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 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 of the 2020 landscape.

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...
CNN Commentator Van Jones Offers Assurances About Election

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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 differences 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.

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Volume 75
Issue 7
Earle Hall Media Center
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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 Albottelli, 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 Albottelli, Keri Albottelli, Alyssa Albottelli, Sarah Chester, Payton Chester, Christina Mauser and Ara Zobayan.

Jaclyn Tracy
Editor-in-Chief

DELPHIAN FEATURES EDITOR MARIAGIOVANNA JUMPER ATTENDED THE MASTER CLASS HELD PRIOR TO THE LECTURE.

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 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.

“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. 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 Pinoyos (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 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 Magmapsant, 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 was able to raise $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 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 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?

“Borderlands 3” will produce graphical hiccups, not only in-game but also in the game menu in any version of “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.

After playing through “Borderlands 3,” I firmly believe the pros of the game outweigh the cons. The technical issues are glaring, but time can tell if they will ever fully be patched out. The added mobility options, collectibles and other quality of life improvements 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.

“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.
“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 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 a 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 us to share a laugh with the film as we stop to think about the intricate details of our own unsettling realities.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s 20th century novel, “The Great Gatsby,” also focuses on 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, that the reader can relate to, is what the film seeks to analyze and challenge. Without your expectations being set, the film is still an advertisement for Baskin Robbins.

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] he 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 same 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 who designed them, are not free of bias. They have the power to extend the discriminatory views of the individuals who embedded 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 advertisements.

These companies are doing what they can to get ahead of the competition, which in and of itself, is the nature of business. Of course, these advertisements are not completely flawless. The products displayed could not have the same efficiency as the ones that appear in print. Whether they are ads for 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 are ways we can combat this, they are small ones, to say the least.

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 can 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 as a detergent commercial having a sunlit field, or a rainbow. But it seems that variability. In some ways we may be metaphorically parasitic towards each other; however, our coexistence does not necessarily have to be parasitic—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, that the reader can relate to, is what the film seeks to analyze and challenge. Without your expectations being set, the film is still an advertisement for Baskin Robbins.

Another 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 apparent that the film seeks to analyze and challenge. As the audience learns to think about the intricate details of our own unsettling realities.

What threatens our sense of inclusion and diversity? One’s ignorance and ethnocentrism make novel experiences 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.”
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 decision 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 be their team’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.

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 for decades as the very start of 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 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 caucuses 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.
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 Inv. "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.

"Breaking the hammer throw record was something that meant a lot to me because it was a record that had been held since 1969." said Fradelakis. "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, "It has been 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.
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 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 participating. 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 Panther 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 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 Brown and Gold teams.

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 chance to play in college, and they are able to inspire girls to continue their careers in the future.”

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BY CHRISTOPHER ALVAREZ

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

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 hoop, 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, 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.