A Fractured Relationship: The UD administration & the state of Delaware

TARA LENNON
Associate News Editor

E ditors and op-eds have been floating around several websites of Delaware's news media. The Review, regarding President Assad's recent visit to the university's relatively low enrollment of in-state students at the Joint Finance Committee meeting on February 6th. Another important, well-written piece of this hearing, however, is the context of the largest round of state funding for Wesley College, a private liberal arts college in Dover on the verge of bankruptcy.

During the hearing, Trey Charles Paradise, state senator of the Dover area, voiced his frustration about the hypocrisy of the reaction to Wesley College's request for more funding. "It suddenly became a major controversy and God forbid we give a little bit of money to Wesley College to help them bridge the gap," Paradise said. "If we are giving almost $15,000 a year per student at the University of Delaware, which is a private university, why would we privatize a government university?"

The University of Delaware, to some degree, considers itself a private institution like Wesley, yet continues to receive over $20 million year-after-year from the state legislature. UD engaged in discussions last year with Wesley College to potentially acquire them. Those came to an end in March with UD having no plans to acquire Wesley College. Regarding Ud's missed opportunity, Paradise said, "They blew it." "They had this incredible deal for pennies on the dollar and they walked away from it," Paradise said. "I think that's really unfortunate. It would have been a great thing for the state, a great thing for the university, an extraordinary economic development opportunity for downtown Dover and Kent County in general." Paradise added that Wesley College essentially conveyed to UD that it would "hand over the keys," but with its debt of $7 million, what else could the university "put in the bucket" in terms of a valued asset for a private college? He said that this opportunity was lost.

The Review continues on P4.

A special look at student Collections: student accessibility, potential revenues, and still no official process for rare books in the stacks

KELSEY WAGNER
Senior Reporter

J esse Erickson was browsing the stacks of Morris Library when he randomly selected a book that just so happened to be a rare edition signed by the author. In a similar experience, he encountered a signed collection of "The Best of Friends: Further Letters to Sydney Carlyle Cockerell." A book he was interested in for his own research. The books are now housed in the university's Special Collections. "I wouldn't be surprised if there were more hiding in plain sight, more signed copies," Erickson, who works in Special Collections, said. "Finding the Cockrell and the signature was just amazing." Although Erickson's discoveries happened less than a year ago, the university does not maintain an official screening system to place in the stacks housed in the general stacks in Morris Library. Special Collections houses books and manuscripts that are too valuable to be circulated with other, less valuable, materials in the library. The items in Special Collections are kept in separate stacks that are closed off to the public to ensure they are properly preserved.

Alex Johnston, an associate professor of history and director of Books and Printed Material in Special Collections said that anything that was written before 1800 and considered rare or valuable could be housed in Special Collections. Johnston also said that there are currently no rare books in the stacks. Instead, there are likely quite a few rare books in Special Collections. "The main factor is that because there's been a library, there's a hierarchy of some sort on this campus since the 1830s, in intuitively some stuff we brought back, but it wasn't organized," Johnston said. "Now you might reevaluate that 100 or 200 years later!"

This is a reevaluation process that goes on indefinitely. Erickson, who is the coordinator of Special Collections and Digital Humanities at UD Morris Library, is concerned that it’s not working in its current form. "There’s no way to put things in systematically and very quickly," Erickson said. "It’s just not as accessible to other persons in the university."

Special-issued books are not accounted for in their area of expertise. Every so often these librarians undertake a collection review, a process in which they determine what materials are relevant and worth keeping. According to Erickson.

The Review continues on P4.

U.S. Supreme Court hears case on partisan court balance

WATTY PATERSON
Senior Reporter

N ext month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case regarding whether a Delaware law that requires all of the candidates in the state to be politically balanced is constitutional. Under current law, Delaware courts must have no more than a one-member majority from either of the two major political parties. The five-member Delaware Supreme Court, for example, must have three Democrats and two Republicans serving, or vice versa. If the balance became three to two in favor of the Democratic Party and a Republican steps down, the Delaware governor would then have to select a Republican as his replacement. As a result, a nominee for a judicial appointment in Delaware must be affiliated with either the Democratic Party or Republican Party, and cannot be registered as Independent.

The challenge initially emerged as a result of the Supreme Court's majority and rep- laced independent voter James Adams in 2017, who argued that his inability to be appointed as a judge due to his political affiliation is a violation of his First Amendment rights. Larry Hamlett, an inactive trial attorney, said that whether such a conclusion is constitu- tional or not depends on perspective. "The Supreme Court has said in the past that it's okay to have partisan choices, where you appoint someone of your own party if they're in policy making roles," Hoffman said. "This case really hinges on whether you use judges as policy makers or as some else." The Attorney General of Delaware court later that year, which ruled in favor of Adams, Delaware Gov. John Carney appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, despite the fact that a ruling in favor of Adams would allow governors to stack the courts with members of his or her own political party. Carney is backed by the five most recent Delaware governors and two for- mer state Supreme Court chief justices.

The Review continues on P4.

Two students declared coronavirus

JOSEPH DEMARCO
Senior Reporter

O n Tuesday, the university's Medical Di- rector of Student Health Services, Dr. Jim Dowling sent an email to the student body to inform the school that two students were sent to the hospital to be tested for coronavirus by Saturday, both students tested negative.

According to the email, the two students did not reside on campus and were quarantined at an unspecified hospital. Though the email said, "the UD community remains low," the university was still concerned about student reactions to the news.

The email continued to say, "it is understandable to feel uncertain or anxious during a public health event, and we need to remember to care for one another and not make assumptions about others' perceived symptoms or any characteristics of identity." There remain no personal informa- tion available regarding the two students who were being tested for the coronavirus since the university is protecting their anonymity.

"We can't go into any personal details about the students for privacy rea- sons," Andrea Boyle Tippett, director of external relations for the university's office of communications and marketing, said.

Two days after the news, the uni- versity sent out a second email saying that one of the students tested negative for the virus and was released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Saturday Feb. 13th, the uni- versity sent a third email to stu- dents saying that the second student who was tested was cleared of coronavirus.

CONTINUED ON PG 3.
March for our Lives Information Kiosk, Trabant, 10:30am-12:30pm
Student Organizations Programmers Training, Perkins Collins Room, 12-1:30pm
Study Abroad & Global Studies Fair, Trabant Multipurpose Room, 2-4pm
Race and Culture Series, Alston 229, 3pm
Qizzoo, Perkins West Lounge, 7-9pm

#TBT Feb. 27th, 1998

Gangsta rap is art, speaker says

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A Fractured Relationship: The UD administration & the state of Delaware could have allowed the "dream of SEED" to come to fruition. The Student Excellence Equals Degree Scholarship Program (SEED) and the Associate in Arts Program allows students to attend community college for two years and then transfer to the main Newark campus as a junior. Parades said that many students begin these programs but do not end up transferring because of the fear that there is no local or comparable UD campus in lower Delaware. The acquiring of Wesley College could have solved this obstacle to achieve a four-year degree for many students, according to Parades. Despite the private versus public debate about the status of UD, the university is officially "for the benefit of all Delawareans," as Adams said in the hearing. However, several state legislators would question how far this supposed benefit to Delawareans, that the administration promised, actually goes. For Parades, the Wesley College situation represents one way in which UD failed to serve Delawareans, especially those in the lower portion of the state.

The UD administration never provided an explanation for turning down Wesley's offer, which is something that Parades believes the public would like to know, especially considering the fact that previous administrations allegedly flirted with the idea of opening a down-state campus. Parades said that many residents of Kent County and Sussex County have a growing frustration with the university because they feel that it does not care about them. They have a perception, according to Parades, that UD does not accept enough students from that area and that it is willing to invest millions into projects like the Science Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) campus, yet "they're not doing much of anything to help our kids in Kent or Sussex." Other legislators, like State Senator Bryan Townsend of East Newark, hold the same sentiment that university administration fails to live up to its commitment to the community.

"There is a sense from some legislators that UD approaches some [issues] not as if it is a Delaware first institution that will leverage its resources, its know-how, to try and help bring energy and dynamism into every corner of Delaware," Townsend said. Townsend said that there has been building frustration in the legislature with the university over time for a number of reasons; including diversity, Wesley College, transparency, the public/private status and the low enrollment of in-state students. His personal and professional frustration came to a head with the university's "insufficient boldness" on tackling the issues of sexual assault and rape on campus and the university's view of itself as "primarily an economic driver." "All the glitz and glamour is all wonderful and impressive, but I think underneath the surface there is a much deeper conversation that is yet to be fully had here, especially from Huddlen Hall, about the community role of the university in the Delaware community," Townsend said. "UD has a huge micro-phone. I wish that Huddlen Hall was using it more to talk about societal issues in Delaware." Townsend and Parades are both proud Delawareans, Townsend, having served as a tour guide and on the board of trustees for a year after his graduation, and Parades, having received an undergraduate and master's degree from the university. They both applauded the achievements of the university, yet also see room for growth and for the administration to expand its role in the community. "I went to Delaware, I'm from Delaware, and I expect more from Delaware," Townsend said.

Two students cleared of coronavirus

"The second University of Delaware student screened by the CDC for coronavirus, known as COVID-19, has been cleared and does not have the disease," the email stated. Additionally, email noted that there have not been any confirmed cases of the virus within the state of Delaware. "There are no suspected cases among UD students, faculty and staff. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Delaware," it said. Though coronavirus has garnered a lot of media attention and fostered some public anxiety, the email says that there is a low health risk for the American public as of Feb. 15. "According to the CDC, the immediate health risk for the general American public is considered low at this time," the email said. The university asked students to be attentive to more prevalent diseases like the flu, which is more common and abundant. "The flu is always a big concern for the time of year, but the best practices are keeping in mind regular washing of hands, wearing your mask, being a polite and friendly face, and the like," Boyle Tippett said. The university also asks to address concerns regarding the anxiety surrounding the coronavirus. "It's important to reiterate what Dr. Dowling said in the letter that one of our primary concerns here is the mental welfare of our students, and please keep in mind that we need to be supportive of one another," Boyle Tippett said.
A special look at Special Collections: student accessibility, potential renovations, and still no official screening process for rare books in the stacks

son, through the collection re-
view processes, librarians can identify material that is no longer suitable for general circulation.

Theoretically, under that collection review process, that could stand in for a sort of formal process of reviewing ev-
ery item to see whether or not it is worth accessioning into spe-
cial collections," Erickson said.

Special collections librar-
ians across the globe constantly face the question of if a book is
worth taking in. What is consid-
ered "special" differs based on
location, the size of a library's holdings and on the behald-
er's own perceptions of value.

"A student might come
across something that's old and
say, 'Oh wow, this is old. This
should be in special collections,'
but depending on how strong the individual institution's hold-
ings are in that area, there just
may not be enough space to
warrant accessioning a book
into the collections simply be-
cause of its age," Erickson said.

Despite these criteria and the collec-
tion review process by subject-area librarians, there re-
 mains no systematic screening
procedure specifically for admis-
tance of books from the general
stacks into Special Collections.

"I pulled a book complete-
lly randomly because I was brows-
ing the stacks and one caught
my eye," Erickson said. "Then, I
opened it up and there was a sig-
nature of the author in there. That
tells me that we don't know ex-
actly what's hiding in the stacks."

The act of pulling a book
from the stacks and special col-
lections limits the access stu-
dents have to that book. Both
Johnson and Erickson stressed
the importance of student acces-
sibility to rare books even if they
are not in the general stacks.

Recently, the university pro-
posed a renovation project for
Hoover Library that would ex-
pend Special Collections to make
it more inviting for students.

"That's all sort of in the
preliminary discussion phase,
and time will tell whether or not
we'll be able to get the resourc-
es and support needed to make
that happen, but those plans are
in the works," Erickson said.

The renovations would be
focussed mainly on the read-
ing room and the gallery area,
rather than the books in the col-
lection themselves. Nonetheless,
the intention is for bigger and
more appealing study-spaces
to help decrease the stigma of
Special Collections being com-
pletely off limits to students.

"I'm one of those special
collections librarians that adva-
cates for greater use and access
of these materials," Erickson said.

"In my ideal scenario, I would
have more of what's in the closed
stacks not necessarily in the cir-
culating stacks, but in more of an
open-stack environment."

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

A major concern that
Erickson identified with increas-
ing student accessibility is the
financial value of the books in
Special Collections. The more
valuable a book is, the more re-
strictions must be put on its use.

"I understand the other
side of it," Erickson said. "I just
think that maybe that model
can be reconceptualized to in-
tegrate less valuable materials
that are still historically rich so
that they can be touched with."

Freshman Jimmy McGuire
also believes that rare books
should be accessible to students.

"I feel like people han-
dle them with care," McGuire said.

Erickson is not at all con-
cerned about the books being kept
in pristine condition as long as they
are being used and learned from.

"I'm sort of antithetical
to the impulse to preserve these
things forever," he said. "I don't
think things last forever, and I'm
comfortable with the idea that
things eventually fall apart.
I'd rather have them fall apart
through being used than to be
collecting dust on the shelves."
who filed amicus briefs advocating for Carney’s position. “This particular Supreme Court has been very supportive of First Amendment rights,” Haffa said. “It is more likely than not that they will decide that the First Amendment is more important and will not allow anyone to pick judges, or refuse to pick judges, based on political affiliation.”

16 other states require partisan balance on judicial nominating commissions and many states have similar requirements for regulatory bodies. In the event of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of Adams, Delaware and other states will then have to alter their system of selecting judges.

The U.S. Supreme Court will potentially hear arguments in March, and is expected to issue a ruling in June.

Next month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case regarding whether a Delaware law that requires all of the courts in the state to be politically balanced is constitutional.

Please submit your opinions to Opinion@udreview.com.

If you have an opinion regarding something happening in Delaware, at the university or within the broader Newark community, we would love to hear it! If the piece you are submitting is specifically directed towards the editorial staff of The Review, then please entitle your piece as a “Letter to the Editor.”

We prefer that your articles be submitted in Google Docs, however we are perfectly willing to accept other formats as well.

Thank you all for your continued support of The Review. Your readership makes our student journalism possible.
KEVIN TRAVERS
Staff Reporter

"I'm amazed at the amount of clothing," said Jordan Heydt, who was working on a small frame poster. Nearby, students browsed through rows of donated sweaters, dresses, and jeans. In the hustle of the spring syllabus week, one group of students donated their time by collecting donated clothing for a good cause.

The Beta Gamma chapter of the Gamma Sigma Sigma (GSS) service sorority held a two-day thrift store Feb. 13th and 14th in Perkins Student Center, where all proceeds were negotiable. Beginning Feb. 10th, the sorority began collecting donated clothing from community members.

"It's going really well," Heydt said. "So far we've raised $150 just from clothing. Everything we sell here directly goes into our fundraising budget for service projects."

GSS is a nationwide service sorority established in 1952 with the founding mission to engage and serve on campuses and within the local community. The university's Beta Gamma chapter has lived up to this creed. Last year, the chapter was awarded by the national conference with "Most Outstanding Service" for their work with the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the American Cancer Society.

Jan Curran, a senior English major, is the acting president of the executive board, a member in charge of organizing events and supporting fellow sisters. She was hanging a jacket when the president called her over to talk about projects like the thrift store. "They run throughout the semester," Curran said. "We go to the Alfred J. duPont Children's Hospital, we work with Faithful Friends which is a local animal shelter, we also do Adopt-a-Highway." Basically this is raising money for us to continue our community service around Delaware."

The thrift store was the first of its kind funded by the sorority. Heydt, but the two campus leaders said they will do it again. Curran also talked about the "safe ride" program at the sorority hosts and funds with projects like this.

"We do a 'safe ride' program on weekends for the sisters starting at nine until two in the morning," Curran said. The sorority is looking for new members this semester, and Curran said her organization doesn't have a rushing process like other Greek organizations, instead new members can contact the leaders and start attending informational sessions.

In the coming months, Heydt said she is looking forward to upcoming events.

"We have a women's empowerment conference in the works for late March or early April," Heydt said. "And we have a spring night on the Perkins back porch planned for April 7th to open to all UD students that I'm really excited about."

Curran said she was proud to have started the semester with a successful fundraiser and is excited for more service work with her sister. "We try to find as many unique projects as possible to keep us busy," Curran said.

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EDITORIAL

Opinion: UD's commitment to First State Students

DENNIS ANSASS

At the hearing, legislators expressed concern about the percentage of UD undergraduates who graduate on time. However, there are several reasons to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed on campus. First, students should be enrolled in the right courses, and we need to address the issue of overcrowding. Second, the college should provide adequate financial aid to students who need it. Third, we must improve the quality of education by hiring qualified faculty and staff. Fourth, we must work closely with community leaders to increase the number of non-traditional students who can access higher education. Fifth, we must develop a strong mentoring program to support our students. In conclusion, I believe that we can make positive changes by working together as a campus community.
**HOROSCOPIES 2/18/20**

**AQUARIUS**
Tonight you will be visited by the grim reaper. He will be wearing a pink bathrobe and hoop earrings. Go with him to discover the true meaning of friendship.

**PIECES**
You have to stop spending all your money on obscure concerts in Philly.

**ARIES**
Your President’s Day was better than Valentine’s Day. What does that say about you?

**TAURUS**
Life is rough. Why not make it better with cheap chocolate at Walgreens while it’s on sale from Valentine’s Day?

**GEMINI**
You already have quizzes and essays, and it’s only been a week of classes. It’s time to hide in the library again and drown your sorrows in the history books section.

**CANCER**
You binge-watched all 38 seasons of “Doctor Who” and don’t feel very well. Oh well, it’s time to start re-watching Downton Abbey, so you can finally master your fake British accent.

**LEO**
Despite what your friends say, drinking an entire box of Francia to cope with a breakup is not healthy in any way, shape or form. A box is supposed to serve 34. You are one person and you drank it all in one weekend. It might be time to go to therapy.

**VIRGO**
You’re too good for them and you know it. Leave them now before they compromise your GPA.

**LIBRA**
Your dogs have become out of hand, just like your life.

**SCORPIO**
You’ve been stalking your cute new TA on Insta and just liked a photo from 2013. Time to drop the idea.

**SAGITTARIUS**
You watched “Birds of Prey.” You wished you didn’t watch “Birds of Prey.”

**CAPRICORN**
You spent three hours hours baking. It is only week two of classes, so it’s time to make more friends to give out some baked goods.
Gowing up in Delaware, I have always found the area to be desperately lacking in an adequate selection of restaurants. Although numerous restaurants in Delaware have attempted to keep up with the recent plant-based craze, I still seem to struggle to find something the area has not offered as a vegetarian. It’s only been recently that Delaware has taken steps to offer its residents a wider variety of options for vegan meals. It may be hard to imagine for long-time Delawareans, but there are now two completely vegan restaurants in the state: V-Tap Kitchen and Lounge.

The two restaurants arrived in Delaware at almost the same time last year and offer a more expensive option for its hungry customers. The menus feature classics such as pulled barbecue sloppy joes, which use mustard instead of pork, and a classic burger with the Imperial Foods patty or a house-made bean burger. If you’re not ready to commit to entirely vegan options, there are also delicious and unique appetizers to choose from, such as nachos or quesadillas. The special dishes, such as vegan Philly cheese steak and spring rolls, are also excellent.

The restaurant is spacious and comfortable with a homey feel to it. Pillows, books, and decorations are spread throughout. Colorful and creative paintings adorn the walls, while lamps dangle from above. In the front of the restaurant, there is a board that announces the restaurant’s upcoming events, such as planet-themed nights, cooking classes, poetry open mic nights, and more.

When I arrived at the restaurant, I was immediately greeted by one of the owners, Matthew Bright, and the other chef in the restaurant with his wife, Kristin. The restaurant is a hidden gem that isn’t exactly located in one of the safer areas in Delaware, it was fairly busy with customers occasionally entering into the restaurant. I wasn’t too sure what to expect, since I had already tried comfort food at the original vegan restaurant in Delaware, Drop Squad Kitchen. However, the food exceeded my expectations, and all I could think about was my next trip to this unique restaurant.

I chose the pulled barbecue sloppy jack along with a side of mac-and-cheese. It had been a long time since I had a pulled barbecue pork sandwich, so I was pretty excited to try the vegan version of this sandwich. The “meat” or jackfruit was perfectly tender and flavorful and with the crunchy red cabbage slaw, it balanced. The jackfruit’s tangy flavor paired well with the heat of the jalapeños. The sandwich’s soft, fluffy bun was the cherry on top and had a slightly nutty flavor that completed the dish. However, no meal is complete without a helping of mac and cheese, which was creamy and “cheesy” even though there wasn’t any dairy. V-tap used pasta shells, also known as orzo, which is a controversial choice for some dairy-free eaters, but it worked out for the best, as it gave the dish a more nutty flavor that was useful for scooping up more cheese.

“As a vegan I am used to a a few times already,” Jane Schulte, the owner of the restaurant, says. “The food is really great, and the hospitality is amazing.”

Although Delaware rarely sees major changes to its landscape (except maybe a new road or a phase of a craze that has been sweeping the nation), we do have some interesting changes that include the likes of stubborn-minded residents. For example, Captree’s, a Delaware-based vegan restaurant, has begun serving vegan cheeses. Likewise, in the future, we can expect more vegan options to become more common in our lives.

“Vegan food is not only delicious, but also healthy and sustainable,” Schulte said. “The future of the restaurant is brighter than ever.”

Film Review: “Birds of Prey: And the fantabulous emancipation of one rear end from the theater seat after credits” (Spoilier Free)

Edward Benner
Senior Reporter

I have a complicated relationship with comic book films at this point in my life. As a kid, I was obsessed with superheroes, especially Batman and all related characters. I watched “Batman: The Animated Series” religiously, played with every ridiculous action figure iteration of the character and read every comic book I could get my hands on. Unfortunately, the live action “Iron Man” was released, and it was an abysmal superhero film, regardless of whether it was DC or Marvel, 2008 is one I will not forget. Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight” trilogy, however, was a game-changer, embodying everything I dreamed a film adaptation of my beloved comic books would be in its darkness, violence and seriousness topped with top-notch filmmaking.

Flash forward 12 years and dozens of comic book blockbusters later to 2020: I fall asleep not once but twice during “Birds of Prey: And the fantabulous emancipation of One Harley Quinn.”

When I think of superhero films, a single word comes to mind: fatigue. “Birds of Prey” on paper seems enjoyable and like a breath of fresh air, taking Harley Quinn, the Joker’s famous girlfriend from the Batman series who lovingly refers to him as “Puddin;” and gives her spotlight to showcase her bizarre fashion sense, quick quips and penchant for violence. Fortunately, even better, she would team-up with other women in a bad-ass, female-empowered romp through a subversion of dominantly male superhero narratives.

That sounds cool right? Wrong. “Birds of Prey” confused the fact that an actual script, decent production design and developed characters are necessary for a movie to be coherent and enjoyable. Trying to take it all its cues from the recent successes of R-rated superhero movies like “Deadpool,” “Birds of Prey” crams as much gratuitous violence and as many f-bombs into its two-hour runtime as possible just because it feels like it can. The problem is that the intention to capitalize off past success and create a female Deadpool is too apparent and tries way too hard without anything new.

Every joke already feels out of place so often. To help you youth references and funny costume looks grimly made to be sold at Hot Topic.

To argue the argument that not every movie needs to have substance and that style can carry an enjoyable experience, which is perfectly fine, too, is the looks appealing in the first place. The computer-generated imaging is clunky, the fight choreography is the biggest disappointment of average and the one-liners are just groan-inducing.

The only thing that deserves praise about this film is the chemistry between Rbbie and is obviously having the time of her life in this role. “Birds of Prey” was her project, Harley Quinn her character, and the movie comes through in her utter devotion to the role.

Before I get flak for being a bush-league reviewer, it’s important to mention that my expectation is not to view a cinematic masterpiece but to have a good time. It wasn’t a good time. It was like the money I spent on the ticket wasn’t a waste. I knew full well that the premise of Harley Quinn dealing with the breakup of her relationship with the Joker and her break up and hap. In addition, some other female villains in the movie exist but they don’t move me to tears or anything.

What frustrates me so much about this film is the potential it squandered. With the right care and script, this movie truly could have been a step in the right direction: a reverse of the superhero genre, a dose of empowerment and a memorable movie-going experience. Instead, it turned into a derivative schlock that’s more processed than Puddin.'
I toured a religious commune in Italy, and all I got was spiritual existentialism

DANNY ZANG

A nd boy, did I get converted. This was a break; I spent a month in Italy for a religious pilgrimage course. This meant donating time to churches, along with a handful of other students. It was a lot of work to do, but we made sure to notice things that were important to us. This included participating in the daily routines and daily conversations with people who lived in a religious community.

Founded in 1975 by Oberto Arauto in the village of Impiccantico, it is a community that has since been visited by several hundred members. Known as the Antahkarana, or the "Treasure," it is a spiritual community nestled in the hills of Milan. Known for its self-sufficiency, the community's members live in a rural setting with a mix of modern and traditional lifestyles.

While the organization operates with a clear set of fundamental beliefs, the overall atmosphere of the commune is more informal and open to interpretation. The community places a strong emphasis on the importance of human nature and its role in the spiritual and physical aspects of life.

The community is not a religious cult. At least, not in the common, pejorative sense of the word. In fact, the commune is not a cult but a form of a mixed-bag lifestyle.

The community believes in an understanding of the concept of spirituality that includes all elements of life, including those rooted in traditional and modern practices.

DannysZangreview.com

DANNY ZANGLITHE VIEW

Left: A bust of Oberto Arauto (Faico Tassarico), the founder of Damashur, standing watch over the commune's communal space in the village center.

Upper Right: Part of a spiral of colored rods used for meditative purposes. Damashurians use the spiral to project spiritual energy into the larger spiral energies within the galaxy.

Lower Right: The altar of Fire within the open-air temple. In the background the sky is clear and the stars shine brightly. Meditation for cause in the religious practice of Damashur.

"Dear Evan Hansen": the musical's message on mental health

COMTREY ON CROWN OF MUSIC
Mike Faite as Connor Murphy and Ben Platt as Evan Hansen

WYATT PATTSON

As a person who has struggled with mental health issues throughout my life, I've long been interested in the portrayal of mental health in media. Recently, I had the opportunity to watch the musical "Dear Evan Hansen," and I found it to be a powerful and insightful representation of mental health struggles.

The story follows Evan Hansen, a teenager who is trying to navigate life with anxiety and depression. He begins to feel like he doesn't fit in and struggles to connect with others. He starts writing letters to a deceased teenager named Connor, whose suicide note he found in a school library. These letters become a source of comfort for Evan, helping him to understand his own struggles and connect with others.

The show highlights the importance of empathy and understanding in mental health. It shows how having someone to talk to and someone who will listen can make a significant difference in a person's life. The musical also touches on the themes of loneliness, isolation, and the impact of social media on mental health.

The musical is a powerful reminder of the importance of mental health and the need for more open and honest discussions about mental health. It challenges the stigmas associated with mental health and encourages people to seek help when they need it.

While "Dear Evan Hansen" is a fictional story, it provides a powerful message about the importance of mental health and the need for more support and understanding in our society. It is a reminder that we are all human, and we all struggle at times. But by being open and honest about our struggles, we can help others to understand and support us. 
Mosaic tries something new: Ghost hunting

BIANCA THURCHTAMPALAM
Managing Editor, Mosaic

A few months ago, at someone’s house party, I revealed to a man that I was “like helltilla into” astrology and crystals (this is always a risky move with men) and he asked, “Why do girls always want to be witches?” I’ve thought about it since then, and I can’t seem to find an answer for him. I do know that he’s right; in elementary school, I became completely convinced I was a witch and would cook up “potions” in our hometown’s bathroom with my sister and my friends. Later, in middle school, I read “The Witch of Blackbird Pond” and took some kind of strange pleasure in the fact that I lived in Colonial America, I would probably be seen as a witch for knowing how to read and swim. In high school, we read a poem about a witch who survived her hanging, and I thought of her as my hero. In college, I drunkenly call myself a “spinstan witch,” and only had the time I mean it as a joke. Witches, at least for me, are seen as a child, were always perseminated. They were always an “other” and constantly stratified. They usually had no husbands, no children, no families, no connections, no anything, just themselves. And though I still struggle to understand why many females, including myself, “want to be witches,” I believe it has something to do with their level of autonomy and self-reliance, an unsniffled confidence they know themselves, their knowledge and their force independence. My female friends and I frequently go, “we say goings, we read tarot and we keep up with astrology charts more than what we do our homework. We are not even sure what we do is truly witchcraft (it probably isn’t), but we tell everyone we believe in “vibes” and the stars, and do anything witch “spell” seems to be the most convenient term for our activities. It makes us feel spiritual, it makes us feel guided.

I’ve had in Delaware for much of my life, but it took until this Sunday for me to finally learn about the urban legends surrounding Salem Church Road.

“It’s like haunted,” my friend explained to me, shrugging her music, “Some witches were hanged there a long time ago and now they haunt the road.” There’s no “regulatory” way to confirm a ghost story, as according to a few “haunted” places, when there was some truth to her story. Rumor has it that the family of six was accused of witchcraft during the turn of the twentieth century and were hanged. According to all the times, they can sometimes be seen walking along the side of the road. Of course, because I have learned almost nothing about safety and common sense in the 20 years I have been alive, I decided that it was a fantastic idea to drive along the side of the road at night, maybe get out a few times and poke around, for the ghosts. At 8:00 p.m., I trudged out in the cold to my sister’s Camp that I was keeping for the weekend and took a trip down Salem Church Road.

The first thing I noticed on Salem Church Road was incidentally, the sheer amount of churches. On every corner, there was a new marquee sign with crooked letters listing a psalm and an advertisement for a service. Between each church were sparse “forests,” patches of stick-like trees whose leaves had been torn off in the wind and cold. I looked through the trees but I couldn’t see anyone or anything.

It occurred to me about halfway through my 15-minute drive down the road (the road is not long) that I wasn’t exactly of the website “The family of six was accused of the ghost hunting. I knew it was an activity, but I hadn’t yet watched any ghost hunting videos on my late night YouTube sprees. In short, I was clueless. After a string of eerie looking homes, I just thought they were eerie to me. I entered “the following week” and I pushed over into the shadowed places. There was a Halal place, a few places. Possibly the spookiest part about the lot was that I mentioned of the strip malls from my native Middletown, a city known for its haunted history and a sense of loneliness.

I walked along the side of the road and google images of ghost town.

The last of the road had the similar aesthetic of a middle-aged man who was using a 1970s shovel to break up blacktop and put down the side of the road and the street, and the corner of the block. Sometimes, a neighborhood street was left vacant or there would be a standalone house, but otherwise there was nothing too out of the ordinary. The night and the ghost hunt were anti-climatic.

I didn’t find ghosts, and I didn’t find witches. I think I had expected, somewhat half-heartedly, to see something or have some kind of supernatural experience, but such things didn’t happen. Instead, I found some vestiges of a historic suburban town, not unlike my own hometown. In the way that Middletown has a fixation on its own dead peach crops (a disease wiped out a whole peach crop in the 1940s), Salem Church Road has a fixation on its own dead family of six accused of witchcraft. My town’s architecture and aesthetics of the 1950s are now conscious of its history.

I enjoyed the ghosts on the road that night, but that’s not to say that there weren’t more ghosts of a perpetual preocupation with my family’s weekly reunion of sorts, my own sense of self, and my history. I’d been here for a while, and along that road, the ghosts of the six witches walk.

Study abroad friendships: Real or fake?

CAM JOHNSON
Creative Content Editor, Mosaic

A bff—friend: it’s elusive, fulfilling and it’s soul-enriching. For many years, I thought I understood friendship and its importance, but then I spent winter session 2020 in Greece. This adventure made me question things and my intuitions—I previously held them as religious dogmas. We know that it can bridge gaps and build bonds, a relationship that is experienced and one experience at a time.

During winter break I had the opportunity to travel with 15 strangers to Greece. A study abroad trip can be a scary and about people in general. People are often shy, consuming, and very self-aware. I met with many new people and new connections; I’d only met them a few times.

I encountered the shops and the taxis were breathtaking. I was not only stunned by Greece’s scenery but completely enthralled by its people. I definitely experienced culture shock in the beginning, and my journey didn’t seem real until after four days into the trip. I landed feet first into a foreign country tasked with observing, studying and recording my experiences. I was also eager to meet new people and make new connections; Thankfully, my experience was more than I initially anticipated. We spent 15 days in Greece, and it was a genuinely interesting in caring and supporting each other. People living into this trip I didn’t expect to have an aéry friend, although, I remained open to any possibilities. Upon meeting these wonderful people in my group, I found a personal and emotional level quicker than ever before.

We established our friendship opened me up to the power of community and an openness to people. Being entrust with my classmates and aspirations of others, I felt that we were, for this one person window of time in a humble experience. Making new friends during study abroad allowed me to evaluate the meaning of friendship. I believed there was a timeframe for friendship and a profile that we aren’t true friends, which I was unable to immediately wrong about.

I realized that friendship is manifested in communication and emotional connection and that my new friends are real despite the limited time together and my reward for being open to the wonderful opportunities that friendship provides; the opportunity to share life stories, if you will, and connect on an intimate level.

Beginning, my friend is described as “a new friend in life,” someone to esteem, intimacy, and trust two people” and exactly what I experienced. We have formed a profound states of friendship, and it very much. Of all the sights, sounds and artifacts of Athens, Greece, my happy was the lift, the highlight. It was incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to leave America and experience a different culture. I feel even more blessed to have met these 15 strangers that I now get to call some of my best friends.

CAM JOHNSON
THE REVIEW

Greece: the site of beautiful friends.

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

www.UONEReVIEW.com
TALIA BROOKSTEIN-BURKE
Assistant Mosaic Editor

On a frigid day in the heart of downtown Chicago, a man wrapped in newspapers sat on the corner of Michigan and Delaware Avenues. A bare-boned cat meowed next to him, hugging at the fishing line wrapped haphazardly around the cardboard collar cinching its neck. In front of him, a sign read, "Homeless. Hungry. Lonely." I stopped in front of his post, said hello and asked him hope he was doing. He cracked a smile so big I could see every single one of his teeth. He could barely get out proper words, they tumbled so excidedly from his mouth. I sat down next to him, my back leaning against the metal pole of Delaware Avenue. We sat together, him filling me in on the morning drama of the illegal fruit stand across the street. While I listened, I couldn't help but notice the hundreds of people who couldn't be bothered to spare us a glance, let alone a smile.

Flash forward three weeks, I'm not shivering walking the streets of Chicago looking for a glimpse of Delaware, but here on campus, wondering just how many students and college students have to make people smile.

With rates of depression rising rapidly on college campuses, students don't always have the time nor energy to smile, let alone make someone else happy. However, it doesn't take a huge grand gesture or a huge grand gift to make someone's day. I liked her pants and that made her smile," says Giff. "Because just having a random person come up to you and say 'Oh gosh, I love your pants' it's just like, a great feeling. You're beyond in your mind at that point."

Emi Oka, a sophomore engineering student agreed that when someone compliments her outfit or jewelry, she can't help but grin. "Sara Daphily, a sophomore studying biomedical engineering, came back from winter session begrudgingly, from her resident assistant (RA). "I was so not stoked to come back," Daphily says. "I was like, 'Oh gosh, here we go again.' But my RA put notes up on all of our doors that said 'welcome back and thank you for doing you and coming to the floor meetings.' And as I was unlocking my door and saw that, it just made me smile."

Tori Peterson, a sophomore studying biomedical engineering, talked about the little notes scattered around campus that are nice reminders of positivity. "I always love the unexpected sticky notes I find places," says Peterson. "Like when there's a note on the paper towel dispenser that just says "You are beautiful.' I just really appreciate that." Late-night texts, handwritten letters, small gifts: all of these were things students remembered warmly as things that made them smile, even in their darkest moments.

Above all, many students spoke about the importance of being acknowledged. Elizabeth Patrick, a sophomore studying health behavior science, explained that even a wave from someone on The Green perked up her day. "A lot of time walking around campus when I see people I know, they just wave and smile and take the time to say hi, that always means a lot," says Patrick. "I just think there's something to be said about smiling at someone and saying hi. It can be as simple as saying, 'Hi, you can be someone's reason to smile today, so why not give it a try?"
Ciao, Siena

about the news a little with my hosts. Now we all mock-wave at President Trump when he frequently graces the TV. "Ecco lui!" Unfortunately, my limited Italian vocabulary leaves me unable to form sentences to respond and explain to my hosts that Americans share the quality of inherent distrust in politicians that you can find in the average Italian. I am a long way from talking to una bella ragazza al bar (a beautiful girl at a bar) and further still from describing my similar disdain for politicians that unites my host family and I.

Flora and Gianni have become a second family of mine, and I've gotten to know them better. They are more than 70 years old and have been living in Siena for their entire lives. When they were younger, they climbed mountains and traveled the world. After 30 years of alpine recreation, they retired but are still active members of an alpine protection club. Gianfranco has written two books about hiking and climbing. They have been hosting students for over 20 years from around the world and never had kids of their own but live next door to their neighbors and grandkids.

I have not the faintest idea how students get on the seven flights of stairs to their front door, but must be the remnants of the tales and stories they brought them to conquer the Alps.

At dinner we watch the news in a group show where contestants attempt to guess the answers of people who went solely on their appearance. The news appears to be state-run, or at least more affected than Americans might say that is in any way comparable to our Fox or CNBC. Italian TV shows are produced in quantity much like other parts of life, not as described by my host family as an example of American Hollywood.

The cuisine of America still dominates the western world's consumption habits. It's all Marshall Plan never ended, and we Americans are still pouring out art, in this case movies, music, sports, some of which is even translated at all. My host family can't speak any English at all, but one of the first things Gianfranco said to me was that Kevin Costner was his favorite actor.

I noticed this combination culture when I went to the University of Siena economics library and sat trying to focus on verbal conjugation, only to be distracted by the Renaissance archways surrounding me. The students, using California Apple tech and dressed in Patagonia, fjallraven and vans, had the exact same products that I did. This was both comforting and confusing, to me, feeling more out of place than ever before as I looked for a place to sit. Besides their heightened sense of style, these students would all fit in perfectly at home. But school feels different here, relating to the eternal culture of students more serious and adult, holding themselves to more esteem than university students do.

I think that overall, this contrast between modern life and the ancient enduring past is what I notice I am the most at.

Everything is a conflict between conservative and liberal, just like back home, only conservatively in a perception of deeply historical Italy and liberally in a perception of the current Italy. Siena is an ancient city not built for cars but filled with holes in the clothing outlets and takes. In its conflicted city center, an area where English-speaking tourist trap restaurants - in the interest of the student's study in converted record-breaking buildings - have the same consumption habits that young Americans do.

Yet compared to the rest of Italy, what is pushing that out of the factors, Italy TV shows, Italian food, tooth and nail. Preserving and protecting buildings, languages, art and food is a cornerstone of the culture of Siena. It's a part of the idea of us that is inspired by its present past. This article was shaped to fit in print. The remainder of Kevin's United States abroad can be found in full online at http://udireview.com/
Delaware basketball attendance is rising, but still needs work

The increase in attendance is a positive sign for the team, however it still has some questions. The biggest question will the Bob start filling up the Bob Carpenter Center? The past three home games have garnered a higher turn out from fans with two-thirds or more of the Bob being filled, the overall trend shows that not a lot of people care to come out and watch the team.

Over the past six seasons the average attendance-per-game has been more than halved from the Bob’s capacity. The first was in 2013-2014 when the Blue Hens won the CAA tournament and made it to the first round of the NCAA tournament. The second was the 2017-2018 season when the Blue Hens finished with a record of 13-18 and were knocked out in the second round of the CAA tournament. The other four seasons saw attendance sit at 2,000 to 2,200 people with the low being the 2018-2019 season, where the average attendance was 2,037 people.

For a team that is second in the CAA and is one game behind No. 1 in the conference, the building should be packed on a regular basis. The game against Towson was broadcast on CBS Sports Network, a nationally televised outlet. All over the conference there were people out to “Fill the Bob” as the basketball by the athletic department for both students and locals to attend games there is reason to believe attendance could spike in the coming weeks, months and years. Combine that with the continued success of the men’s basketball team and there is a foundation to build upon to have Delaware basketball teams feel truly like a college hoops environment.

Delaware has two home games left until the start of the CAA tournament. Both games are against Northeastern and Hofstra, opponents that Delaware battled with in its first two respective meetings. The support of fans in the stands would play a big role in helping boost the Blue Hens towards the CAA tournament and possibly a spot in the NCAA tournament.

The Blue Hens hosted the Northeastern Huskies on Thursday night with tip-off set for 7:00 pm.

All stats are valid as of noon on Feb. 15.

Dissecting Men’s Basketball’s season so far

The Blue Hens have hit three game winning streaks, Jacob Cushing’s late point at home against Elon, Kevin Anderson’s layup at the final buzzer at Hofstra, and Nate Darling’s bank shot from the free throw line against James Madison in front of a loud Bob Carpenter Center. Anderson’s layup also appeared on SportsCenter as the number one play of the night. And if you add in Nate Darling’s late, go-ahead three-pointer against Elon, then it makes four game winners.

Nate Darling has been on a tear.

Junior guard Nate Darling, known as the “rainfall Hen” has been lighting up the scoreboard the past six games. In that stretch, he has sandwiched 34 and 27 point games, scored 24 against Elon, torched William and Mary for 36 points in a close loss, for an average of 30.33 points per game over that span. He brought his season average up to 21.6 points per game, tied for 2nd in the CAA with Charleston’s Grant Riller and is tied for 11th nationally. Darling is one of eight players to have three games of scoring at least 34 points. The performance during the week earned him his third CAA Player of the Week Award. This was the second consecutive year he was voted the honor in the last three weeks. Darling has been instrumental to this team’s success. When he scores 20 points or more, Delaware is 12-3 as opposed to 6-5 when he scores less (Darling did not play in the season opener). Darling set the UD single season record with 31 three-pointers, which rank 11th in the conference and sixth in the country.

Darling has some help.

It hasn’t just been Nate Darling putting in the work, he has gotten help from the road with 38 points left against James Madison and of course, the game-winning points. Each of the starters has been the leading scorer at least one game this season. The team has some dangerous offensive weapons capable of catching fire any night. Dylan Painter fought his way inside for a career high 23 points and added 10 rebounds at MU. He has a huge addition for Delaware ever since he became eligible after the first semester. Kevin Anderson scored 21 points in a loss against William and Mary, but he was also in other games. He hit a game tying three-pointer, hit a big free throws at home against James Madison, the going three-pointer that put Delaware up for good on the court.

They have been winning close games.

It’s always nice to win close games and it really shows the resilience of a team. Delaware has won its fair share of close games, especially during the seven-game winning streak. During the streak, they have won all seven games by a total of 27 points. That is an average win margin of 3.88 points. Looking at the whole season so far, Delaware is 6-0 in games decided by three points or less. If you stretch it out to games decided by eight points or less, the Blue Hens are 13-4. Winning close games is a testament to being able to close out games and Delaware has shown that kind of fortitude this season. During the seven game winning streak alone, Delaware beat Hofstra on its home floor a few weeks ago with Kevin Anderson’s game-winning layup. Let’s break down what Delaware did during the win streak and during the season overall.
Critical stretch ahead for women's basketball

PATRICK LAPORTE  
Associate Sports Editor

The 2019-2020 season for the Delaware women's basketball team has had all sorts of highs, lows, ups, downs and everything in between. The Blue Hens started out losing their first four games. After winning their next two, the team went on a swing of wins and losses alternating nightly and saw another three-game skid come about in mid-January.

Over the first week of February, the team went on a three-game winning streak, boosting its conference record to 5-6, before losing to Drexel on Sunday. As the Blue Hens came down the home stretch through the rest of February and the beginning of March, consistently winning conference games will give the team a huge boost.

DAN ROSENFIELD  
Managing Sports Editor

Taking a look at women's, men's lacrosse

S pring is here which means lacrosse is underway. Both teams are set for big seasons, with women's lacrosse welcoming new Head Coach Amy Altig.

Women's Lacrosse

The Amy Altig era started off well for the Blue Hens with the women's lacrosse team with a narrow 13-11 loss to Rutgers. Senior attacker Christine Long scored four goals while senior midfielder Claire D'Antonio put in three.

The Blue Hens return some key players from 2019 that went 7-10. Long returns for her senior season having increased her goal total each year, nearly doubling her total in 2019 from 10 to 19. She is leading the team in goals last season. She is 13 goals away from hitting 100 for her career. Senior Mia Deuggriego broke the single-season record for assists for the Blue Hens with 53 and logged her 100th careerassist against Rutgers. She was 13 goals away from hitting 100 for her career. Senior Mia Deuggriego broke the single-season record for assists for the Blue Hens with 53 and logged her 100th careerassist against Rutgers. She was a huge reason why the Blue Hens ranked first in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) in assists last year and was selected to the CAA Women's Lacrosse First Team. Another key player is attacker Sydney Rausa who was on the team with 33 goals last year. She has played in every game and registered her 100 career point against Rutgers as well. D'Antonio recorded 20 goals last season against Stephen F. Austen, while leading the team in goals last season. She added 19 assists. Her 39 goals and 29 points gave her 68 total points. In addition, the Blue Hens return a defensive unit that ranked third in the nation in goals, allowing 10.69 goals per game. Kasea Kuhn and Julia Danzey will anchor the back line of defense, rounding out an extraordinary senior class.

Men's Lacrosse

Delaware's men's lacrosse team is off to a hot start after finishing 10-5 last season. The 10 wins were more than any since 2011. The Blue Hens return plenty of offensive firepower from last season, including reigning CAA Rookie of the Year, Tye Kurtz, and CAA Offensive Player of the Year, Charlie Kutch. Kurtz set a program record of 52 points. He was a first-team All-American in 2016. He was the second-highest scorer in the nation with 85 points. He also earned the CAA Offensive Player of the Year. Senior Chane Kitchens, the reigning CAA Offensive Player of the Year, scored four goals against Drexel.

Senior goalkeeper Matt Deluca is the last piece to the puzzle. For his senior season after tallying one of the greatest seasons as a goalie in the program's history, he racked up 204 saves, good for the fourth best in most school history. He was named to the All-CAA Second Team last season and was also receiving All-CAA Preseason honors and was named a Preseason All-American.

Both squads are set to be competitive in the CAA. The seasons have just started, but there's already a lot to look forward to, with both teams returning a plethora of talent who are ready to continue to make their mark in Delaware lacrosse history.
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