

THE PIONEER

Award-Winning Newspaper of LIU Post

Volume 75, Issue 8

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

www.liupostpioneer.com

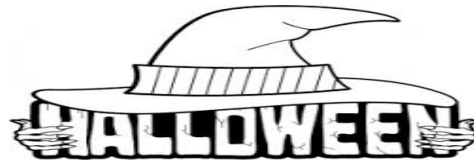
Nassau Hall Hosts Costume Contest



On Thursday, Oct. 29, Nassau Hall hosted a virtual costume contest for its residents. Contestants were competing to win gift card prizes and enjoy the spirit of Halloween.

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How Students Spent Halloween



Celebrating Halloween was different this year because of the pandemic.

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Resident Assistants Host Podcast



Two students, in conjunction with the Promise office, are starting a podcast about being Resident Assistants. Jack Tomlinson, a junior physical and health education major, and Nick Del Buono, a junior secondary education major, are co-hosting "Beyond the Residence Halls Podcast," which will first drop on Nov. 3.

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Indoor Track & Field Canceled



The Northeast Conference Commissioner Noreen Morris recently announced the 2021 championship cancellation for Indoor Track and Field due to COVID-19.

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Students React To Only Having Online Classes After Thanksgiving Break



LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Dear Students,

As we quickly approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I am thankful for your continued commitment to a safe and successful fall semester. It has been important for us to communicate with you regularly and share information as it becomes available. While we understand that the need to adapt and change is a necessity throughout this pandemic, we remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. To that end, I want to take a moment to share some updates regarding Thanksgiving Break and the Spring 2021 semester.

Thanksgiving Break

After the Thanksgiving Break, the University will move to remote learning

DYLAN VALIC

An email sent out to students by Michael Berthel

BY EMMA ROBINSON & JILLIAN MEHTA

NEWS EDITOR, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Post will be moving to remote learning after Thanksgiving break on Nov. 30 until the start of the spring semester on Feb. 1. Students were informed of the schedule change by an email sent out by Chief of Student Affairs Michael Berthel on Tuesday, Oct. 27, six days before in-person classes resumed on Monday, Nov. 2.

The spring semester will consist of social distancing protocols such as daily self-checks and requiring masks in public spaces and will also be suspending

breaks such as Spring Break and President's Day.

In the email from Berthel, Post claimed to be keeping students updated with information regarding changes on campus as they occur.

"It has been important for us to communicate with you regularly and share information as it becomes available," the email said. "While we understand that the need to adapt and change is a necessity throughout this pandemic, we remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way."

Some campus residents were shocked by the news.

"I couldn't believe what I was reading," sophomore veterinary medicine major Sarah Henderson said. "I wish the school had told us in advance that this would be happening because I know so many other schools that told their students this before the semester even started."

Other residents were not surprised.

"I wasn't really that shocked to be honest," sophomore musical theatre major Sara Wally said. "I kinda saw it coming because I knew Thanksgiving break would be really hard for out of state students to go home and come back."

Residents are now rushing to make plans for the

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Live Theatre In The Age Of Covid

BY SHELLEY DEAN

STAFF WRITER

Editors Note - Zach Taber is a writer for The Pioneer

The great white way is at a standstill, with no new shows going up, and no long running shows being able to continue their legacy, Broadway is dark. During this difficult time, many theatre artists are out of a job and are attempting to find new ways to create.

Junior musical theatre major Zach Taber, attended "Jagged Little Pill" on Broadway during its last performance before the COVID-19 pandemic caused Broadway to shut down. It wasn't until the curtain closed that Taber learned that this was the last performance.

The uneasiness in their stom-

started to rise.

"Normally there's a kind of buzz in New York, but the entire city felt a little bit more dismal, people were worried," Taber said.

Though the show helped to distract from the uneasiness of the air around them, it was still a bit-tersweet experience for Taber.



The cast of "Roe" rehearsing

COURTESY OF INDIGO MICHALIK

Broadway itself may not be able to continue throughout the pandemic, but that does not mean theatre artists around the country cannot continue to create. For many, theatre is their income, their way of life and a source of joy.

Directors and actors are adapting to a new way of performing,

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Nassau Hall Hosts Costume Contest



ZACH TABER

Two students dressed in Halloween costumes

BY ZACH TABER

STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Oct. 29, Nassau Hall hosted a virtual costume contest for its residents. Contestants were competing to win gift card prizes and enjoy the spirit of Halloween.

The event was hosted by resident assistant (RA) Francesco Diflora, who has been working hard to keep his resident's spirits high in spite of the global pandemic. "The most challenging thing about maintaining morale is the fact that a lot of residents are coming and going because of quarantining and online classes," Diflora said. "It has created a real funk in the hall due to the lack of people."

Still, events like the Halloween costume contest have managed to keep residents engaged and entertained in Nassau Hall.

"I truly love the RAs and the group of stu-

dents we have here. We find ways to make every day feel like an adventure," musical theatre major and resident of Nassau Hall Thomas Rowell said. Rowell was also a participant in the Halloween costume contest.

"My girlfriend and I dressed as WALL-E and EVE from 'WALL-E.' We got the inspiration from scrolling through Disney Plus," said Rowell.

With residents dressed up in their various costumes, RA Francesco acted as host of the virtual event.

"So I acted as host but not judge, the winners were decided by a vote from the residents. The people got who the people wanted" said Diflora.

The winners of the contest were students Sloan Huber and Cassidy Lennick, who dressed as RA Francesco and RA Julian, which proved to be an absolute hit. "One of the residents dressed up as me, and it was the funniest thing I've ever seen. She even got my mannerisms" said Diflora.

Even students who didn't get first place still had fun during the virtual event.

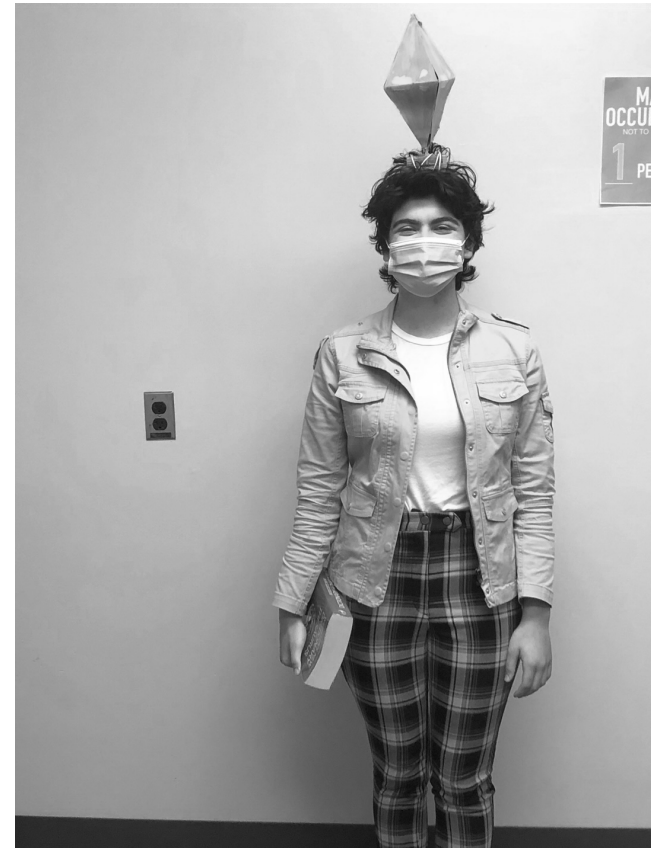
"I loved all the different costumes and the creativity. It shows that we all have our own parts of us and it was great to show that off," Rowell said.

With the costume contest over with, students and residence hall staff are now looking forward to whatever events the rest of the semester might have to offer. "There are always events in the making," Diflora said. "One that I am very excited to be starting up soon is a

campus-wide scavenger hunt."

Nassau Hall's residents are just as excited to be participating in all upcoming events.

"I always suggest for my friends to come if they can. All the RAs are working hard to help us find some sense of normalcy in our COVID world," Rowell said.



ZACH TABER

A student dressed as a character from "The Sims"

How Students Spent Halloween

BY CONNOR LAMBERT

STAFF WRITER

Celebrating Halloween was different this year because of the pandemic. Holidays such as The Fourth of July and Easter, as well as birthday parties and other social gatherings, have already been affected by social distancing guidelines and personal decisions to stay home during these times. As COVID-19 cases rose in the U.S., people debated how to spend Halloween.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advised against traditional trick-or-treating this year.

"Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses," the CDC said on their website.

Their website states that door-to-door trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, indoor parties and haunted houses are among the riskiest Halloween activities when it comes to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo said that trick-or-treating would be allowed on Halloween. People were still expected to follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines for holidays. The CDC recommended lower risk

activities such as carving pumpkins with family or friends at a safe distance or doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children could walk around and admire Halloween decorations at a distance. Other low risk alternatives were having a virtual Halloween costume contest, or having a Halloween movie night with family. A good moderate risk alternative to normal trick or treating suggested by the CDC was participating in one-way trick-or-treating, where individually wrapped goodie bags were lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance.

In previous years, most students would gather for Halloween-themed parties. But this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most students opted to make other plans. Whether it was because of travel restrictions, group gathering restrictions in NY and on campus, quarantine, or just being cautious of the virus, there were several factors that impacted Halloween plans for college kids.

Junior musical theatre major Shelley Dean kept staying safe to be her top priority this Halloween.

"I think COVID has obviously changed my plans for Halloween, as it has changed every

plan I've had for the past seven months," Dean said. "Normally, I would see a lot more people, maybe go out, but this year I'll definitely be doing my best to keep myself and everyone around me as safe as possible."

Other students chose to celebrate with their roommate in their dorms, and some still chose to attend parties despite the risks.



Events this Week

Thursday, Nov. 5

- Rigs Lawn Movie Night| 8 p.m.
Students can enjoy a socially distanced screening of “The King of Staten Island” on the Riggs Lawn

Tuesday, Nov. 10

- Justice for the Indigenous Community | 12:30 p.m.
Students can join Aminah Ghaffar for a presentation about justice for women, improving access to resources for marginalized communities, and reducing epistemicide and erasure of Indigenous Native American history in the Western education paradigm.



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Students React To Only Having Online Classes After Thanksgiving Break

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rest of the semester.

"I already got my plane ticket," sophomore musical theatre major BrayLynn Willis said. "I'm from Colorado and I'm not going to wait until last minute to go home. It's not worth it to stay on campus."

Wally is planning on going back home to Oklahoma for Thanksgiving and staying for the remainder of the semester. She was disappointed about staying home during the last three weeks of classes.

"I wish they would have allowed in-person classes to be an option for students," Wally said. "That way the students who weren't going home for Thanksgiving could continue to take classes in person I think in a lot of ways it sucks for those students."

Henderson is from Washington state and worries about the time difference.

"When we went online last year, my 8 a.m.'s became 5 a.m.'s," Henderson said. "I already know I am going to have a hard time re-adjusting to online classes so everything being earlier is going to stress me out."

Henderson further spoke about how some of her classes are completely unable to be online.

"I paid to take horse-back riding lessons and they're going to be canceled," Henderson said. "It makes me think of all of the arts and hands-on veterinary classes that can't be online."

Wally worries about theatre classes online.

"I'm pretty much used to online classes by now, but it doesn't make online theatre classes any easier though," Wally said.


Students are trying to be understanding of the school's decision due to the circumstances of the pandemic and recent spread of over 60 cases on campus since Oct. 14.

"There's nothing we can even do about it," Willis said. "It's shocking and it's natural to feel misled. I'm sure a lot of students would not have paid to live on campus if we knew we would lose so much of the semester. It's a complete waste of money and time. However, I think given the circumstances and how so many people will be traveling for Thanksgiving, LIU is stopping a potential outbreak on campus."

Students hope that classes will return to being in-person next semester, but the email from Berthel did not state whether in-person classes will resume next semester.

"I'm grateful that they [will probably be] in person," Wally said. "I'm hoping that we have learned from everything that has occurred this fall and we won't have any repeats of parties and a rise in cases. I hope that the school will continue to enforce the rules and CDC guidelines and students who chose to break them will be reprimanded."

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Alumni Publishes Book Based on Missionary Work

BY HAILEY DUCHNOWSKI

STAFF WRITER

Michaela Fox ('20) has published a book based on her missionary work experience. Entitled "Denim Apron," the book is a fictional story based on true events that Fox experienced while working at the Sanctuary in Lourdes, France.

As president of the Newman Club, Fox had the opportunity to travel with the campus minister to serve with the North American Volunteers, a Catholic organization who help take care of the seriously ill and disabled.

"The title, 'Denim Apron,' is meant to be a sort of double entendre, I suppose you could say. Denim is an iconic, American staple in fashion, and aprons are very feminine. Denim Apron is, in this way, a unique way of saying 'American woman,'" Fox said. "It is also the affectionate nickname given to the main character, Arden, by other nurses and volunteers from within the piscine (baths), as she wears the only denim apron of all the other volunteers, who each simply wear a blue, cotton apron. This is an element of the story that was based on real events, as I wore the only denim

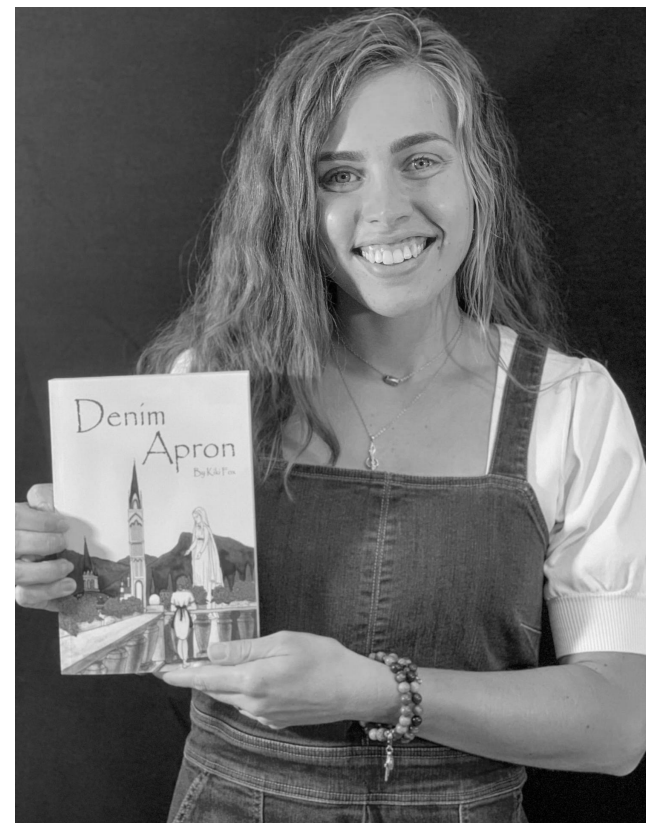
apron available when working in the baths, and one day, a piscine matron actually called me 'Denim Apron.'"

When talking about the book and the story line behind it Fox describes it as "three love stories in one, which is purposefully reflective of the Holy Trinity from Roman Catholic Dogma. The book details the journey of Arden Bradley as she falls in love with herself, another man and ultimately, her God."

What really helped Fox accomplish completing this book was "the feeling, deep within my chest, that I was meant to write it. I felt called to it. I could never shake the feeling that part of the reason I was there that summer was to be inspired to write this book."

Fox's advice to new writers would be "to not give up. Keep going, and keep on writing. Take your necessary space to breathe and find silence and never rush your process, but don't quit. Especially because it is your story, and you have every right to unashamedly tell it. Be honest, be true, be imaginative."

"Denim Apron" is available now on Kindle, Kindle Unlimited and available as a paperback on Amazon.



COURTESY OF MICHAELA FOX

Michaela Fox holding a copy of "Denim Apron"

Resident Assistants Host Podcast

BY WHITNEY MORAN

STAFF WRITER

Two students, in conjunction with the Promise office, are starting a podcast about being Resident Assistants. Jack Tomlinson, a junior physical and health education major, and Nick Del Buono, a junior secondary education major, are co-hosting "Beyond the Residence Halls Podcast," which will first drop on Nov. 3.

"Nick and I both came up with the idea of a podcast one day when we were just talking. We both knew coming into this semester due to Covid-19, RAs wouldn't be allowed to hold in person RA programs. So, in an attempt to create a program that would interest people and be fun to host we realized we could just do exactly what we were doing in that very moment, talking, except the only difference now is that we film it," Tomlinson said.

"We actually got the idea from RA Nick Jordan in Brookville hall. As we were all brainstorming ideas to do virtual programs, he brought up this idea for a podcast and I texted Jack right away," Del Buono said.

The podcast may be titled about resident life, but it is meant for all students. "I believe our podcast offers a variety of content that although geared towards the general LIU student it still holds elements that can make the experience more direct for the viewer," Tomlinson



COURTESY OF JACK TOMLINSON

Jack Tomlinson and Nick Del Buono said.

"Beyond the Residence Hall" will be hosted on the LIU Promise instagram page the first and third tuesday of each month.

Podcasting is an easier and safer way to get to connect with other students. "Personally, I love podcasts, I find them incredibly informative and entertaining. I also believe they allow for a more intimate relationship with the host. Which is the overall goal as an RA, to build trust and comfortability with your residences, except now we can do it with not just our residences halls but the entire campus as well," Tomlinson said.

"Jack and I are doing our production together. We are experimenting with ways to get the best performance," Del Buono said.

As an RA, Tomlinson is always looking to build a relationship with his residents. "As an RA all I can ever hope for is to be able to develop a safe and trusting relationship with my residences so that they feel comfortable to come to me with any situation no matter that magnitude. With the help of our podcast I am hoping for the same opportunity with the entire LIU Shark Nation."

Live Theatre In The Age Of Covid

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but it does not come without challenges. Hannah Ryan, the Resident Director of “Hamilton” on Broadway, is currently directing a production of “Roe” on campus. “Roe” is based on the 1973 Roe V. Wade case legalizing abortion.

“These students and this subject matter, I didn’t want to miss the opportunity,” Ryan said.

Ryan came into this rehearsal process prepared to undergo challenges. She expected the pandemic to make in person rehearsals difficult as acting relies heavily on physical connection. Upon receiving the news that no audience members could be present during the performance, Ryan had to adjust her plans.

Ryan recounted her idea as a bookend approach to the play. She is excited to have a combination of in-person filmed segments wearing masks, and solo monologues filmed without masks.

“[We are using a] combination of Zoom, fully remote filming, getting filmed on your own, and in person, and the highest of quality studio filming,” Ryan said.

Sophomore musical theatre major Quinn Doyle is excited to be a part of “Roe.” He is playing Man 2, which is a combination of many characters that will appear throughout the play. Doyle has also been struggling with virtual rehearsals. “If I can do this, the rest will be a cakewalk,” Doyle said.

Doyle has chosen to have a positive outlook on the impact coronavirus has brought on theatre.

“[Masks and social distancing are] really cool in a way, and it’s becoming a challenge for all of us that we’ve never really had to face before,” Doyle said.

Ryan and Doyle agree that the show they are working on is rich in history and relevant right now. With the upcoming presidential election, and the recent passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, women’s rights are at the forefront of the discussion.

Due to social distancing, more time is allotted in rehearsals for dramaturgy work. This is when the director and actors sit down and talk about their characters, their history, and the historical background of the play.

Ryan uses the added time as much as she can. “[The cast] delves into the specificity of character, especially because so many of these characters are actual human beings from our history,” she said.

Usually, Ryan would only spend a day or two with her cast doing this type of work, but with her cast of “Roe,” she spent over a week.

On the West Coast, in Washington state Erin Murray directed a production of “Men On Boats” with social distancing guidelines as well. Murray dubs herself a Femme Forward Theatre Maker and has created different types of theatre, from Shakespeare to new works, with people from all walks of life.

Murray has been acting since she was seven. “You start to get addicted to the collaboration and

the creativity,” Murray said. When she was 20, Murray began to fall in love with directing, and she has been doing it ever since.

This past August, Murray directed a student production of “Men on Boats” written by Jaclyn Backhaus. A production not normally fit for social distancing, “Men On Boats” tells the story of ten explorers in four boats charting the course of the Colorado River in 1869.

She worked with Youth Theatre Northwest, a children’s theatre on Mercer Island, Washington. “There are two large fields on either side of the theatre, and the building itself has 5 large double doors that can remain open,” Murray said, describing how well the space works for social distancing. Although some may jump to suggest a digital performance, Murray said “There’s too



COURTESY OF MAYA PALLETA

Maya Paletta rehearsing for “Men in Boots”

An in-person rehearsal process did not come without complications though. Murray recounted the numerous panic attacks she faced. “Even small complications seemed to be amplified into massive problems because of the stress everyone

was under,” Murray said.

“Every 50 to 60 minutes I would need at least seven minutes to go outside to sit, relax and breathe,” Murray said, and she would implore each of her cast members to do the exact same, hoping no one was too far in over their heads.

All of the trouble wasn’t for nothing though. Murray found beautiful moments with her cast members that she likely would never have experienced without the restrictions of the pandemic.

“The young actors had to learn how to take up more space on stage, it was asked of them from the characters,” Murray said. She was able to watch these young actors grow in ways that would not have occurred had there not been a pandemic. Much like Ryan and Doyle, Murray has chosen to find the silver lining during this time.

As for the future of theatre, all three agree that this pandemic will have a permanent impact on the art as they know it.

However Ryan is okay with that and finds it thrilling. She is aware of the new ways this pandemic has forced her to think. Ryan added animation to a piece she had been working on for a year, which is something that she never would have thought to add before.

Doyle sees a future where there won’t be a packed house which scares him but is something he’s coming to terms with. Murray agrees and hopes that these changes will lead to more inclusivity and a more diverse film lineup, with more Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and women artists dabbling in Zoom theatre.

With every day an opening date being pushed back, or a show being closed forever, it is important for artists to remind themselves why they do what they love, and why, truly, all of the struggles are worth it.



Indoor Track & Field Canceled

BY LEXI DELORIMIERE

STAFF WRITER

The Northeast Conference Commissioner Noreen Morris recently announced the 2021 championship cancellation for Indoor Track and Field due to COVID-19. The championship event was scheduled for Feb. 19-20 at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island, New York. The NEC council decided canceling the event was the most cautious action to assure the safety of student-athletes. The lack of ability to reschedule, indoor gathering restrictions in New York, and maintaining social-distancing guidelines also played a role in the decision.

The absence of a championship undoubtedly affects athletes. Tara Hernandez, a senior on the women's track team, is upset about the decision. "Not having a championship affects us physically and mentally. We are all now training without the main goal of most of every sport, which is the conference championships," she said. The team is now training for the spring season and making sure to stay healthy.

Destyn Harding, a senior on the Men's track team, was devastated by the announcement. "My initial reaction was an extreme disappointment. I realized that I would not only be able to compete in my senior season indoor championships, but I would have never competed at an NEC Indoor championship," he said. "I was injured during the championship



last year, and I was not able to compete, so having this happen two years in a row makes it worse."

Team members are disappointed that their first or last championship opportunity has been canceled. "People are upset because they are unable to compete in their first or last indoor season. But we are trying to be positive and look at it as more time to improve and stay healthy for the outdoor season," Harding said.

Despite this troubling decision, the conference athletic administrators provide athletes with competitive opportunities for the Spring semester. The NEC Outdoor Track & Field Championships are scheduled for May 1-2.



Dodgers Win Fall Classic

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH

STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Oct 27, the Los Angeles Dodgers cemented themselves in history as the 2020 World Series champions. A team defined by resilience, the Dodgers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays four games to two, avenging their 2018 and 2017 World Series defeats to the Boston Red Sox and Houston Astros.

A meaningful title in more ways than one, the 2020 season was an important one for MLB fans after the cheating scandal centered around the Houston Astros that rocked the 2019 offseason. MLB opened an investigation that confirmed the Astros illegally used a camera system to steal signs during the 2017 regular and postseasons; a season that ultimately ended with the Astros defeating the Dodgers in a nail-biting seven game series.

Senior Arts Management major Brianna Saverino was thrilled with the result.

"Once the Yankees were out, all I cared about was seeing the Astros not win," she said.

Some critics of the championship point to a shortened regular season as a reason to put an asterisk on the result, however

Sophomore broadcasting student Joseph

Lonegro disagrees with this sentiment.

"I wouldn't put an asterisk on this season. Every team had the same opportunity," he said.

Twenty Nine other teams lost just like every other year."

The championship breaks a 32 year title drought for the Dodgers dating back to 1988, and is the 7th championship in the teams history.

With the season finished free agency began on Sunday, Nov 1.



Basketball Players Look Forward to Potential Season

BY DANTE DELLA PORTA

STAFF WRITER

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have leaked into the sports seasons at LIU. The impacts of the pandemic have devastated both students and coaches.

Men's Basketball head coach Derek Kellogg is excited for the day the season can get back underway. "I feel like we're all anxious to get going and have a college basketball season and get back to some normalcy. Not only in athletics, but in our everyday life. So I think those two things go hand in hand." Kellogg said.

The sense of community and togetherness displayed by all players throughout the COVID pandemic, is telling of how much of a strong family they have made for each other, both on and off the court. "I would say, to be honest with you I'm not really looking forward to anything specific, but just playing on the court with my brothers. Like, pretty much, I just want to lace my shoes up, you feel me? And get the season going, nothing really special that I'm looking forward to. Just trying to be a leader on this team and hopefully we can do big things to start our season" said Cotton.

Many students and coaches shared similar experiences and opinions when discussing their emotional state surrounding the delays and cancellations of games. Due to these setbacks, some students were concerned that the season would not be held at all. Men's Guard, Virshon Cotton understands the severity of the situation, but is also hopeful for the season's return. "I think that the season won't come. Just because of the whole University and the effects of COVID. This is bigger than just basketball," he said "But do I want the seasons to come? Yes, and we're gonna keep doing everything the right way, so if we finally get the chance to have the season, we'll be ready."

Ty Flowers, a Redshirt Senior, wants the opportunity to give it his all in his final season. "I'm ready to go out there and win a championship. That's it," he said. "I'm ready to go out there and win a championship. That's it."

The phenomenal sense of community and togetherness that is displayed by all players throughout the COVID pandemic, is telling of how much of a strong family they have made for each other, both on and off the court. "I would say, I'm not really looking forward to anything specific, but just playing on the court with my brothers," Cotton said. "I just want to lace my shoes up, and get the season going, nothing really special that I'm looking forward to. Just trying to be a leader on this team and hopefully we can do big things to start our season."

On the women's basketball team, players voiced similar responses about their outlook for the next season. Mia Perkins, Senior Forward, is optimistic for the season's outlook. "I'm actually



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS

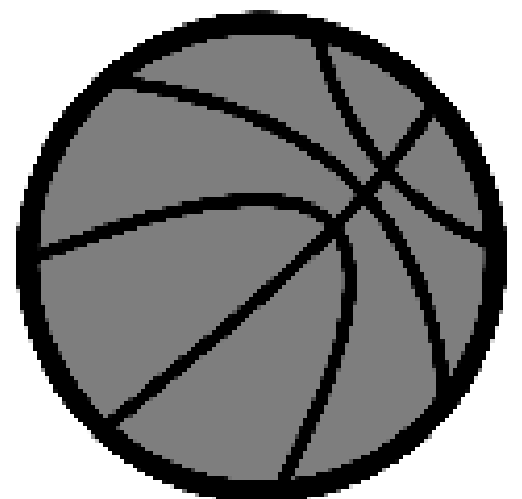
excited to get things going back to normal, as long as we follow all rules and protocols and make sure we have a safe environment, I think we should be good," she said.

Brandy Thomas, Junior Guard, is excited to get back on the court. "I am definitely anticipating the experience and rush of adrenaline just being on the court with my team and gaining some wins with them," Thomas said.

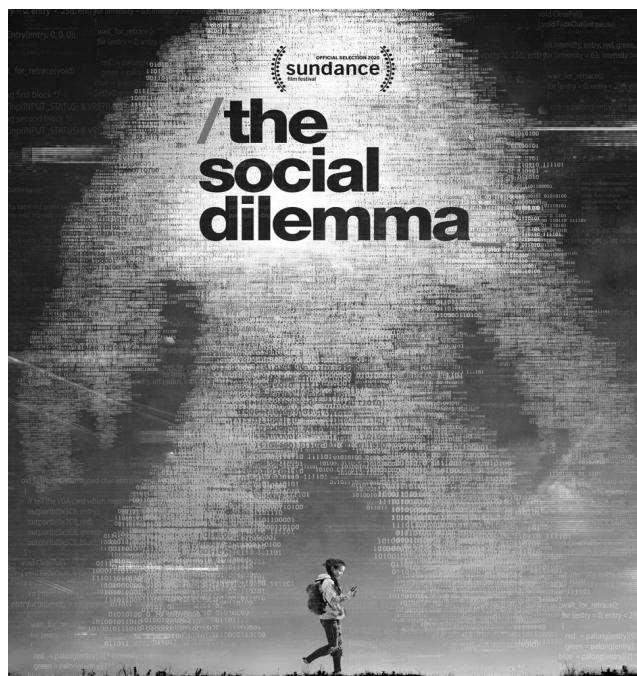
The team's coaches are concerned not just with getting the sport's back on track, but also the safety for everyone involved. Coach Kellogg feels the administration is putting them in the best situation to play this season, while keeping students safe at the same time. "I'm eventually optimistic about sports, obviously returning. What the new normal is, I think is the question mark for everybody," he said. "I believe all the administration, the coaches and the players are doing the best they can to put themselves in a position to have some sort of normalcy and season with the future, obviously being a little bit brighter." Kellogg said.

Women's head coach Rene Haynes is taking things one step at a time, but ultimately feels the season will be played. "I am very optimistic about everything returning back to normal this season. If things don't, I believe that we are all doing our best to make sure our students are safe, while they enjoy playing the sport they love," Haynes said "Adversity comes in different shapes and sizes. We just have to stay focused and understand that we have to keep looking forward and working together towards our goals."

Overall all basketball teams have been impacted greatly by this sudden shift in schedule for their athletic lives. Looking forward, many remain optimistic yet realistic at the same time.



The Social Dilemma Review



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

BY DANTE DELLAPORTA

STAFF WRITER

This pumpkin-spiced time of the year is when many recall, and rewatch some of the most classic horror movies in cinema history. This year, an unexpected newcomer has revealed itself, from the shadows and jump scared millions of people across the globe. The movie serves as a brutal wake-up call surrounding a visceral and real problem our society currently and continues to face. "It's fascinating, it's ultimately scary to think we are constantly being manipulated by technology that people invented," said senior English major Julianna Orlassino. "The idea that addiction and consumerism were part of the intentions, not necessarily maliciously, but inherently for the sake of profit."

"The Social Dilemma", released on Sept. 9, focuses on the unintended consequences social media and technology has had on the world.

The film discusses the severe, and unintended consequences that social media, and blue light screens, have caused for our youngest generation, as well as those who are on their way out of this world. These alarm bells are being rung by the same people who unintentionally engineered the problems we are all facing.

The documentary is filled with confessions from tech giants who created these problems. "It's expected because in some ways we all know how technology and social media have taken over the world as a means for communication, popularity, consumerism and even addiction. The unexpected part is having people admit to it, laying it all out there for us to see," said Orlassino.

Speakers in the movie discussed why technology today is so problematic. Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt said in the documentary, "Deaths by suicide in the US are up 70 per cent in older teenage girls compared with the first decade of the century, in pre-teen girls, suicide has risen by 151 per cent."

Students were stunned by this information. "What scares me the most is the fact that we all, in some ways, just sit back and let it happen. We've become indifferent--passive--settled for what is instead of constantly hoping and striving for what could be," said Orlassino.

Tristan Harris is the Co-Founder of the Center for Humane Society, and is featured prominently in the film discussing what exactly the problem is. Harris, in addition to several other Silicon Valley giants make viewers aware of consequences such as exponentially increasing suicide rates among young teens, as well as newfound neurological and behavioral changes that are shaping our future society.

The documentary also focuses on how corporations and technology innovators are very aware of the problem. "We don't bring phones into our bedrooms, period. Or we don't bring phones to the dinner table," said former execu-

tive of Facebook and CEO of Pinterest, Tim Kendall in the documentary. This led to the discussion of how social media played a part in the 2016 election. "The news feed [on social media sites] found this very weird pattern, that any post that had this one word in it would always get clicked, always get shared, and always get liked, and get lots and lots of comments, what was that one word? It was Trump," said Harris in an interview with Bloomberg News hosted by Emily Chang. "That word was a pattern matching signal to the news feed (algorithm) that this is a guaranteed way to get engagement; so whether it was a positive story or a negative story, his name, and his ability to say outrageous things became a self reinforcing phenomenon."

Harris points out that social media corporations as well as technology innovators are very much aware of the potential consequences in people's behavior. The film displays massive chaotic unrest surrounding the events leading up to and following the 2016 Presidential Election. The purposeful censoring, augmentation and removal of information created hostile environments for advocates on both sides of the political aisle.

These facets alone speak volumes about the nature of social media, and the consequences that developers themselves are aware of, but their customers are completely in the dark about. On Oct. 30 2020, Harris appeared on "The Joe Rogan Experience", where he told viewers that "The Social Dilemma was seen by 38 million households in the first 28 days", and Harris goes on to guess that the actual viewer count is more likely to be close to the 40-50 million range. Tackling very serious subject matter such as teen mental health, and the unintended ramifications of having our lives broadcasting for millions to see, this movie was extremely thought provoking.



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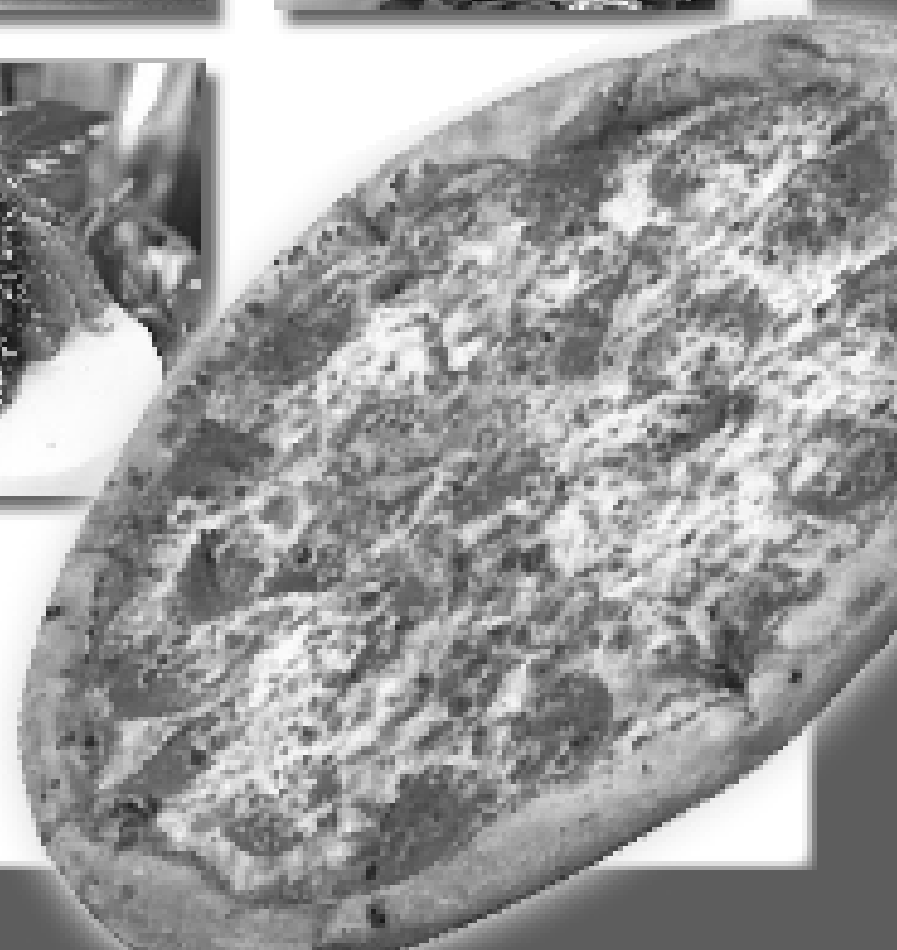
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Sudoku

Crossword

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: VERY HARD

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The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares. The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks must contain all of the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in any row, column or box.

Test your skills and upload your finished puzzle to social media and tag the Pioneer.

Fruits

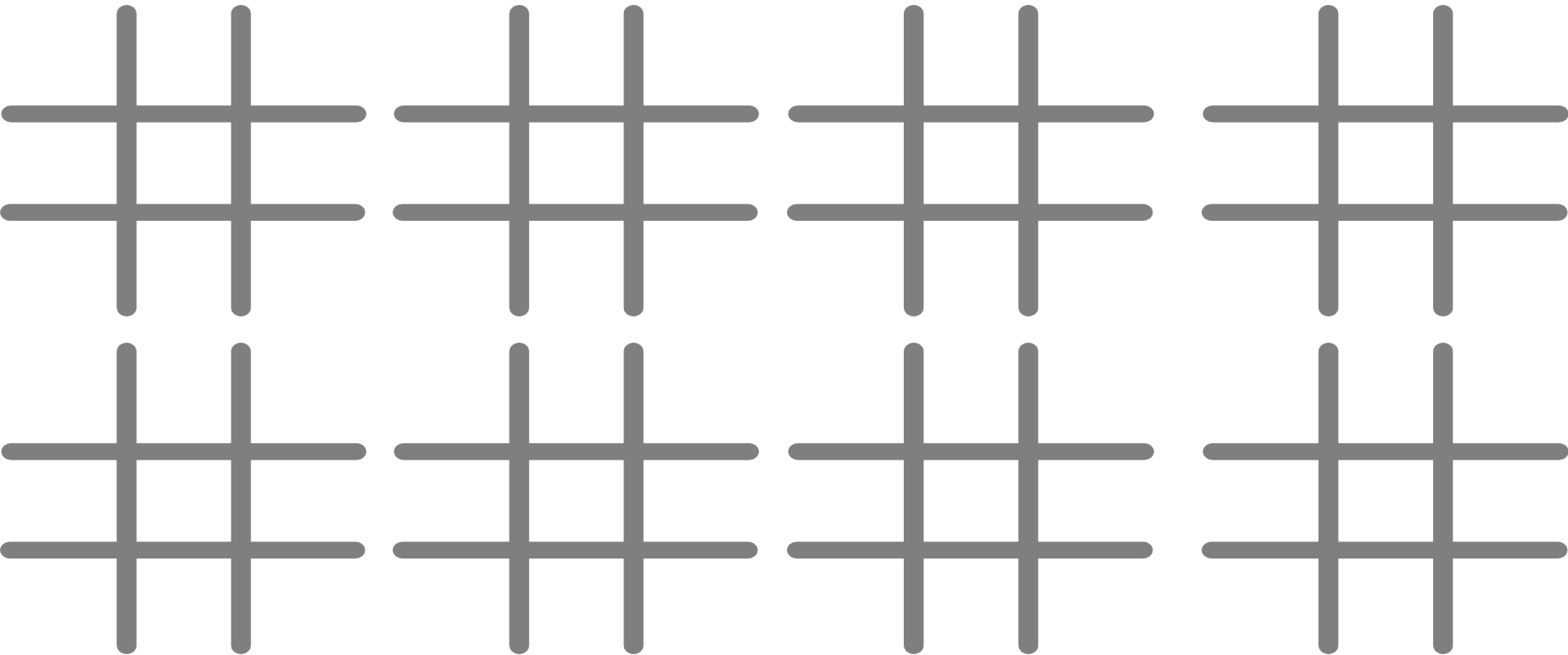
Y	R	R	E	B	P	S	A	R	T	E	A	L	M
A	E	N	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	Y	I
B	I	P	E	N	B	W	G	A	A	R	R	W	E
R	R	A	E	A	O	A	A	Y	N	P	R	A	N
R	E	K	W	C	O	T	O	S	A	A	L	P	G
B	R	I	I	A	Y	E	B	T	N	P	E	P	R
W	O	W	Y	A	R	R	L	R	A	A	M	L	A
W	R	I	N	R	R	M	U	A	B	Y	O	E	P
R	A	K	O	O	B	E	E	W	L	A	N	B	E
P	N	L	L	C	I	L	B	B	K	E	E	R	G
A	G	B	C	I	I	O	E	E	B	R	E	Y	A
R	E	E	E	B	M	N	R	R	R	S	E	O	I
A	O	E	N	K	O	E	R	R	E	G	N	C	E
C	E	G	B	Y	B	M	Y	Y	I	E	O	Y	E

- BLACKBERRY
- LIME
- WATERMELON
- BLUEBERRY
- PAPAYA
- KIWI
- ORANGE
- RASPBERRY
- APPLE
- BANANA
- STRAWBERRY
- GRAPE
- LEMON

THEWORDSEARCH.COM

Find all of the words in the sidebar in the puzzle.

Test your skills and upload your finished puzzle to social media and tag the Pioneer.



Alumni Plays Football Professionally



BY MILAN FLAGLER

STAFF WRITER

Jake Bofshever, Broward County native and former wide receiver to the LIU Sharks has made his name in LIU ranks. On Oct 24, Bofshever was signed as a wide receiver to the Joustlers of the Spring League. The Spring league is a professional football league that houses many former NFL players, and players eventually looking to reach the NFL.

Bofshever is a talented athlete who crafted his athletic ability to garner the recognition from coaches, teammates, and professional football opportunities.

Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Bryan Collins has worked with Bofshever through his college career and has witnessed his dedication to his athletic development firsthand.

“He came to New York as a quarterback, then stayed in that position for a while. Bofshever waited, worked, and worked, and perfected his abilities, but along that journey to doing so, he showed us his full talent,” he said. “What he wanted to be was a wide receiver. He worked towards it and got it.

He’s always been courageous, a great teammate, and always worked harder year after year to make his way up the ladder. Bofshever deserves it, he worked hard, stuck through it, and preserved to the end.”

As the head coach, Collins has directly overseen Bofshever’s growth in his athletic ability during his time on the LIU Sharks. Bofshever carefully watched his leaders closely so he could

do what they did to make him successful. The process of preparing himself to become a leader wasn’t easy.

The chances to showcase his ability became slim, but just as Collins said, Bofshever preserved. “Jake’s position came with very strong leadership roles. You have to condition yourself to be a leader. He fit in naturally as a leader for the team.

He took a backseat to the earlier leaders and watched what they did to garner the same amount of success, or more,” Collins said. He did exactly that and opened himself a door of opportunity for more scholarship money and playing time.

He followed the process. He was a program kid, kids that come in and develop that force to push through and stay on the field.”

The athletic development that Bofshever gained has launched him into the sites of professional playing opportunities.

The desire to play football and the brotherhood of his teammates fueled his inhibitions to go to the top. Coach Collins believes that Bofshever’s extra attention in the off-season and still engaging in his sports activities helped him earn his top spot. “Jake attended pro games, workouts, and is playing in the spring league.

He is still chasing his dream even during the pandemic”, he said. “Still working out, still going to practice, staying on his regimen. He worked hard; he knew he could make it.”

Due to his work in college, a bright future is in the stars ahead for Jake Bofshever. Whether on or off the field, Jake will definitely work in football.

“I can see Jake having a lifetime involvement in sports. He has a great personality, he’s talented, and works hard. If he wanted, he would be an amazing sports agent if he doesn’t want to take football professionally,” Collins said. “He can open plenty of doors for himself, he’s a fun guy, has a great personality, and is a great athlete.” The road to growth wasn’t an easy one in Bofshever’s case. Football is a quick-thinking high-collision sport. Injuries aren’t foreign to the sport of football. Many great players receive injuries and take games or even seasons off.

“Injuries are all part of the game, but that’s where your personal skill and the chemistry you have with your teammates help you prevail. You have to be aware of every side of you on the field,” Bofshever said. I know my teammates will do the best they can for me when it’s time for them to. But when it comes down to me catching a ball and going for a touchdown, I’ve got to think fast and play smart before I make a wrong move.”

Bofshever’s passion for football will never waiver, as it continues to be one of his favorite activities throughout his college life.

“I’ve always loved football. It’s literally my favorite thing to do. When I was a child, my

father and I used to play catch with my football and watch the game a lot. I think that’s what got me into the game. Since then, I’ve been on school teams, summer leagues, park teams, you name it. Wherever there was a chance to play football, I was there. I did whatever I could to make sure I stayed on the field. It was my dream to be quarterback in high school, and I got that. After high school and with all the progress I made, I felt like there was more I could do, more to play. Here at LIU I went to workouts, participated in off-season workouts, found summer leagues and I can’t emphasize enough on the number of workouts I’ve attended,” Bofshever said

Growth in athletic ability is nothing foreign to Bofshever. His latest feat of wide receiver was a testament to his growth. Bofshever had to take a step back to watch and learn again. He had to continue to hone his abilities to incorporate his new position.

“Becoming a wide receiver was almost like a stepping stone for me. I feel like it’s the first time I was able to see the progress of my work. Seeing how I transitioned from quarterback to wide receiver was amazing to me. All I’ve known was quarterback and thinking it’s the top place of leadership,” he said.

“Being a wide receiver showed me the importance of teamwork and the split leadership roles. Of course, the physical work was strenuous, but the mental work is exhilarating, looking back on catches is the best, and there’s no other feeling like scoring a touchdown.”

