enough, but because gender predisposed stereotypes and gender biases prevent them from even pursuing interests in STEM.

Women are even deterred from playing chess, a game that was and continues to be domina- ted by men. In 2017, Maria Cubel, Economics professor at the University of Barcelona, said “it seems easier for a woman to become American president than world chess champion.” Of course, this was said before Joe Biden chose Ka- mala Harris as his running mate. Nevertheless, it is still quite difficult for women to close this gap. But with Frank’s portrayal of Harmon in The Queen’s Gambit, the possibilities seem endless.

The second major topic that Frank brought to light through the series was the significance of family. Harmon is brought up by her mother at the start of the film, with her father leaving the picture quite abruptly with not much expla- nation. Unfortunately for Harmon, her mother ultimately commits suicide by intentionally driving into a car coming from the opposite direction on the road. Harmon, on the other hand, survives the crash.

This is a turning point for Harmon in the film as this event officially makes her parent- less, forcing her to live in an orphanage for most of her childhood. Other than her close friend, Jolene, and the janitor, Mr. Shaibel, Harmon spends a great deal of time alone. Eventually, she gets adopted by a seemingly nice couple, only for her ‘new’ father to quickly go AWOL. Although her ‘new’ mother (Mrs. Wheatley) stays around, she does not do much better, soon becoming an alcoholic and taking numerous “green pills” per day just to stay aloft. It ap- pears as if Mrs. Wheatley attempts to revamp her bleak demeanor, but this does not last long.

After traveling to chess tournaments with Har- mon (and taking 15% of Harmon’s rightfully deserved winnings), she dies from Hepatitis.

It is fair to say that Harmon basically lives on her own for most of her life, looking after only herself, and experiencing new things on her own: sex, drugs, alcohol, partying, and more. Other than the friend she eventually becomes close to towards the end of the film, Harmon has absolutely no nurturing or guidance from anyone even resembling a parental figure. This leads to her wasting her time during several parts of the film getting drunk and high as op- posed to pursuing her passion in becoming the world’s best chess player.

With this series of events, Frank opens our eyes to the unfortunate reality of modern fami- lies. I personally have a very close relationship with my family, exchanging texts and calls every few days if not every day to see how everyone is doing. However, I have countless friends who do not have this kind of relationship with their families. After having one-on-one lunches with my mom or dad, I have often gotten strange looks of confusion and disbelief, as if I did something so extraordinary. Many of my friends have told me that they cannot even imagine having a sit-down dinner with their families (a daily routine for my family). With my mother being a psychotherapist who specializes in mar- riage counseling, anxiety and depression, she has sadly confirmed the increasing disconnect between children and their parents. Let us hope this trend does not continue.

Do not get me wrong. The Queen’s Gambit is a fantastic show, but Frank sure makes you think about the world through a different lens. However, to me, this is what makes The Queen’s Gambit so great.