THE SPECTRUM

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Conflict Continues in Iran

BY **ALEX DE LA TEJA**
Staff Writer



AP News, Hassan Ammar

Flames and dark grey smoke in Iran air from Israeli airstrikes.

Senior Matt Gavagan commutes to Sacred Heart University almost every day. However, he recently has become worried about the affordability of his travel due to the Iranian conflict affecting the prices of his fuel.

The conflict in Iran has been ongoing for eight months and continues to have an impact on the world. The tensions between Iran and the United States and its ally Israel have a history that dates back 50 years.

"There has been a long history of distrust and conflict between the U.S. and Iran dating back to the Islamic Revolution in 1979 when Islamic fundamentalists overthrew the Shah of Iran, who was backed by the U.S. and then held American diplomatic personnel hostage for well over a year," said Dr. Gary Rose, a political science scholar-in-residence at Sacred Heart.

"Since then, Iran has been a prime sponsor of terrorist attacks throughout the Middle East, resulting in many American deaths. The theocratic government of Iran is regarded by the U.S. as a source of terrorism and as an enemy of Western civilization," said Rose.

The involvement of the United States in the war can also be attributed to the last decade.

"Although President Obama and international partners reached a nuclear deal with Iran in July of 2015, President Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal in May of 2018," said Prof. Joseph Alicastro, in the School of Communication and Media.

The conflict has been put on pause as Israel and the U.S. undergo elections. Current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has served for the last 17 years and is facing the first national election cycle since Hamas' attack on Oct. 7, 2023.

"There are many issues that have been raised by this conflict, beginning with: should the United States and Israel have attacked Iran in the first place? Why did the President ignore the well-known possibility that Iran would shut down the Strait of Hormuz, creating worldwide economic chaos?" said Alicastro.

Election results could influence the direction of peace negotiations, which are currently stagnant.

According to AP News, "He, Esmail Baghaei, Iranian Diplomat, said the U.S. appears to persist in unilateral demands and that Trump and U.S. officials repeatedly use the phrase 'complete surrender,' which Baghaei said no Iranian accepts."

Despite the fighting happening overseas, the effects are impacting Americans, as well as other countries, the biggest of these being gas prices. Iran has repeatedly closed the Strait of Hormuz due to the conflict, hindering oil shipments and causing the price of gas and fuel to rise.

"Gas prices have been the part of the war that has affected me most. Lately I've been paying up to $10 more per tank of gas, and that really adds up over time," said Gavagan.

According to the American Automobile Association, the average cost of a gallon of gas in Fairfield County as of Oct. 28 has reached $4.373, over a dollar more than it was a year ago.

"It's very difficult to predict how and when this conflict will come to an end," said Rose. "Neither side has agreed to compromise on the proposed peace plan, so it looks as if there will be a stalemate in the months ahead."

On Oct. 27, the Israeli elections were held. The results, released on Oct. 30, were that Netanyahu's party lost a majority of control in Israel's Parliament.

The following weeks will most likely include lengthy discussion and negotiation, as a governmental body needs to be reformed in Israel. It is still too early to know how this election's results, and the new governmental authority that comes from it, will affect the conflict in Iran.

"Opposition to the conflict has been growing among the American people and within both parties, so the forthcoming election could have consequences for the duration of the conflict," said Rose.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

From Power Plant to Partnership

BY **TESS DONLAN**
Staff Writer

How can an abandoned power plant become a safe, publicly accessible coastal park? Sacred Heart University is partnering with Manresa Island Corp. to help transform a former fossil fuel power plant site into Manresa Wilds.

The new park, located along Long Island Sound in Norwalk, is now dedicated to ecological restoration, education and community access.

"This is a 125-acre coastal site with an extraordinary ecological and industrial history, [and it] is now undergoing an unprecedented transformation," said Jessica Vonashek, executive director of Manresa Island Corp. "Our vision is for it to serve as a living classroom and educational resource for the region."

Prof. Torrie Hanley in the Department of Biology, Dean Mark Beekey and SHU were invited to be inaugural members of the Research & Educational Station (R.E.S.A) partnership.

SHU is using a $50,000 grant from Manresa Island Corp. to provide students and professors with the opportunity for research in the field.

Hanley said the biology department is using the funding from the grant for the necessary supplies and equipment to conduct the research at Manresa Wilds. The funding is also going towards stipends to compensate students for their time and effort.

"Sacred Heart was a natural fit because of its existing work, studying the ecology of Long Island Sound and its commitment to hands-on undergraduate science," said Vonashek.

Vonashek said SHU is already expanding their Project Limulus

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News

From Power Plant to Partnership

BY **TESS DONLAN**
Staff Writer

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horseshoe crab research to Manresa and studying salt marshes and birds on site.

Junior Carolina Demarco had the opportunity over the summer to join the research group of Dr. Latina Steele, in the Department of Biology, and studies the Spartina marsh grass which makes up the majority of the salt marsh on Manresa Island.

"I've always been interested in marine science," said Demarco. "I do volunteer work at the Maritime Aquarium on the weekends, and they also have a partnership with Manresa Wilds,

so that's how I learned about the ongoing research opportunities."

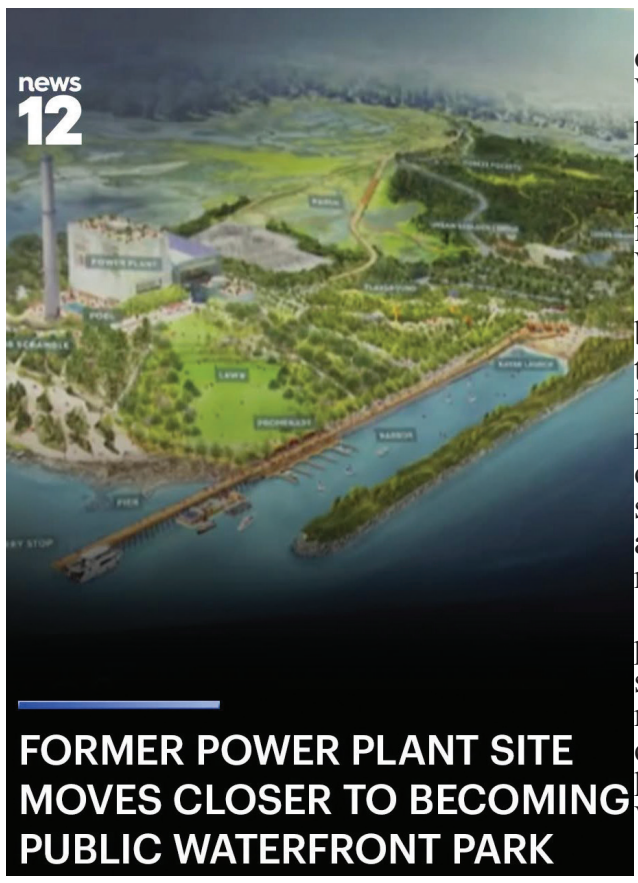
Demarco said she specifically became interested in the Spartina marsh grass study after taking an ecology class with Steele and attending the biology department's research night where she learned more about this project.

"This is an incredible opportunity for SHU faculty and students to engage in and contribute to a real-world, large-scale restoration project from beginning to end," said Hanley.

Vonashek said the first phase of Manresa Wilds is targeted to open to the public in the late summer to early fall of 2027. This initial phase involves addressing decades of coal-ash contamination, removing invasive species and restoring the existing woodland with more diverse native plantings.

"We're also creating new meadows and outdoor learning spaces, connected by approximately one and a half miles of walking trails," said Vonashek. "Future phases will also restore salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, establish a rare Atlantic white cedar swamp and introduce living shorelines designed to adapt to rising sea levels."

Manresa Wilds is planning Phase II for 2032 and Phase III for 2035.



Instagram, @news12ct
A post of the approval of the Manresa Wilds Project.

"We're deliberately opening Manresa Wilds in phases so people don't have to wait until every part of the 125 acres is complete," said Vonashek.

Demarco said she believes the goal of the restoration process is to make nature more accessible to the community, not just for students and faculty at SHU conducting research.

"There are polluted industrial sites throughout the region and across the country with the same kind of potential," said Vonashek. "If we can show how a site with this kind of history can be cleaned up, ecologically restored and returned to the community, there's an opportunity for Manresa Wilds to become a model for what can happen elsewhere."

"Magnifica Humanitas:" More Than a Machine?

BY **MATTHEW CALIRI**
Staff Writer



AP, Mews, Alessandra Tarantino
Copies of "Magnifica Humanitas," ope Leo XIV's first encyclical.

"We can have a hammer, and you can take the hammer and use it to build a house for someone who is homeless. Or you can take that same hammer, and you can smash someone's face in," said Prof. Beth Luoma, executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Sacred Heart University during her presentation at the latest "Human Journey Colloquia Series" on Oct. 28.

Speaking at an open discussion on Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Luoma's point highlights that the same object can act both as a tool and a weapon.

An encyclical is a document that is issued by the Pope, commonly addressed to, but not exclusively, the Bishops of the Catholic Church, that summarizes the Church's perspective on a topic, usually social or moral issues.

Published on May 15, 2025, Pope Leo XIV's encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas" covered multiple topics, from equal dignity and human rights to precautions regarding rapid AI development.

In the encyclical, Pope Leo explains that the technology is not morally neutral. It is a very valuable tool, but it requires oversight by people outside of the tech experts.

Along with Luoma, Prof. Christine Susienka, in the Department of Philosophy, was on the panel at the discussion and shared her thoughts on human rights.

To her, humans are more than "machines," they are living beings who experience illness, death and arangeof emotions throughout their lives.

"Part of what creates opportunities for us to find beauty, meaning, love and connection come from that vulnerability. What's happening is, these vulnerabilities are things that we just need to reject and pretend aren't a part of who we are," said Susienka.

Professor Dan Rober in the Catholic Studies department moderated the event.

"Frankly, it seems like the Church is the only institution that's interested in engaging this in a way that's not motivated, seemingly by financial consideration," said Rober.

Department Chair of the Catholic Studies department Prof. Brent Little talked about how an encyclical can spark change.

"It really depends a lot on how, not just Catholics, but politicians, how seriously they want to take its warnings," said Little. "When it comes to precedents, the most recent came with Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si.'" That actually did have an impact on the Paris Agreement in the short term."

A lot of the agreements in the treaty have fallen to the wayside, meaning that in the long run, the encyclical did not seem to have much of an impact. However, for Little, a direct result is not the most important outcome.

"It's much more about trying to raise awareness of the issues and get the conversation going," said Little.

Senior Brian Walsh attended the colloquium, one of his biggest takeaways being the emphasis of awareness of AI.

"I believe that our regulations have focused heavily on stopping the problems or legal challenges of AI after the fact, which is allowing for rapid growth," said Walsh. "One of the biggest lessons to take away from the colloquium is to make sure we always understand the ramifications of AI and our place in relation to it."

At Sacred Heart, the Academic Integrity Policy prohibits AI in any capacity unless explicitly allowed by a professor. For the Catholic Studies department in particular, the policy is in constant development.

"We are moving much more into more impersonal assessments in semesters to come. The in-class oral podcasts were the start of that, but I think there's even going to be more handwritten assignments as well," said Little.

To Rober, AI cannot be a catch-all for information or knowledge. People must understand the basics before relying on technology.

"If you're in a self-driving car, and the car fails and you don't know how to drive," said Rober. "Well, that's a big problem."

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY 11/4:
OFF THE ICE: BINGO NIGHT
9:30 P.M. EDGERTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

SUNDAY 11/8:
WOMEN'S SOCCER MAAC FIRST ROUND
12 P.M. PARK AVENUE FIELD

TUESDAY 11/10:
FLU SHOT CLINIC
1 P.M. CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

Features

Little Words, Big Impact

BY **JOANNA ENCH**
Staff Writer



Instagram, @shuwibn

Little Words Project braceletes on display during a brand event.

The Women in Business Network (WIBN) hosted a panel discussion on Oct. 28 with Founder and Chief Brand Officer of Little Words Project (LWP) Adriana Carrig and Sacred Heart alumna and Director of Sales Marissa Bruno.

The event gave students an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship, the power of relationship-building and the impactful mission behind a multi-million dollar brand and its beaded word bracelets.

Shortly after graduating from The College of New Jersey, Carrig founded LWP in 2013. Having experienced bullying from a young age, Carrig wanted to create a brand centered around self-love, kindness and positivity.

Each LWP bracelet features an inspirational word or phrase designed to be worn for as long as needed, then passed on to someone who needs that encouragement more. Each bracelet has a unique tracking code on the tag, allowing wearers to log onto the company's website and track how their single act of kindness travels across the world.

Far more than just fashion accessories, the bracelets serve as a "pay-it-forward" mission of empathy and connection. They can be found online and in major retail partners, including the university bookstore.

"Landing in Nordstrom was probably my biggest 'made it' moment, growing up shopping there, getting their stamp of approval was a big deal," said Carrig. "But working with Disney recently, getting onto the shelves of Disney Parks, is still such a dream that you're like, 'Wow, we really made it.'"

Both Carrig and Bruno shared their experiences working in the professional world. For Bruno, returning to campus to speak alongside her mentor—who she interned for—highlighted the unpredictability of a career in sales.

Prior to working with LWP, Bruno gained valuable insight from other brands.

"I've always enjoyed working with brands that have strong communities and authentic connections with their audiences," said Bruno. "Every experience I've had has helped shape my understanding of business, branding and relationship building, which are all things I apply to my career today."

During the discussion, both Carrig and Bruno emphasized the importance of networking, taking initiative and stepping outside one's comfort zone.

"Some of the biggest opportunities in my career have come from simply starting a conversation," said Bruno.

For students like junior Bridget Houston, president of the WIBN, hearing from successful businesswomen like Carrig and Bruno provided reassurance about life after graduation.

"Hearing their advice and hearing their stories really makes me feel confident and secure in myself that I will have a confident future, that I do have a successful future ahead of me and I am capable of achieving anything I truly want," said Houston.

NBCU @ SHU

BY **COLIN MCPHERSON**
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 29, NBCU came to the Michelle C. Loris Forum to showcase the career opportunities it provides to communications students. The visit included a short presentation, trivia, and a panel featuring SHU students and alumni discussing their careers at NBCU and fielding questions from the audience.

One of the members of that panel was Justin Alter, a production assistant at NBC and a SHU alumnus, who talked about the strong SHU alumni presence at NBCU.

"I walk around there every day [and] I see somebody I know from Sacred Heart," said Alter.

Professor John Barnes of the School of Communications, Media & the Arts is a former producer at NBC Sports, where he worked on both studio and live broadcasts for over nine years.

"They are shocked how qualified [SHU] students are coming out of college," said Barnes.

"I see people come in with a large amount of knowledge that some people starting out might not have," said Alter. "I worked all these broadcasts, I was able to get those reps I needed to ask questions, make those mistakes and build a strong knowledge that I can carry with me for the rest of my life."

The choices for each college student are different, and as an academic adviser, Barnes also acknowledges this.

"One student wants to be a producer, one student wants to operate cameras, one student wants to do social media," said Barnes.

The diverse nature of the communications program, as well as the range of opportunities to work at NBCU, brought many different students to the forum to hear about potential future careers.

"My sister currently works there. I have a few friends that work there," said junior Dermot McSpedon. "So, I've heard good things all around."

McSpedon credits school faculty, particularly his academic advisors, for keeping him informed about different career opportunities opening up, including the NBCU event.

"[My adviser is] shouting out all the opportunities and pushing me to be better," said McSpedon.

For students struggling with finding or searching for jobs, Barnes kept it simple.

"I would [give] the same advice to anybody," said Barnes. "Who you are as a person, can do a lot of heavy lifting and set you apart."

To explore career opportunities, Barnes suggests reaching out to people on LinkedIn.

"Not asking for a job, but saying, 'I'm a college student. I would love to hear more about how you got to where you are.'"



Contributed by, Joshua Gee '26

Sacred Heart students and NBCU intern Jayden Hunter as a panel member.

Alter echoed that it is not just a resume that employers look at, and stressed the importance of having a good portfolio.

"[Your resume is] like an elevator pitch, your 60 second snapshot of who you are," said Alter. "[Your portfolio] shows exactly what you've done, and I think that is invaluable."

For students interested in learning from NBCU professionals, their summer internship applications open Monday, Nov. 9.

CampusLife



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CampusLife

Sudoku!

		4	8	9			5	
2	8				1			6
1	3	5						
3			4	1		8	7	
8				2			1	
6	4		9		8		2	5
	1					5	8	
9	7	6		8				1

Solution

7	6	4	8	9	2	1	5	3
2	8	9	3	5	1	7	4	6
1	3	5	6	4	7	2	9	8
3	5	2	4	1	6	8	7	9
8	9	7	5	2	3	6	1	4
6	4	1	9	7	8	3	2	5
5	2	8	1	3	4	9	6	7
4	1	3	7	6	9	5	8	2
9	7	6	2	8	5	4	3	1

Arts & Entertainment

Take Two: “Glee” Returns

BY **CHARLIZE PEDRETTI-MOUSSALLY**
Staff Writer

Are you longing for your most nostalgic comfort shows to come back, or do you wish the past would stay in the past? The newly announced reboot of “Glee” coming to Disney+ and Hulu has mixed reviews from fans. While many wait for their favorite characters to return to their screens, others wonder if the reboot could truly capture the style of humor the show once possessed.

The drama-packed comedy series follows students of William Mckinely High as they take part in their school’s show choir. The original cast features Lea Michele, Matthew Morrison and Jane Lynch, among others.



Instagram, @screenbrief
A post showing Glee officially returning with new reboot series after 11 years.

While none of the cast have yet to be confirmed, some have implied an appearance is not out of the question for them.

Lori Bindig Yousman, associate dean of academic affairs in Sacred Heart University’s College of Arts and Sciences, and professor of communication and media, has been a fan of “Glee” since the beginning.

“The reboot, the magic formula, is to find something that’s compelling and new, and get the right casting to make it work,” said Yousman.

The influence of “Glee” went beyond just being a television show. Not only was it one of the first shows to incorporate a main character with a disability, but also a television show that established a place for the LGBTQ community to feel represented on the screen.

Kurt Hummel, Artie Abrams and Santana Lopez are characters made to help viewers feel a sense of belonging. With Hummel and Lopez being part of the LGBTQ community, they faced many challenges at school, including dealing with bullying and self-acceptance.

Abrams faces bullying at school because he is paralyzed and bound to a wheelchair in the original series. Overcoming bullying and not being able to pursue his dream of being a dancer, he helped bring light to people struggling with similar conditions.

“I am a huge fan of Glee, or a gleek if you will, and even dressed up as Matthew Morrison, who plays the character Will Schuester, one year for Halloween,” said senior Gianna Delmedico.

With the series being so popular and well-known for its time, viewers of the original series wonder how newer audiences may contribute to the reboot’s popularity.

“I personally don’t think reboots are worth recreating without the original cast because it doesn’t feel the same watching as it once did,” said junior Ella Nocera.

Another show that has returned is the 2010 Nickelodeon hit “Victorious,” which premiered on Netflix on Oct. 15. The new show titled “Hollywood Arts” follows character Trina Vega as she embarks on returning to the school, but this time as a teacher. Similar to the potential direction of the spin-off of “Glee,” both shows hope to provide recognizable characters with new storylines to cater to old fans while also drawing in new audiences.

“It’s common practice on today’s TV to see a reboot of an old show rather than new ones coming out, simply because the creators want to revive something that was once very popular and nostalgic for some people,” said Nocera.

According to Nerdist.com, fans have worries that the reboot won’t be able to properly adjust to a new time, claiming that there is fear as to what songs and storylines will be used to capture the spirit of the show that everyone remembers and loves.

“The original chemistry of the actors that played the students and teachers, you can’t recreate that, it won’t make sense to arbitrarily bring all the cast back,” said Yousman. “So, I think trying to emulate the series will be a mistake.”

Meanwhile, many fans cannot wait to see what the outcome of this reboot will be.

“Any time I hear a song playing that was sung on Glee, I make it known to everyone, so I seriously cannot wait to watch the reboot,” said senior Annalisa Darienzo.

“Will the Real Slim Shady Please Stand Up?”

BY **KAI COMMERCIO**
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 22, a former employee of rapper Eminem pleaded guilty to both stealing and selling the artist’s unreleased music. According to AP News, the former sound engineer Joseph Strange is responsible for upwards of twenty-five unreleased songs released online without the knowledge of Eminem or anyone else involved in the recording of his music.

Strange, who lost his job at Eminem’s studio in 2021, also reportedly sold stolen items such as the rapper’s handwritten lyrics and a VHS tape of an old, unreleased music video along with the stolen recordings.

Eminem, with popular charting hits like “Lose Yourself” and critically acclaimed albums like “The Slim Shady LP,” has garnered a large fanbase and public following. However, with this large following comes significant online attention when unreleased material is stolen and leaked.

The leaks raise questions about what makes unreleased music valuable enough for someone to steal and sell it, especially if there are possible serious legal consequences.

“The easy answer is popularity and marketability; in this case, that pretty much seems to be the explanation, given the quoted sales figures,” said Sacred Heart University music professor Edward Allman. “But beyond the money value of the music itself, there can also be questions of ego and control.”

He believes this struggle for control often leads to plagiarism in the creative world.

“There have been cases in all genres of art of people stealing another’s work or passing it off as their own, either because they feel slighted by their associate, feel they ‘deserve more’ for their help and support or they hope to bump up their own reputations by ‘suddenly’ producing a piece of work far better than their usual output,” said Allman.

Consumers play a large role in the world of stolen music. While some fans worry about artists being exploited, some might see an upside to bootlegs and unreleased tracks.

Junior Will Morgan believes that although bootlegs can boost classic artists, they can be harmful to a modern musician’s creative process.

“It’s hard to give a short answer to the subject. I think in some cases like The Beatles and Bob Dylan, the bootlegs are often countered by official releases. The demand for bootlegs winds up pushing their product,” said Morgan. “In modern cases though, I can see the harm. It can interrupt an artist’s creative process to have their work criticized or praised before it’s ready. However, it’s often just met with fan demand for new material.”



AP News, Carlos Osorio
Eminem performs during “Live From Detrit: The Concert at Michigan Central”

Sophomore Michael Russo said unreleased music can impact how fans feel about their favorite artists.

“Unreleased music gets hyped up much more than released music simply due to the tag. People feel closer to an artist if they know unreleased music. To listeners, it provides a strange sense of intimacy that tells them that they know the artist more than anyone else does,” said Russo. “It plays along into increasingly common parasocial dynamics between artists and audiences, where people have grown increasingly comfortable saying deeply troubling things to uplift their favorite musicians.”

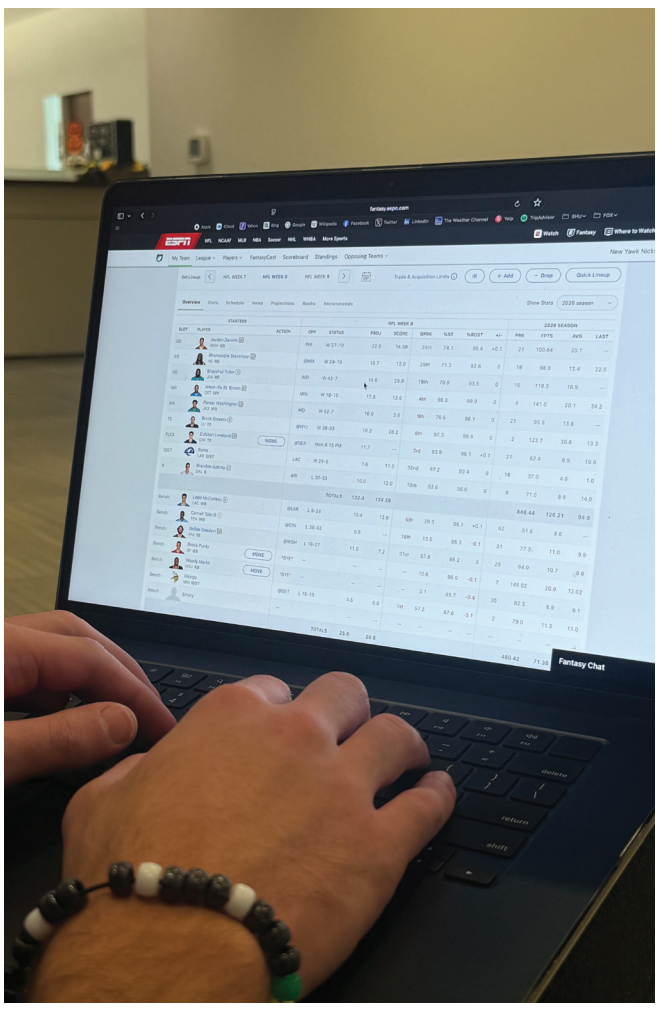
Eminem’s leaked songs were streamed millions of times online through various platforms, potentially costing the rapper millions of dollars. Strange will begin serving his five-year prison sentence on Jan. 27, 2027.

Sports

NFL Fan(tasy) Favorites

BY **MAGGIE JIMENEZ**
Staff Writer

How can National Football League (NFL) fans get more involved in watching football games? With fantasy football in the mix, every touchdown, reception and yard gained can have an impact on their own team, changing the way fans watch and experience the game.



Matthew Caliri, Staff Writer and Photographer
Student managing his fantasy football team, on the ESPN website.

Fantasy football is a game where fans create leagues with virtual teams made up of real NFL players. Each week, fantasy managers earn points based on their players' performances in real games, and fantasy teams compete against one another based on those points.

"Fantasy football makes football more engaging as a whole because even if you're a super fan of one team, it gives you the ability to watch other games to root for players that are on your fantasy team," said sophomore Isabella Pizamenti.

"Just this past Monday night, I stayed up and watched the whole Cowboys-Eagles game because my fantasy team had Javonte Williams and the person I was playing against had CeeDee Lamb," said Professor John Barnes of the School of Communication, Media & the Arts. "We were texting all game, and it kept me watching the game far longer than if I had no fantasy football interest."

Fans become invested in individual players and their stat lines to see how many points they will earn each week. Since fantasy managers have players scattered across numerous teams and games, NFL RedZone becomes useful.

RedZone is a seven-hour live sports channel hosted by Scott Hanson every Sunday during the NFL season. The channel jumps from game to game, showing key moments and when teams enter the red zone, the area between the 20-yard line and the goal line, where teams have a scoring opportunity.

"I've gotten really involved in watching RedZone when my favorite team isn't playing," said sophomore Brian DeGorter Jr. "I'll tune in to see if a team gets the ball back or for a defense to make a stop to see if my player will get on the field."

"When the Steelers aren't on, I watch RedZone because I can see all my players score when they have the opportunity," said sophomore Michael Carriero. "Before I started fantasy football, I would watch the Steelers or nothing."

Fantasy football not only makes fans more engaged in games but also changes how they view opposing teams. For instance, a player that fans would never root for can become someone that a fantasy manager wants to succeed, just because he is on their fantasy team. The success of an individual player becomes as important as the outcome of the game itself.

"Sometimes I find myself making sacrifices for my team to do good, such as rooting for the Eagles as a New York Giants fan when DeVonta Smith is on the field because I want him to get more points," said DeGorter Jr.

As fantasy football continues to grow, it has become another way for fans to connect, giving them a reason to watch more games and follow players they otherwise might not.

"I only paid attention to a few games each week, and rarely was I trying to find out the stats of players not on my favorite team," said Barnes. "Now with fantasy football and all games available to watch, it's never been easier to be an NFL fan."

NBA Tipoff

BY **CHRISTIAN STELLA**
Staff Writer

The 2026-27 NBA season tipped off on Oct. 20 with old faces in new places, including LeBron James entering his 24th season and his first with the Philadelphia 76ers.

"One thing I don't like about LeBron is the way he chases championships by surrounding himself with so many All-Star players. I don't like how ever since he left Cleveland the first time, he seems to just be hunting championships," said Bill Yousman, professor in the School of Communications, Media & the Arts at Sacred Heart University.

James wasn't the only star to join Philadelphia during the offseason. The Boston Celtics traded five-time All-Star and 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown to the Philadelphia 76ers.

"It's crazy how the 76ers have Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, Jaylen Brown, V.J. Edgecombe and LeBron James," said senior Ryan Johnson.

Brown and Jayson Tatum had been the Celtics' superstar duo, leading Boston to the 2024 NBA championship. Now playing for rival teams, the former teammates could add a new level to the Boston-Philadelphia rivalry.

"I think the Boston-Philly matchups are going to be very interesting, especially with all these undercurrents of what the relationship between Brown and Tatum is," said Yousman. "Are they going to hug each other before the game, or are they going to fight during the game?"

Despite losing Brown, the Celtics acquired veteran Paul George from the 76ers.

"Paul George has been great," said Yousman. "I was very skeptical of that trade at first because he is older and towards the end of his career, he's been injured a lot, but he's been excellent so far, and I've loved what he has brought to the team."

The Miami Heat also made a major offseason move, acquiring 10-time All-Star and two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

"I think it was a pretty bad choice; there were plenty of teams that needed a big man, and Miami wasn't one of them as they already have a really good big man with Bam Adebayo," said junior Roman Surena-Mattson.

The defending champion New York Knicks opened the season with three consecutive losses after winning the NBA Finals in June.

"Even though the Knicks started the year rough, we're going to climb back and hopefully make that one or two seed," said freshman Chris Brewer.

The 11th overall pick in the 2026 NBA draft, Golden State Warriors rookie Yaxel Lendeborg, made headlines in his NBA debut after exchanging words with Los Angeles Lakers star Luka Dončić.

According to ESPN tracking data, Dončić shot just 1-for-6 from the field with Lendeborg as his primary defender.

"Yaxel has been very good. I hope that he opens up the floor for Curry," said Surena-Mattson.

"He was the 11th pick, but right now he is playing like he was the first or second pick," said Yousman.

With the season underway, students are already predicting which teams could make deep playoff runs.

"I think the Pelicans have a chance to get pretty far," said Surena-Mattson.

"I see Oklahoma City, San Antonio and Los Angeles in the West, and in the East, obviously, the Knicks, maybe Philly and Indiana are back up there with Haliburton returning," said Brewer.

NBA games can be watched on national broadcast networks such as ABC, NBC and ESPN, streaming on platforms such as Peacock and Prime Video.



Instagram, @kingjames
A new Philadelphia 76ers starting lineup at 2026 media day.

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Kelleher's Killer Performance

BY**MADISYN ZITO**
Staff Writer



Jayden Hunter, Photo editor
Shea Kelleher dribbling past Mount Saint Mary Defender.

"I am most proud of knowing that I can look back on this season without any regrets," said senior Shea Kelleher. "I have accomplished the things I set out to achieve and given everything I had to this game."

After four seasons with the Pioneers, Kelleher has established herself as one of the most accomplished players in women's soccer program history.

The senior captain is now the program's all-time leader in career assists with 17 and career points with 79. She also holds the record for the highest single-season point total with 32 and is tied with former Pioneer Morgan Bovardi for the most career goals at 31. Kelleher is also the only player in program history to score four goals in a single game.

"I started around the age of four, mostly in the backyard against my brother where I first learned how to compete," said Kelleher. "I then started playing town soccer, then club, and every year I found more of a passion and love for the game."

Through her club soccer team, Scorpions, she got in touch with SHU, where she could pursue her dream at the collegiate level under head coach Matt Micros.

Micros is in his ninth season and has watched Kelleher grow from a promising freshman to one of the best in the conference.

"Shea came in and had a strong freshman season, but she didn't settle for that," said Micros. "She has continued to improve each year and has become a leader on and off the field."

Kelleher has made massive improvements both in her physical and mental game.

"I have learned to develop mental toughness, and that not every practice, game or day is going to be perfect," said Kelleher. "Success doesn't happen in the snap of a finger, it takes time."

This improvement has allowed her to be feared by competitors across the conference, and now she is in SHU's history books.

"When I found out I broke the first record, I was full of emotions, but if anything, I was super proud of all of the work I have put in that led to where I got to today," said Kelleher.

While her records have caught many people's attention, her contributions to the team go beyond just goals and assists. Senior captain Lyndsey Laperle has played alongside Kelleher for four seasons and now they both help lead the team.

"Being able to be captain with her and be an example for the team has meant a lot," said Laperle. "She cares a lot about the team, and we always call to find ways to get the team closer."

Kelleher's success did not happen overnight, it was through extra training sessions, and an unstoppable work ethic.

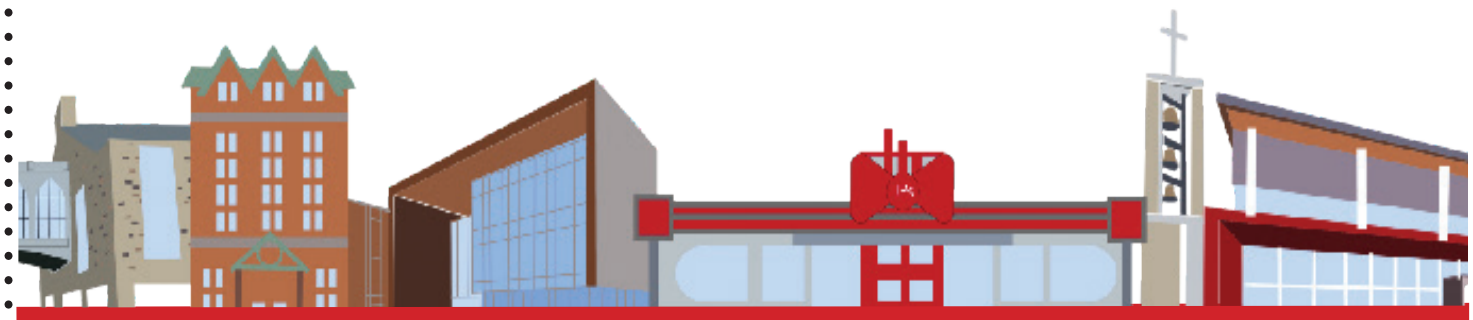
"Shea works extremely hard on the field and in the weight room, and on the areas of the game that aren't as fun to work," said Micros.

"I want people to remember me as a gritty, hardworking, and dedicated player who always gave everything she had in her tank," said Kelleher.

The Pioneers will close out their regular season against cross-town rival Fairfield University at 7 p.m. on Nov. 4 at Park Ave Field.

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.

In the Oct. 28 article "Marathon on Elm Street" Professor Gottlieb was misquoted in an editorial error. The following sentence was the writers' own thoughts, and does not reflect Gottlieb's thoughts, expertise or interview with staff writer Colin McPherson: "An American Werewolf in London' is a nice light horror film to keep the ball rolling on this journey. The mix of comedy, a short run-time and werewolves make for an absolutely incredible time." The online edition of this article was corrected immediately after publication. Spectrum regrets the error.



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