

The Delphian

March 2, 2020

The Voice of the Students

Volume 75, Issue 7

CNN Commentator Van Jones Offers Assurances About 2020 Election

BY MARIAGIOVANNA JUMPER

Van Jones, CNN political commentator and host of “Redemption Project” and “The Van Jones Show” on CNN, visited Adelphi on February 20, to hold a sold-out lecture and master class for 15 students and faculty. He talked about the political climate moving toward Super Tuesday and for the rest of the 2020 presidential election. Throughout his lecture in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, Jones brought us back to the 2016 election and the polarization that has been our reality since. The event was sponsored by The William E. Simon Lecture in American Civilization and Values.

Jones was selected because he is a well-known commentator and he was lauded as the Voice of Reason during the Obama campaign, according to Amy Harrison, executive director of special events and engagement.

Traci Levy, chair and associate professor in the political science department, said of the event, “During his talk at Adelphi, Van Jones delivered the empathetic, thought-provoking and insightful political analysis for which he is known. I left thinking about his statements that we shouldn’t ‘fight fire with fire when the fire is in the nursery’ and his perspective that asking for affordable college isn’t asking for socialism; it’s asking for what our grandparents enjoyed.”

After a master class during which students were able to ask him questions, Jones shared his assessment of the 2016



Students joined CNN’S Van Jones in the Concert Hall of the PAC after hearing his reflections on the 2016 election and his comments about the 2020 landscape. Photo provided by Amy Harrison

and 2020 Presidential elections.

Looking back, Jones described the institutional and political rebellions taking place in both the Republican and Democratic parties, these rebellions being perpetrated by Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders respectively. Each came with their own ideals that separated the traditional views of the party from their own and were met by disbelief in their own campaigns. Jones argued that both Trump and Sanders were underestimated when they began their campaigns for the 2016 election.

The reaction and outcome of these rebellions within each party were radically different. As Trump broke down the institutional underpinnings of the Republican party, he also absorbed

many of the people who felt distant from his beliefs and politics. Jones described Trump’s next three brilliant steps in securing his candidacy on the Republican ticket. He promised radical Christian groups ultra-conservative judges and gave them a list he would be taking from. He promoted an anti-immigrant outlook to extreme nativists. And he appealed to big businesspersons by promising tax cuts and other financial incentives to them, while also promoting certain entitlements and social benefits for workers.

On the contrary, Sanders did not win his rebellion in the Democratic party, though he was able to receive around 47 percent of the Democratic primary vote, according to Jones. With Sanders out of

the race it was up to Hillary Clinton to reclaim the institutional underpinnings of her party and reintegrate those who had joined Sanders in his rebellion. Jones pointed to her unsatisfactory attempt to do this as her ultimate downfall. He said that when Clinton drew out a circle of those who she was giving a new voice to—the Muslim, LGBTQ+, Black Lives Matter communities, etc.—she left out many people who traditionally identified as Democrats. Jones described this circle as too small and excluding the white, straight man who needed help because of a lack of employment or other issues. He also pointed to the arrogance of her campaign and the out-right declarations

continued on page 2

The Coronavirus Travel Ban Has Made it Challenging for Some International Students to Return to Campus

BY JADE MCCLINTON-DORLEY

As confirmed cases of the coronavirus—now officially called COVID-19 by the World Health Organization—continue to rise, while as of this writing no cases have yet to reach New York, Adelphi’s Garden City campus has been impacted. Students from China got caught in the travel ban that was set in place to stop the virus from spreading, just as they were supposed to return to classes this semester. This situation has affected other college campuses in the area as well.

Wendy Badala, director of International Services, confirmed that for several students, the travel ban restricted their travel from mainland China. For some, that may mean missing the entire semester.

“Depending on the individual student and their academic program, International Services and Academic Services are working to determine when each student will be able to return,” Badala said. “Some of the students will be able to resume their studies in the summer, and others in the fall. We are currently working with each student individually to identify alternative educational methods, such as online and independent studies, in order to maintain their connection with their academic program and keep them on track.”

One Panther who successfully made it to Adelphi before the air travel restrictions is Yufeng Dong, a visiting scholar who first arrived in New York on January 27.

“After I arrived at Hempstead, I stayed at home for almost two weeks voluntarily, in case I was infected with

coronavirus,” Dong said, adding that she also wore a mask as a preventative measure. “The International Center asked me to have a physical examination in the HealthCenter before my orientation meeting with Wendy. I really thought it was necessary and reasonable, as well as understandable.”

Dong shared that she had an extremely pleasant experience in Health Services. “The doctor was very nice and said that I could take off my mask the moment she met me. I was touched by this because she did not see me as a ‘potential virus.’ She said that I was healthy. After that, I had a successful orientation meeting on February 12 with Wendy.”

Dong said that luckily the travel restrictions have had no impact on her semester and life here on campus.

In the meantime, with fears of the spread of this new virus—that had not been previously identified in humans—still a concern, people may be wondering what precautions Adelphi will take to protect students.

Todd Wilson, Adelphi’s strategic communications director, said, “Health Services immediately connected with local and state health departments to make sure our procedures were in line with their recommendations along with those of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Those who had recently returned from mainland China were screened and Health Services will continue to offer its services to students and share information with all of campus.”

As for what the next couple of months

continued on page 3

A Word from the Editor

Very often in life, we fool ourselves by thinking we are in no rush, that we have all the time in the world. We feel when college starts that it will last forever, that we will always be young, that our loved ones will always be just a phone call or car ride away and that life can never take a dramatic change or turn in the blink of an eye.

When I heard the news of the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant, as well as John, Keri and Alyssa Albotelli, Sarah and Payton Chester, Christina Mauser and Ara Zobayan, I was in complete disbelief of the situation. To be honest, it sounded so unbelievable to me, that my mind automatically assumed, and as bad as it is, somewhat hoped that it was sensationalist journalism.

A beloved father, husband and role model to so many, his young, sweet and determined 13-year-old daughter, two mothers, a father, two daughters, a basketball coach and a pilot. They all had plans for that day, to get where they were going safely, and to return home to their loved ones at the end of the day. Their loved ones had plans of them returning home for Sunday dinner, sitting around the table and just being together as a family. But, that unfortunately was not the case.

Witnessing first-hand the outpouring of grief, on all forms of social media and television news networks, whether you were a fan of Kobe or not, the support and love being shown to his now widowed wife, Vanessa, was enough to make even the most cold-blooded human's heart ache a bit. But, as with every tragedy, as time passed discussion died down, as those impacted by it struggle to adjust to their new reality behind the scenes.

This, coming at a treasured time in my life that I feel has come and gone in the blink of an eye, has made me realize just how precious the people, as well as the phases and lessons of our life are, and how we mostly go about our day everyday without even thinking twice, that someday we will be longing to just go back to what we have right now for a moment. With all of this being said, my fellow Panthers, my message to you is to appreciate life for all that it is, and don't let it take a tragedy to reflect on all that you are grateful and blessed with.

R.I.P. Kobe Bryant, Gianna Bryant, John Albotelli, Keri Albotelli, Alyssa Albotelli, Sarah Chester, Payton Chester, Christina Mauser and Ara Zobayan.

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Volume 75

Issue 7

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CNN Commentator Van Jones Offers Assurances About Election

continued from page 1

that Trump will never have the possibility of succeeding and to the billion-dollar campaign ads that he said were horrible.

While discussing all of these points on 2016, Jones was describing how we got to this point. How we are sitting here in 2020 wondering why Republicans are anti-immigrant bigots and why Democrats are communists. Jones said it was because of the divisive rhetoric used by both candidates that have caused such harsh and stark views of those in the opposite party.

Jones described his experiences helping coal miners in West Virginia who had been cheated out of health care benefits and pensions. He received backlash because these workers mostly voted for Trump and therefore did not deserve his help, according to members of his own party. Yet, Jones had a different view; he saw these coal miners as people who are doing a dangerous job where they risk their life and health daily to provide light for the rest of us. He still believed that these people deserved his help because they are American citizens, who despite their difference in political views, still need health care and pensions.

The issue of communication among the parties was one that first came up during this reporter's interview with Jones in the master class held prior to the lecture.

Fundamentally, we live in a Democracy where disagreement is necessary and causing a fuss or fight is your right, but that cannot only live with constant fighting and still remain a country.

As Jones sees it, "at its best the Republican party is that of Lincoln; they value liberty, which is a noble thing. The Democratic party is that of FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] and JFK [John F. Kennedy]; they value justice, which is a noble thing. We believe in liberty and justice for all."

Jones said the party system works as long as we see the parties as able to work together and not against each other. Our society thrives off the ideas of liberty and justice, and without parties who hold each as a core belief we will not survive.

Jones took this argument to a more personal level. He spoke of his father who was highly educated and who held strong political beliefs, but ultimately thought that each party "sucked" on their own. He recalled his father going to the Tennessee School Board and fighting for increased funding in the schools and advocating for the impoverished children in these schools, which would be an approach aligned with the Democratic party. He then spoke of his father going into the schools and telling the students to clean up their lives and realize

that they need to pull themselves "up the ladder and out of poverty," which is an approach aligned with Republicans.

Jones said the best way to solve this political divide is to go back to

these fundamental core beliefs. Instead of calling people out we need to be "calling people back up." Calling people names like "bigot" and "communist" isn't going to solve our issues no matter how many times we do it or with how much emotion. But calling people back up to the ideals of liberty and justice that their parties believe in, may very well solve this problem.

Returning to 2020 election and leading to Super Tuesday and the other primaries, Jones left us all with an image of 2016 and trying to mend the divide.

Jones stated, "Our intolerance of their intolerance is creating a market for more intolerance."

There will be a lot of chatter leading up to Super Tuesday—March 3—and all the candidates will be speaking out or appealing to voters as the days count down, but ultimately on Wednesday morning we will all wake up and still be in this predicament if we don't work on these communication issues.

Jones left us all with the final sentiment that it will get worse before it gets better. No matter who wins in 2020, things will not automatically correct themselves. But we can take comfort in the fact that eventually it will get better, especially if we recognize how each of us can change this divide.



Features editor Mariagiovanna Jumper attended the master class for students offered by Van Jones.

Photo provided by Amy Harrison

University Gains New Leadership for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

BY ANDREW ZHANG

Individual diversity can come through thought, skills, experiences and one's identity. The details of each of our lives hold value when we choose to recognize them and invest our time in each other's details. Asking why diversity is important can be a personal question for each of us because we each participate in shaping our own niches. Celebrating the



Vice President Jacqueline Jones LaMon

diversity of each and every student on a college campus, as well as being inclusive of people no matter their background, is an important and necessary part of campus life.

Here at Adelphi, the office of diversity and inclusion is being led by two new strong and qualified leaders, Executive Director Chotsani West and Vice President Jacqueline Jones LaMon.

West is the founding director of Adelphi's mentoring program, which reflects the belief in building upon student-centered education and student potential. West has been a model for other leaders to support the retention rate of a diverse demographic of individuals at Adelphi through the mentoring program.

West said that having overall life and professional experience is instrumental in her understanding for developing a sense of inclusion, which requires each one of us to integrate the various implications of what it entails into our curriculum, daily interactions and continual learning.

"We must all view the work of diversity, equity and inclusion as a collective responsibility. Helping people see the value of that takes time," West said. "I hope to bring awareness, empowerment and a strong focus on the main priorities of all students—which is their success, health and wellness.

LaMon said she is a child of the 60s and 70s: a world that would be seen as controversial today. Yet diversity, equity and inclusion are still goals that we have yet to reach across every career discipline, she said.

"Diversity is the acknowledgement that all of our voices need to be represented—not just a few select ones, but all voices," LaMon said. "The only

conflict that arises occurs when we impose value of certain voices over others, when we discount the importance of difference and only embrace a single viewpoint as being correct, necessary or respected.

"At Adelphi I hope to build support structures for our entire community to strengthen the positive experiences that they have while here, to make certain that all of our community members have the resources needed to thrive," she added.

LaMon has been working at Adelphi University since 2006. She was an English professor, a department chair and director of the MFA program in creative writing, and an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

She explained what being a poet means to her and why poetry runs parallel to inclusion.

"For me, poetry is not to be regarded as some form of high-brow declarative thinking or making empty statements.



Executive Director Chotsani West

I write poetry because doing so helps me figure out the questions that need to be asked. Poetry is all about subtext, the meaning beneath the surface, the motivations for action and inaction."

LaMon added that creative outlets like poetry allow us to both face our challenges and to discover who we are.

"Improvement comes with having the difficult conversations and exploring our differences with respect and civility," she said.

The perpetual revision process of developing diversity, equity and inclusion is led by leaders like West and LaMon, who stand at the forefront of the effort to make the Adelphi community better. But student participation in building this community is just as important a task for making the university as equitable and inclusive as possible. With West and LaMon's enthusiasm and energy, and with our involvement, we can each create opportunities that explore our differences and create effective, equitable and inclusive improvements to our community.

SARAP Represented at Ms. Philippines by Sophomore Nisha Patel

BY ANNAMARIE WONG

Ms. Philippines is an annual beauty pageant held by District 3 of the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue. It was started to showcase the beauty of the undergraduate Filipina women in the community and their love for their Filipino culture.

This major event was hosted on January 25 by Rutgers-Newark Filipino Student Association in the Newark Symphony Hall. This year's theme was centered around the national flower of the Philippines: the Sampaguita, which carries deep meanings of love, fidelity and devotion. The evening showcased dedicated contestants who displayed how the flower's values which blossomed into the Filipina women they are today.

The Student Appreciation and Recognition of Adelphi Pinoys (SARAP) always gets involved in the Ms. Philippines pageant because we are a part of an organization called FIND, INC. under District 3, which consists of many Filipino clubs on college campuses in New York City, Long Island and Northern New Jersey.

SARAP was represented by Nisha Patel, a sophomore nursing major aspiring to become a pediatric nurse. She said her Filipino-Indian American roots provide a unique perspective to life that she values daily. Her goals are to one day participate in International Alert's mission to end violence in the Philippines, especially issues relating to animosity toward Filipino-Muslims.

Patel said her passions include dancing, weightlifting and rock climbing. You can find her on campus giving tours as an admissions ambassador, studying in the library with friends or "being first in line for a school event promising free food."

"I would like to thank my family, friends and SARAP for believing in me throughout this process," she said. "I hope to not only prove how powerful Filipino women are, but to inspire everyone to advocate for the beliefs that they stand for."

The pageant consisted of three parts: evening gown walk, culture and talent. After each contestant presented their performance, the top five candidates had to answer a question given by the panel of judges. Patel did her walk to an



Nisha Patel in her evening wear for the Ms. PI pageant.

Picture provided by AnnaMarie Wong.

empowering Lizzo song called "Water Me" wearing a beautiful rose gold gown.

Patel's cultural skit was about the unfair treatment of Filipino-Muslims compared to the treatment of Filipino-Catholics, which is the "norm," with a focus on how both can be brought together with the understanding that they are the same because they are Filipino.

Patel's talent portion showcased a variety of dancing skills such as a Filipino cultural dance based on a festival in the Philippines called Maskara, a lovely Indian cultural dance, and finally a bit of her hip-hop dancing skills.

This pageant took weeks to prepare over winter break. Patel and SARAP members spent a lot of time in the Performing Arts Center coming up with dance routines and perfecting the walk and costume changes. While Patel did not make the top five, she still did an amazing job in showcasing her cultural roots and for representing Adelphi and SARAP in the best way possible.

Nicole Magpantay, a junior computer science major who attended the event, said, "I felt like a proud mom watching Nisha throughout the whole pageant. I love seeing our members showcase their talents on stage and witnessing how they're becoming more confident will make a huge difference for them."

Coronavirus Travel Ban Challenges

continued from page 2

hold, Wilson said, "Our task force will continue to meet regularly and monitor developments that might affect campus, and of course we will stay in touch with health authorities to make sure our practices remain in line with current recommendations."

He added, "If anyone doesn't feel well, we suggest they stay at home. Students can consult Health Services, and faculty and staff should see their own health care provider."

COVID-19 causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever and in more severe cases, pneumonia. You can protect yourself by washing your hands frequently and avoiding touching your face. Use hand sanitizer. If you are sick, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. If you feel sick, stay home so you don't spread the virus. And make sure to visit a physician.

Delta Chi Raises over \$2,500 at First Annual Jimmy V Gala

BY JAKE MALONE

Delta Chi recently hosted their first ever gala to raise money for their philanthropy, The V Foundation for Cancer Research. Since 2006, undergraduate and alumni members of Delta Chi have partnered with The V Foundation to find a cure for cancer. The Adelphi Chapter of Delta Chi has been raising money for the foundation since they were founded on campus in 2013. To date, the \$2,600 raised at the December 2019 gala was the highest the chapter has brought in at one event.

The V Foundation was founded in 1993 and has awarded more than \$250 million in cancer research grants. The nonprofit organization donates 100 percent of the money they raise to research and is committed to raising \$200 million dollars from their campaign launch in 2013 until the year 2020.

The Foundation is named after the late James Valvano, who was most notable for his run as head coach of North Carolina State's basketball program. Along with being a coach, Valvano was also a player at the University of Rutgers, as well as a broadcaster for ESPN and ABC. He was diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma, a type of glandular cancer that can spread to the bones. Jimmy Valvano died on April 28, 1993 at the age of 47. Although his



Brothers of Delta Chi were able to raise over \$2,500 for the V Foundation for Cancer Research at their first annual Jimmy V Gala. Photo provided by @deltachidelphi on Instagram

life was cut short, his legacy will live on through the foundation, as well as clips of his famous ESPYS speech during V week on ESPN channels.

Valvano was a true New Yorker who had a passion for basketball and enjoyed his life to the fullest. During his now famous ESPYS speech, he said, "To me there are three things everyone should do every day.

Number one is laugh. Number two is think; spend some time in thought. Number three, you should have your emotions move you to tears. If you laugh, think and cry, that's a heck of a day."

Valvano was known for his motivational speeches and can-do attitude that propelled his underdog N.C. State team to the Championship in 1983 against

all odds.

The most recent Delta Chi event was held at the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens, Inc. in Mineola. The Adelphi Chapter also collaborated with Hofstra University's Chapter of Delta Chi to make the formal event possible. It was a night full of food, raffles and live singing and dance performances. Mark Edelstein, brother of the Adelphi Delta Chi, sang two songs for the audience and shared a speech on how cancer had affected his life.

Daniella Pacifico, a student at Adelphi and sister of Alpha Epsilon Phi, performed a dance routine for the people in attendance.

When asked about the experience Pacifico said: "It is always exciting when you get to perform in front of a large crowd, especially when most of them are your good friends. My favorite part of the night was listening to Mark speak about his grandmother. It was sad to hear someone talk about someone they love die of cancer. Mark did a great job of ending his speech on a joyous and high note that left everyone feeling uplifted."

Many of the alumni of Delta Chi Adelphi were in attendance, which contributed to a successful night for the chapter. Delta Chi is looking forward to hosting their second gala sometime this year and will continue to raise money for The V Foundation for Cancer Research.

"Borderlands 3:" Two Steps Forward in Gameplay, One Glitchy Step Back

BY ANTON SEMINERIO

From claims that Gearbox CEO Randy Pitchford allegedly assaulted a voice actor, to the publisher of 2K Games sending private investigators to a streamer's house for leaking game content, to players outright refusing to buy the game until it's released on a certain program, it seems like public relations around "Borderlands 3" was full of holes during its pre-release. Is this going to reflect upon the game itself?

Borderlands is a first-person shooter video game series, first released on October 20, 2009. In the game, you play as a "Vault Hunter," an explorer traversing the planet of Pandora for an ancient alien artifact, known as the Vault, which supposedly contains infinite power and weaponry. As you hunt down the Vault, you will meet some of Pandora's crazier residents, shoot down hordes of monsters; and grab new weapons and items.

The first and second "Borderlands" games were very successful, with the first establishing the formula, and the second perfecting it. The series carved its niche by taking elements of RPGs and implementing them in a first-person shooter. This includes experience points, special moves and loot. The second "Borderlands" game offered more story and refined gameplay mechanics. With its brighter colors, iconic antagonists and bizarre tone, "Borderlands 2" was a very successful game. Will Gearbox be able to capture the magic a second time?

Apparently not. One of the most immediate faults you will notice are the glaring technical issues. Opening the in-game menu in any version of "Borderlands 3" will produce graphical hiccups, not only to the player in the menu but to the other players in the group as well. This caused the screen to pause momentarily in the middle of gameplay, effectively preventing someone from playing. This also meant that everyone had to access their menus at the same time, which increased downtime of not playing. Furthermore, the Epic Game Launcher also had issues with its cloud saving feature, which personally caused me to replay the same section three times.

Finally, during my playthrough, I decided to try the multiplayer matchmaking. Everything connected well enough, and load times weren't anything to complain about. However, the graphical hiccups were in full effect and annoyed me to the point where I decided to return to single player. My return to single player had caused a glitch that halted my game progression, and a quick Google search indicated that many other players were experiencing the same thing. Fortunately, you can fix this issue by logging in and out of multiplayer a few times. I was just glad that I could fix it rather quickly.

After the myriad of issues both before and after the game's release, there are a variety of upsides to help combat these problems. "Borderlands 3" is the first game in the series to introduce multiple planets, and the ability to travel between them at will. This offered new environments never

before seen in the series. From the war-torn city of Promethea to the bayou aesthetics of Eden-6, there are plenty of new sights to be seen in this game. Among these new areas are new faces as well. "Borderlands 3" introduced many new characters to the game, which helps it feel fresh and fun. From Wainwright Jacobs, the husband of the beloved Sir Hammerlock, to Balex, a navigation system uploaded to a teddy bear (voiced by Ice-T), these fresh characters truly help solidify "Borderlands 3" as its own entry.

Along with this, "Borderlands 3" introduced new options in terms of mobility. You are now able to slide along the ground, as well as mount ledges, allowing you to navigate to new areas. These new movement options are satisfying, as I personally found great enjoyment sliding around the battlefield, firing off pop shots from my shotgun, only to stand up again behind cover. The mounting system allows players to jump, climb and parkour their way to collectibles, making

environments feel more open and layered. The collectibles also help to breathe life in the large maps and encourage players to explore them in their entirety.

After playing through "Borderlands 3," I firmly believe the pros of the game outweigh the cons. The technical issues are glaring, but only time can tell if they will ever fully be patched out. The added mobility options, collectibles and other quality of life updates are perfect for new players to dip their toes into, while veteran players will feel right at home among the chaos, and should enjoy the new environments, enemies, as well as the fantastic bosses of the game. If you were hesitant about purchasing the game due to Gearbox's terrible PR, you can put your troubles to rest for the most part. The game is colorful, explosive (in many different ways, mind you) and full of life.

"Borderlands 3" is rated M for mature. It can be purchased for the Xbox One, PlayStation 4 and from the Epic Game Store for \$59.99.



Movie Marketing: Product Placement in Entertainment Today

BY NICOLAS RONTANINI

With the airing of the Super Bowl last month, we saw a lot of advertisements, from the “Black Widow” show trailer to the death of Mr. Peanut. However, one that caught the eye of many was a “Rick and Morty” commercial that seemed to mock the state of advertising in the current entertainment landscape. The commercial itself involved two of the show’s characters getting stuck in a Pringles commercial with no way out. This symbolizes how these product placements are seemingly everywhere we turn. More than just regular ads you see through commercials or magazines, we now see ads through the shows and films that we watch, and they affect us, even if we do not pay attention.

This is known as effective conditioning, where a person makes a decision based on a good feeling they may have. In advertising, this involves surrounding the product with objects that give the viewer a good feeling, such as a detergent commercial having a sunlit field, or a rainbow. But it seems that

more often than not, products are being advertised by associating with things that most people would consider good. A study published by Melanie Dempsey and Andrew Mitchell in 2010 explains this with an example involving two different pens. One group was given a pen that has superior properties on its own and another that is associated with positive things. Many seemed to choose the second pen almost subconsciously, showing that we might be making purchasing decisions without really knowing.

Now, let’s compare this to the film industry. Movies today have countless advertisements woven into the fabric of the film, many of which are subliminal. When you see a scene with two characters sitting down with a bottle of Pepsi, it is an advertisement for Pepsi, regardless of the plot.

One example can be seen in the 2015 movie “Ant-Man,” where character Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) is seen working at a Baskin Robbins. Though disguised by the story and jokes about what they serve, it is

still an advertisement for Baskin Robbins. Another example can be found in “When Harry Met Sally,” during the famed “I’ll have what she’s having” scene, when the characters are eating in Katz Delicatessen. More can be found in films like James Bond, where instead of ordering his drink “shaken, not stirred,” he now orders a Heineken.

Films today are riddled with these advertisements, and according to the Dempsey and Mitchell study, even though we may not pay attention to them, they still have the ability to influence our consumer buying patterns. Even if we choose to ignore the ads, they still make us think about the product enough to consider buying it. That being said, there is nothing wrong with these advertisements. These ads can help stimulate the economy by prompting the purchase of these products. The profits these companies receive can help them create more jobs. Even though the ads are numerous, they do not interfere with the viewing experience. Can they be annoying, seeing that there are so many of

them? Yes, they can be. Not everyone wants to see these subliminal advertisements for Baskin Robbins or Heineken when the audience came to see a movie. Even though it can be slightly irritating, no one is getting hurt from these ads.

These companies are doing what they can to get ahead of the competition, which in of itself, of the nature of business. Of course, these advertisements are not completely flawless. The products displayed could not have the same efficiency as the film it appears in. A product from Sony, for example, could not work as well as it does the movie it is shown in, or a Coca-Cola could not taste as well as it may in television or movies. But even then, we are not forced to buy the product, we are just encouraged to think about it. Should movies include less of these ads? Maybe, but the ads are not doing any harm. They may influence our buying pattern to an extent, but the products are everyday things. These ads will certainly continue in entertainment for years to come, but while there can be problems with this, they are small ones, to say the least.

“Parasite,” a Commentary on Interpersonal Relations?

BY ANDREW ZHANG

Director Bong Joon-ho’s 2019 Korean film titled “Parasite” has a deceptive name. Would there be sci-fi protozoa? What should your expectations be? Does one need any cultural context; the film is a foreign film after all.

How foreignness is seen is precisely what the film seeks to analyze and challenge. As the audience learns to interact with the film’s messages, scenes including complex emotions will leave the audience feeling conflicted and uneasy. Fear is rooted in uncertainty, and through mystery and careful storytelling, we come to share a laugh with the film as we stop to think about the intricate details of our own unsettling realities.

“Parasite”—which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Directing, International Feature Film and Writing (Original Screenplay)—is a film that calls into question our motives and why we treat others a certain way, and gains the respect of its audience members through its intrinsic value and cultural implications of society. The film focuses on the Kim family who use artifice to work for the Park family; but real life is not so superficial. Films like “Parasite” that calibrate and balance the tempo of the story are rare and exquisite. The full effect of the film is truly best experienced without much context for the first time.

We are each so different. Our variable experiences and thoughts are essentially what develop our character. We each share the propensity for specific emotions, but those emotions are not experienced in the same manner.

What’s remarkable is the fact that we learn to coexist because of our interdependence and openness to

variability. In some ways we may be metaphorically parasitic towards each other; however, our coexistence does not necessarily have to be parasitism---there is also mutualism and commensalism.

“Parasite” examines the structural framework of capitalist institutions through several recurring motifs and the overall consistency in how each character behaves as the plot progressively intensifies. The concept of class mobility and its elusiveness is stitched into the aesthetic appeal of the film. Sharp contrasts seen in the film allow us to understand the character’s emotions and moral direction.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s 20th century novel, “The Great Gatsby,” also focuses on sharp contrasts in our society that affect our livelihood, but “Parasite” suggests that in addition to our own identities, values and expectations, there is something inherent in a capitalist society itself that creates systemic differences in our experiences.

What threatens our sense of inclusion and diversity? One’s ignorance and ethnocentrism make novel experience fresh, purposeful and generative by using our inexperience as a tool for understanding differences amongst us. The 180-degree differences we see in others—through social status, thought, identity or experience—can be redeveloped to become opportunities for education and progression.

“We each share the propensity for specific emotions, but those emotions are not experienced in the same manner.”

Apple’s Credit Venture Grows Controversial About Gender

BY MOLLY AMICK

Claims against Apple for using gender-biased algorithms have grown since the company’s newest feature was accused of giving lower credit card limits to women compared to their husbands despite having matching financial health. Complaints against Apple have been made in response to the differences seen between the credit limits given to men and women.

Are Apple’s inconsistencies in credit allowance between men and women an honest flaw of the new technology, a result of intentionally discriminatory algorithms, or a reflection of users’ credit scores and credit histories?

The discussion started after a man took to Twitter after noticing his wife’s astoundingly lower credit limit. “Entrepreneur David Heinemeier Hansson railed against the Apple Card... [stating that] it gave him 20 times the credit limit his wife received,” said Reuters’ Subrat Patnaik. The article continues to detail another person’s similar experience, in which Patnaik reports: “He got 10 times more credit on the card, compared with his wife” despite the fact that the two of them share the account.

Reports have indicated that the algorithms—formulas for processing information or completing tasks—that make these judgments are programmed by people who may have their own biases. Often these result in unfavorable outcomes for women and people of color. While there have been discrepancies in men and women’s Apple Cards, these unfortunate instances are rare. It seems that the algorithms, being a reflection of the humans that help create and develop them, are not free of bias. They have the power to extend the discriminatory views of those involved

with the making of Apple’s algorithms for Apple Card.

What does this mean for Apple as a business? Apple seems to be under fire, but the company’s well-timed releases of enticing new products seem to cushion the blows of Twitter outrage and deter the public’s eye from unfolding events.

The Apple credit situations may have had their brief moments of discussion, but which Apple topic is sticking around and truly taking the internet by storm? The iPhone 11.

People have gone to Instagram and Twitter to share their astonishment at the new iPhone’s three camera lenses, appealing colors and improved durability. The phone has made its way into commercials, blog post, and even everyday conversations—but Apple Card isn’t so commonplace yet.

Moving forward, how is the issue to be handled? How should Apple maneuver the concern created by Apple Card? So far, Apple has been quiet in response to claims and upset users. It seems that reprimands are in order, but will they be satisfied? Hansson’s wife’s credit limit was raised to equal his, but Apple hasn’t publicly addressed the gender bias exhibited by the card’s credit limit.

A few instances of credit limit discrepancies appear to be relatively harmless, but it is important that consumers do not avert their eyes from these cases. When so many of our most pedestrian activities (like using a credit card) are made electronic and the algorithms behind them secretly host biases, we find ourselves in danger of disadvantaging certain groups or minorities in society. It is only right that we voice dissatisfaction at these events to ensure corporations are properly held accountable for their biased products or services.

Breaking Boundaries as Disney's "High School Musical" Series Takes a Step Towards LGBTQ+ Equality

BY MYLO FISHERMAN

After three hit movies, Disney's "High School Musical" franchise has introduced their first gay love story in the Disney+ exclusive show "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series." "High School Musical" is a beloved movie trilogy that was a part of our generation's childhoods, and Disney's choice to bring this series back and allow it to speak with modern connotations is revolutionary.

Although it was speculated in "High School Musical 2" that characters Chad and Ryan were gay because they swapped clothes in the song "I Don't Dance," it was far from something that Disney would have been able to make canon when the franchise first began in 2006. While it may seem like acceptance towards the LGBTQ+ community has been around forever, gay marriage was only legalized five years ago, and we still have a long way to go to achieve universal equality for the LGBTQ+ community. When the first "High School Musical" movie was released, it was nine years before gay marriage was legalized in the United States. This helps to speak to the significance of how important having LGBTQ+ representation in the media is in general, but more specifically in programming that is aimed towards children and young adults because it

helps tear down the heteronormative that has been projected for the past so many decades.

"High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," although not being the first of its kind to show LGBTQ+ representation in mainstream media, was one of the first to display a gay storyline that went beyond the stereotypical coming out story that has already been done before. In early 2017, Disney Channel had its first-ever main character who was gay, with Cyrus Goodman on the show "Andi Mack." Over the course of the show's two seasons, we followed Cyrus on his coming-out journey where, through the help of his friends, he was able to accept himself and fall in love with another male character. Later on, in 2018, the movie "Love, Simon" premiered, in which we followed a boy named Simon as he falls in love with a classmate known as 'Blue' and deals with the aftermath of being outed by his peers.

Disney's "High School Musical" series displays the story of Carlos nervously asking his crush Seb to their school's homecoming dance in its fifth episode. This is a major step LGBTQ+ equality and normalization, as it shows we are more than just a coming-out story. Being able to show queer individuals falling in love just like any other teenagers their age is taking a major step towards equality because it shows that we are no different.

Having Carlos and Seb be in a

relationship was not the only step Disney took in this show to show their inclusivity. In the first episode, Seb auditioned for the role of Sharpay, and later took on this role with pride in the final production. This gender-bent casting speaks to how gender roles in our society should be seen as simple guidelines. Showing a man wearing makeup and an extravagant outfit shows viewers that no matter what gender you are, it is okay to play with the concepts of masculinity and femininity. In addition to this, the main character Nini has two moms and the main character Ricky could

be seen wearing a T-shirt from pride in episode four. Although to some these may seem like trivial details to include, they are monumental steppingstones towards equality, especially when they are from the Disney company.

Personally, being a part of the LGBTQ+ community, seeing a show like this is very powerful. Being able to see the LGBTQ+ community represented in the media is crucial to normalizing the community and achieving equality, and it's even more meaningful when it is coming from the powerhouse that is Disney.



Characters Carlos and Seb represent LGBTQ+ kids and relationships in the Disney+ show "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series."

Caucus Confusion: Reflecting on the First Votes of the Democratic Party

BY MEGAN MASILUNGAN

As Super Tuesday approaches, the Democratic party has been focusing on which of their candidates will be able to win the 2020 election. The Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary have been important leading up to the election because as the first caucus and primary, respectively, they determine which candidates are the most popular.

However, the Iowa caucus was considered a debacle where technological malfunctions caused issues in collecting votes. With almost a 24-hour delay in announcing the results from the Iowa caucus, President Donald Trump tweeted: "The Democrat caucus is an unmitigated disaster. Nothing works, just like when they ran the country."

Furthermore, the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary show Americans whether or not to continue supporting their favored candidates; it's also when more candidates begin to drop out after disappointing results.

As the Iowa caucus has been important for decades as the very start of the presidential nomination process, there have been calls to remove Iowa's status of being the first caucus.

Voters should have faith in a democratic society where they don't have to worry about inconsistencies and announcements of results being delayed.

In light of this fiasco, Iowa and New Hampshire also should not begin the nominating process because the populations aren't representative of the entire country. Both the populations of Iowa and New Hampshire are predominantly white, significantly more than other states in the rest of the country. As the votes of those from Iowa and New Hampshire are valued more than other citizens who vote later, the Democrat party sends a message that these whiter states have more political influence over states with more diverse populations where more voices from different backgrounds can be heard.

With the 2020 presidential election approaching, there has been a looming question over the Democratic party: Which candidate will be able to defeat President Trump? The results of the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary have shown a tight race between Senator Bernie Sanders and Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg, while popular candidates of Senator Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden have not been performing as well.

I believe that the Democratic party has been solely focusing on which candidate can win the 2020 presidential election against President Trump, instead of who is most qualified to be President. With Sanders and Buttigieg both having close results in both the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary, I believe that for the rest of the election in a Democratic

nominee, Democrat voters will be split between either a more liberal or moderate candidate. This causes many supporters of certain candidates to end up voting for neither candidate in the presidential election if their favored candidate does not win the party nomination. It may seem like a human characteristic where we choose to be uninvolved if who we favor doesn't win; however, elections that choose candidates that fit our ideals won't be truly democratic if we don't follow our civic duty as citizens to vote.

For example, candidate Andrew Yang dropped out of the race after finishing



Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders

with disappointing results in both the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary. He had become popular on the Internet among younger voters for his stance on universal basic income. This has caused some members of the Yang Gang, a name given to supporters of Yang, to announce that they will not be voting for any Democratic candidate. This mentality mirrors the 2016 presidential election where many dedicated supporters of Sanders refused to support former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton against President Trump.

Recently, Sanders made history as the first candidate to win the popular vote in three early voting states in both the Democratic and Republican parties. Especially after the recent caucus in Nevada, I believe that Sanders will become victorious in the race to become the Democratic candidate. With a liberal platform that aims to raise the minimum wage and make healthcare and higher education more accessible, the media portrays Sanders as a "radical" who only appeals to a small base. However, the Nevada caucus demonstrated that Sanders can lead in a diverse state where he won 23 percent of votes from moderate or conservative voters. This can be a threat to Democrats who wish to elect a candidate who is more moderate. Results from South Carolina weren't available at press time, but the March 3 results should give us a clearer idea of who the candidate will be.

Winter Track Team Races Towards NE10's

BY JAKE MALONE

Greg Lucas, a senior thrower, has certainly had an interesting athletic career at Adelphi.

"It has been a phenomenal year. I feel like we got better as the season progressed and it has been a lot of fun to throw my senior year," he said.

After originally coming to Adelphi to compete for the swimming and diving team, Lucas joined the track team in the 2017- '18 school year. In his first year, he ran a 2:26.46 in the 800m and a 5:14.52 in the 1500m at the TCNJ Invite.

"Making the change from running to throwing was definitely a big challenge. Getting better and better each week and watching my improvement has been a big motivator. I am looking forward to NE10's and know my team is going to have a strong performance," said Lucas.

When asked what he has gotten out of the team that will help him after college, Lucas said, "Wanting to become a teacher after college, being a part of this team with many different personalities, it has helped me learn how to work with people to form a successful team. Taking a leadership role on the team has given me more confidence to lead a classroom when the time comes."

After starting their season by posting five first-place finishers at the Elm City Challenge, the team has continued to have a nice overall year. At the FastTrack Season Opener, the Panthers were led to two top-10 finishes in the men's 5,000-meter run by Gabriel Silva and Thomas Roulette. In her FastTrack debut, freshman Grace Minikel raced to a 14th-place finish in the 3,000-meter run. In their first

indoor competition of 2020, the Spartan Invitational was highlighted by record-setting performances.

Gabrielle Buissereth won the

seconds.

At the Rambo Opener, sophomore Kevin Nalisa led the way for the team by winning gold in the men's triple jump. In



Gabrielle Buissereth is a two-time NE10 rookie of the week and a big-time competitor for the Panthers.

women's 400 meter for the Panthers with a time of 57.58 to open up the year, less than half a second behind her career best. Buissereth burst onto the scene as a freshman last season. She made history by winning both the indoor and outdoor 4x400 indoor and outdoor titles. She also placed in the top 10 in all but four races for the year, including six first-place finishes. The two-time NE10 rookie of the week, Buissereth has been a big-time competitor for the Panthers.

For the men, Evangelos Fradelakis took third in the weight throw while setting a new school record of 16.44 meters. William Drexel won his heat and placed sixth overall in the men's 1,000-meter race. He finished with a time of 2:42.51, beating his personal best by more than 20

addition to placing first in the men's triple jump with a mark of 14.02 meters, Nalisa posted a fourth-place finish in the long jump with a mark of 6.63 meters. Junior Trevor Wilkins placed fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 12.82 meters. In throws, Fradelakis placed for the second consecutive week. He took home the silver with a mark of 16.29 meters.

On the track, the women nabbed five top-five finishes, led by the 4x400 meter relay team. Buissereth, Gabrielle Griffin and Katherine and Isabel Marsh each ran a leg to take second with a time of 4:06.61.

Fradelakis has had an unprecedented run this season. Already breaking three school records this year, the graduate student thrower has just been having fun.

"Adelphi has been the perfect school

for me to continue my college career. My teammates were very welcoming to me when I first arrived on campus, and that has helped my performance. Breaking school records is definitely an amazing experience," he said.

When asked if any records stood out to him, Fradelakis responded, "Breaking the hammer throw record was something that meant a lot to me because it was a record that had been held since 1969."

The weekend of February 22, the team competed in the NE10 Indoor Championships. Buissereth led the men's and women's programs, winning two golds and several podium finishes. Kiara Birch joined Buissereth in earning an NE10 individual title, winning the pentathlon with a score of 3,394, the third-

highest score in meet history. Additionally, Birch had a podium finish for her role in the distance medley relay, placing silver with a time of 12:27.94. Fradelakis set a school record in the men's weight throw in what was a history-making performance by the Panthers. The team finished sixth overall for the women, accumulating 70 points, and seventh overall on the men's side with 19 points.

Adelphi's next meet was held on February 28 at the Boston University Last Chance Meet. Results weren't available at press time. They head to Birmingham, Ala. for the NCAA Indoor Championships on March 13.



Senior thrower Greg Lucas said his team experience will help his planned career as a teacher since he has learned to work with a diverse group of personalities and take a leadership role.



Evangelos Fradelakis has had an unprecedented run this season, breaking three school records.

All photos on this page from
aupanthers.com

National Girls and Women in Sports Day Offers Inspiration

BY DIANA-NICOLE RAMIREZ

Adelphi celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD), a nationally recognized day where schools, organizations and teams celebrate girls and women involved in sports throughout the United States, with an event attended by 65 8 to 12-year-old girls and 30 Panther female volunteers on February 8.

This new decade marked the 34th national anniversary of NGWSD—and Adelphi's fifth year of participation. Whether an athlete or an athletic supporter, Adelphi recognized and supported all young girls and women who take part in sports. The event is a time to celebrate equality, emotional support and even mental health for girls and women of all ages. The university was all in when it came to representing our female Panthers, coaches and any future Panthers who hope to continue their athletic careers and possibly join our Brown and Gold teams.

At the Adelphi event in the Center for Recreation & Sport (CRS), female athletes and coaches hosted an activity-filled day celebrating NGWSD for young girls to be inspired by our Panthers and encouraged to keep moving forward in the sports world. Nichole Doran, coordinator of Athletic Administration, said this year's theme was courage, which was explored through talks and workshops.

The day started with introductions from Adelphi coaches and athletes to the

younger athletes. There were arts and crafts where the younger athletes were able to decorate their names with their own attributes on the Panther paw. There were also different indoor sports sections for the youth to take part in, with assistance from women's team members, including field hockey, track and field, basketball, soccer and volleyball. Our Panther athletes were able to play with the girls and even

opportunity to participate in like field hockey and volleyball. Our student athletes get to talk to them about what they encountered growing up. Since the theme this year was courage, two of our athletes talked about what they went through to get where they are. It warms your heart to hear the girls asking our athletes questions and hearing our players answer them. Our

special connections on a very personal level throughout the day. I think the event is super motivating for the little girls who attend as they can get a little glimpse into what their futures might look like in sports."

Doran said the men's softball and tennis teams also lent their support. Further, Ferranti Empowerment played a role in the positive encouragement to the young athletes. Owner Amanda Ferranti, assistant coach for women's soccer and a certified mental performance consultant, licensed soccer coach and a former professional soccer player, advocated mental skills training from her own personal experience, focusing on the theme of courage.

The Adelphi Panthers and coaches host this positive day for young girls annually. It is a fun event filled with hope and positivity for all young girls that wish to take part in sports now, and hopefully continue their careers in the future.



Members of the track team running the practice track with the young athletes following closely behind. All photos on this page from AU Athletics

teach them a few tricks, while also offering inspiration and emotional support.

Doran said the event is inspirational. "It's great to see our athletes come out to participate and teach what they do to a younger generation," she said. "They get to play sports they may not have the

coaching staff also does an incredible job, and our athletes share their love of the game with the girls and become real role models."

Mary Moore, head coach and assistant athletic director, said, "Our athletes got to make numerous small, but



Young participants playing indoor field hockey.

Panther Pup: Men's Basketball's Sophomore Owen Soontjens

BY CHRISTOPHER ALVAREZ

Straight from practice, Owen Soontjens and head coach Dave Duke take the stand to talk to *The Delphian* about the win-win scenario of the new addition to the Adelphi men's basketball team. Very few students know exactly what they want to do with their life, but when Soontjens, the Belgium native from Corbais first knew about the hooped sport, he said it was love at first sight.

"I love the game, I really love it," said Soontjens. "I don't want to do anything else."

With his charming personality and his eagerness to be great, the 6-foot, 3-inch Panther guard caught the attention of Coach Duke.

"When he and I met, he was a very nice person and then from there I got very good recommendations on his work ethic," said Duke. "So those two things together were really important to me."

Soontjens is from Europe where academics and sports don't always see eye

to eye. Making the task of being a student athlete is nearly impossible because there is not much money overseas to support college team sports. An atmosphere with limited options to exercise multi-talented individuals was not the ideal place for this lanky guard. The United States became a target destination to show his potential both academically and athletically.

"A former player from Belgium told me about the idea of moving to the United States, and he contacted some of the coaches in the east coast here. I visited most of the schools and I decided to go to prep school," Soontjens said.

He ended up at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Connecticut.

He said competition is a trait that runs in the family with his brother being a runner for the University of Ottawa in Canada. Being driven by the pursuit of greatness, Soontjens was captain of the Marianapolis Preparatory basketball team his senior year and was the 2017 New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Class B Runner Up. His desire to be the best he

could possibly be motivated him to choose Adelphi University because of its culture.

"I wanted to be challenged every day in practice and in class, and I knew it would be a struggle here, and that's what I want. I want to be better," he said.

The 19-year-old exercise science sophomore major and Duke have seen the start of a valuable student-coach relationship with a roster spot and an asset on the defensive end.

"Defense is also about knowing where you're supposed to be at the right time, and Owen has done a nice job of that," said Duke. "We're counting on Owen to bring us some minutes soon."

And soon came relatively quick as Soontjens made his Brown and Gold debut on Nov. 17, 2019 against New York Tech, where he posted 8 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal. He's happy with his start, but not satisfied yet.

"I'm extremely happy. I'm content, but not satisfied," said Soontjens. "I'm happy with all my decisions, but I have so much to do. Every time I reach something,

I want to do more, I have another goal in front of me."

So what's that one goal now?

"Winning, that's the goal now. Winning and getting better," he said.



Sophomore Owen Soontjens