

Creating Christmas

Caroline Branch
STAFF WRITER

Christmas has transformed many times throughout history. According to The History Channel, the first Christmases were held at the same time as winter solstice festivities and were widely celebrated by all, not just Christians. When Christianity swept through Europe, it replaced Pagan religion causing a transformation for the popular holiday.

Christmas was traditionally celebrated by attending Church. After the ceremony, people celebrated with drunken carnival-like atmospheres, similar to Mardi Gras today. Each year one person would be crowned the “lord of misrule,” which can be seen in the movie The Hunchback of Notre Dame and the festival of fools.

The lower class saw this as a time for the rich to repay the poor with food and drink.

In the 17th century, Christmas fell out of favor with the English.

During the American Revolution, Christmas was considered an English holiday.

Because of colonists’ desire to distance themselves from the English, they also chose not to celebrate Christmas in the New World. Christmas was not embraced in America until the 18th century, when it was changed from a carnival-like holiday into a more family-centered holiday that celebrated peace and harmony.

Washington Irving wrote a series of stories about a fictional celebration of Christmas in England. These stories about class harmony touched the American public, who faced class conflict and turmoil. But these sketches of a “traditional” Christmas were not based on reality, in fact Irving made them all up!

This sense of Christmas was cemented when the Charles Dickens classic, A Christmas Carol came out. This story about the importance of charity and good will struck a powerful chord in the United States.

As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, people looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated.

In the next 100 years, Americans built Christmas traditions of their own that included pieces of many other customs. That’s why today people decorate pine trees, send holiday cards, stuff stockings and give gifts to loved ones. How’s that for a Christmas story?

Christmas Classics are the Best

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Classics never go out of style- especially at Christmas. I am a big classic movie lover, and Christmas time is the perfect time to curl up with a good black and white movie. Here’s my top ten classic movies you must watch this holiday season.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

This is my absolute favorite Christmas movie. This film follows the story of two ex-soldiers turned performers who meet two singers who need to get away for the holidays. The four end up in Vermont and put on a show to bring joy to the soldiers’ old general. Full of singing and dancing, this movie musical leaves you feeling full of Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT

Starring Barbra Stanwyck, this movie follows a woman who poses as a housewife to write an advice column. Through a series of misunderstandings, she finds herself pseudo engaged and in a country cottage in CT, hosting the editor of her magazine for Christmas. The charade is threatened when Stanwyck’s character falls for the soldier her editor invites to spend the holidays with her “happy family.”

SHOP AROUND THE CORNER

The earliest rendition of “You’ve Got Mail,” this film stars Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullavan as the main couple. The two have been exchanging letters for the past few months without knowing



LA PHIL

White Christmas (1954) stars Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney.

whom the other is. So, when Sullavan’s character needs a job and wanders into Stewart’s character’s place of business, chaos ensues. The film contains lots of holiday spirit and wonderful haters turn lovers plot line that leaves the audience swooning.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

This film, starring Judy Garland, follows a family over the course of a year. It’s full of heartbreak and familial love and introduced the world to “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” – a holiday classic. Garland steals the show with her vivacious performance and stunning vocals. It’s sure to bring Christmas cheer to the whole family.

HOLIDAY INN

Though this movie has problematic scenes, it is still one of the movies I always come back

to during Christmas. This movie follows a singer’s journey from star to landlord as he opens up the Holiday Inn. However, the inn is only open on major holidays. Along the way, he meets a up and coming starlet and they fall in love.

THE BISHOP’S WIFE

Starring Cary Grant, this movie follows the story of an unhappy couple going through trying times. Because of this, an angel is sent down to remind the bishop of his familial duties. Through a series of events, the bishop learns the true meaning of love- and Christmas.

IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Everyone’s favorite classic Christmas movie, this film really needs no explanation. For the few who haven’t seen it, it follows the story of George Bailey, who’s one desire is to

travel and make a name for himself, but due to familial obligations, he is forced to stay in his hometown. As he begins to lose sight of the meaning of life, he is visited by an angel, who shows him what the world would be like if he had never existed.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

This film follows the story of a lawyer and a little girl who are trying to prove that a man really is Santa Claus. No matter which version you watch, this movie gives you a good dose of those warm fuzzy feelings that are associated with hot coco and warm fires. It’s a wonderful movie that speaks to the power of belief and how hope can change the world.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

My favorite version is the one with George C Scott. This timeless tale is a classic Christmas story, but Scott perfectly captures the curmudgeonly scrooge turned saint. He is equal parts sweet and scary, which makes this version my personal favorite. And who can go wrong with Charles Dickens at Christmas.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Finally, this classic film is sure to be a perfect complement to a cold winter’s night. The film follows the story of a dysfunctional family one Christmas night before mass. They have gathered to celebrate the holiday when the estrange patriarch of the family shows up, throwing the entire family off balance. It’s a heart-warming tale of familial love and leaves you feeling the Christmas spirit.

Thanksgiving Football is the Best Game of the Year

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

Every Thanksgiving, people sit down to fantastic feasts and quality time with loved ones. This is a tradition that is sacred in many households. Another holy holiday tradition is the Thanksgiving football game.

The Dallas Cowboys and the Detroit Lions play every Thanksgiving as part of the National Football League’s (NFL) regular season. While these games are not as important as the Super Bowl, they are a part of many people’s holidays.

I personally think that the Thanksgiving football game is the most important one of the year. However, the most significant games are not played by the NFL. In New England, the most important football games of the year are the high school Thanksgiving Day games.

Other parts of the country do not have this tradition or hold it in very high regard, and I think that they should. In places like the south, where football



ROCKY TOP SPORTS WORLD

The first Thanksgiving game was played in 1916.

is treated as a matter of life and death, it is obvious that Thanksgiving football games do not interest them. Down south, they only care about state championships.

When talking to a high school football coach, he said that his high school team was the Arizona state champions two years in a row for their division. I then asked how many divisions of high school football there were in Arizona. “Eight,” was his response. Meaning that

his team was one of eight state champions.

This is why high school state championships are stupid. Yes, it is amazing to win the state championship, but can a division eight team really feel confident calling themselves state champions when they know they would be throttled by any division one team?

This is why Thanksgiving football is the best type of high school football. No matter what kind of season a team has, they can look forward to ending their season on Thanksgiving Day and hopefully celebrate a win. Thanksgiving is when memories are formed that will stick with players forever. Years after their high school football experience, people won’t remember a 3-8 season. They will remember the win on Thanksgiving and how good it made the turkey taste.

That is why every high school should adopt the Thanksgiving football tradition to end their season.

NEWS

Nikita Dragun Detained in Men’s Prison

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Nikita Dragun, a beauty influencer known for controversy, found herself in hot water again on November 8. According to Vulture, the YouTuber was arrested by Florida police for battery of an officer. Dragun’s arrest has raised many larger questions about the United States prison system when Dragun was taken to a male correctional facility to await her trial.

Dragun is a transgender woman known across social media for her scandalous outfits and love of makeup. The controversial influencer was taken into custody while staying at the Goodtime Hotel in Miami Florida. A complaint was called in, alleging that Dragun was walking around the pool naked and causing a noise disturbance, according to TMZ. When officers arrived on the scene, she reportedly

threw water at both the security guard and the investigating officer. This behavior caused them to charge her with battery of an officer.

The felony charge landed Dragun in an all-male correctional facility. Though Dragun identifies as a woman and has completed a full transition. According to Vulture, a viral video of Dragun’s bond hearing showed her asking to be moved from the men’s facility into a woman’s prison. Judge Mindy Glazer did not honor Dragun’s request, stating that the matter was out of her control.

According to Vulture, a representative from the Miami-Dade prison system stated that Dragun was placed in a men’s unit because she had yet to be processed. The representative continued to tell Vulture that all inmates are held in an open area prior

to processing and that Dragun was placed by herself in a holding cell because of her high-profile status.

Dragun has since posted her \$5,000 bail and has been released from police custody. Recently, Dragun took to social media to give her fans an update on the situation. On November 20, the influencer took to Instagram to thank her fans for their support and to inform them that she will be taking a break from social media for a while. According to tubefilter.com, she is taking time to privately deal with her mental and physical health after her arrest.

It is unclear how things will proceed for Dragun, however she seems to be sticking to her hiatus. She has not posted anything on YouTube since the arrest, though she has posted a few comments and pictures over the Thanksgiving weekend.



NPR

Nikita Dragun currently has 8.9 million followers on Instagram.

Republicans Want to Raise the Voting Age to Twenty One

Danielle Aiken
STAFF WRITER

As of recent reports, the United States midterm election has produced generational changes to its political system. Presumably due to the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the younger voter turnout was significantly higher than it has ever been. According to The Guardian.com, the democratic voter turnout of women between the ages of 18-29 stands at 72%.

What is important to note is that the Democratic vote lost those aged 45 and over by seven points, and lost by twelve points those aged 65 and over. Generation Z is now starting to make a monumental difference in the change of policy.

Due to the younger generation turnout, hard right Republicans have stated that the voting age should be raised back to 21. Some even have said it should be raised to 28. “The same people who reckon a 10-year-old girl is mature enough to be forced to carry a baby, reckon a 20-year old is not mature enough to vote,” says author Arwa Mahdawi.

This puts a target on the back of the younger generation. Making them perceived as a threat tends to alienate them from the rest of the country; making the divide much wider.

Generation Z showed outstanding results for the Democrats in the 2022 midterm elections by putting their free will on the makeshift chopping block. Now, it is up to the Democratic party to take risks for them in return.

Five Killed at LGBTQ+ Nightclub

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On November 19, an LGBTQ+ nightclub was the subject of another mass shooting. The assailant, who is now in custody, killed at least five and wounded about two dozen others. The Club Q shooting comes as one of two recent mass shootings in the past few weeks.

The Colorado Springs Police first got a 911 call at around 11:56 pm, according to CNN. The report showed that in six minutes, officers arrived on the scene and detained the gunman. According to NBC News, Anderson Lee Aldrich, 22, was taken into custody as the prime suspect in the case. His mother has also recently been arrested, being charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

When Aldrich began to

open fire in the club, several patrons attempted to subdue him. According to CNN, retired army veteran, Richard M. Fierro tackled Aldrich with the help of Thomas James, a fellow patron at the club that night.

Club Q was always a fun loving place, according to CNN. It’s menu is full of fun phrasology like “Gayoli Fries” – french fries topped with garlic aioli – and “Death by Rainbow Flight,” a grouping of six candy-flavored shots, according to CNN. The atmosphere made all patrons feel welcome.

According to The Guardian, Club Q was not just a fun hangout spot, it was the epicenter for the LGBTQ+ community in the Colorado Springs region. It not only provided patrons with a place for entertainment, but also a safe meeting point and resource center for the

community’s LGBTQ+ population. The club was also responsible for hosting the city’s annual Pride events, according to Th Guardian.

Now, it is unclear whether Club Q will be able to regain the fun-loving atmosphere it was once known for. The club will be closed until further notice, according to their website. As for Aldrich, he is currently being held without bail. According to NBC News, he has been charged with “first-degree murder and five counts of committing those crimes as part of a bias attack.”

People who were attacked at the club the night of Nov. 19 may be able to gain compensation, according to the district attorney’s office. For now, residents of the Colorado Springs area are mourning the loss of friends and neighbors who were killed that night.



THE NATION

Aldrich took five lives and wounded about two dozen others during the six minutes before officers got to the scene.

Pharma Company Stock Falls Following Fake Tweet

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE EDITOR

Eli Lilly has become the first Big Pharma company to fall victim to the uptick of fake Twitter accounts, following the new Twitter Blue program. A user pretending to be Eli Lilly tweeted out a message, saying: “We are excited to announce insulin is free now.”

Posted on Nov. 10 under the username @EliLillyandCo, the fake message received more than 1,500 retweets and 11,000 likes in just a couple hours. The tweet appears to be legitimate, as it came with a blue check next to the handle name—a mark of a verified account.

Before Twitter was sold to billionaire businessman Elon Musk last month for \$44 billion, Twitter staff verified users after several reviews. Musk, however, has changed the Twitter Blue program. Now, if you pay \$8 a month, you can get a verified check with little to no oversight, something @EliLillyandCo has taken advantage of.

Companies rarely get directly involved with fake accounts, but this tweet blew up so quickly that Lilly’s social media team was forced to issue a reply on Twitter.

“We apologize to those who have been served a misleading message from a fake Lilly account. Our official Twitter account is @LillyPad.”

According to FiercePharma, Lilly’s shares took a battering the day after the tweet, dropping more than 6% and wiping billions of dollars from its market cap. This tweet, among others, has reignited the debate around insulin pricing.

Christams is Getting Costly

Danielle Aiken
STAFF WRITER

Christmas season is reserved as the most expensive holiday of the year for American families. According to Exploding Topics.com, an average American spends \$668 dollars a year on holiday gifts for friends and family alone. In addition, they also spend \$350 dollars on additional food and decorations. If you are left thinking: “wow this is a lot”, Canadians actually spend twice the amount of money on gift giving than Americans do. Regardless, American spending around the holidays has steadily increased since 2008, and increased drastically



CLEARPOINT CREDIT COUNSELING

According to Gallup Polls, Americans will spend about \$932, which is the the highest rate since 2019, when people expected to spend \$942 on average.

during the peak of the pandemic. Unless you are an extreme budgeter, one may not truly realize how much is spent on gifts for others. As the giving spirit tends to cloud our residing judgment present during a majority of the year, we tend to spend more money around this time. As of 2021, \$504 is spent on family, \$79 on friends, and \$25 on coworkers. If you have a large family, the amount spent is understandable and almost a given. If you have a smaller household, they tend to receive more gifts (in most cases). This means that the family size usually averages out with the spending amount. In addition, most people

spend more for ‘the experience.’ For example, Black Friday shopping is a day where most spend copious amounts of money on themselves and for christmas. Coffee and little sleep coursing through your veins at 3am is enough to alter the brain’s normal thinking pattern. As the holidays themselves allow people to come together in unison, it makes people more prone to gift giving- to save in advance in an effort to make others happy. Money is secondary to people’s happiness during the holidays. The hype of the holiday makes people want to spend more money; psychologically speaking.

Walmart Worker Murders Six

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Nov 22, a Walmart supervisor opened fire in the staff room around 10:12 pm. According to BBC News, the several employs told CNN that the gunman had been acting paranoid and believe that the government was monitoring him. This is one of two mass shootings that has occurred within the past two weeks. According to CNN, the Warren County Sheriff’s Office was called at 10:12 pm to the Queensbury Walmart in Chesapeake Virginia. The gunman, Andre Bing, 31 took his own life before the police could take him into custody. Bing killed six, including a sixteen-year-old boy, and wounded six others.

According to NPR, Bing left a note in his phone that described harassment he faced at work. In the note he apologizes to “everyone” and states that the shooting was not premeditated. Bing had been with the company since 2010, according to NPR.

Currently, the city of Chesapeake is in mourning after this latest shooting. Hundreds gathered Nov. 28 to celebrate the lives of those lost in the shooting. The candlelight vigil allowed the nearly 250,000 patrons to discuss the tragedy and consider how to move forward. Many wrote messages on the six crosses representing the six lives lost, according to AP News.

The Queensbury Walmart remains closed until further notice. Rest in peace to the six who lost their lives.



NBC NEWS

Activists Protest Against Amazon



FORBES

Jeff Bezos is currently has a net worth of \$114.5 billion as of November 2022, according to Wikipedia.

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE
EDITOR

On Black Friday, labor activists took to the streets of New York City to join a worldwide demonstration against top retailer Amazon.

According to NBC News, one of the “Make Amazon Pay” rallies took place right outside one of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos’ homes in Manhattan on Friday, Nov. 25. Workers and labor activists, some from the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), declared they want shoppers to not give into Amazon’s deals and spend their money on local and small businesses.

Kathryne Harper, who works for a Williamsburg bookstore, was one of the demonstrators demanding better working conditions and pay for Amazon workers.

“I get asked all the time if we price-match with

Amazon,” Harper said in an NBC News interview. “The answer is always no. I have to tell them that we charge full price for books because our workers get things like bathroom breaks and fair wages.”

Kelly Nantel, an Amazon spokesperson, defended the company in a Newsweek report.

“A coalition of organizations have been encouraging protests at Amazon sites on Black Friday. These groups represent a variety of interests, and while we are not perfect in any area, if you objectively look at what Amazon is doing on these important matters, you’ll see that we do take our role and our impact very seriously,” Nantel said.

This response failed to satisfy protestors. “Workers are tired of being treated like a disposable commodity,” Stuart Appelbaum of RWDSU told NBC News.

Some high-profile figures,

such as Senator Bernie Sanders, also called out the company for their business practices.

“On #BlackFriday, I stand in solidarity with Amazon workers who are on strikes & walkouts all over the world. If Amazon can afford to pay its CEO \$214 million, if Jeff Bezos can afford a \$500 million yacht, Amazon can afford to give workers decent raises & end its union busting,” Sanders tweeted Friday afternoon.

According to Aljazeera, protests weren’t limited to just the United States. Germany, the Untied Kingdom, India, France and Japan also saw angry workers walking out on the job and protesting against the international conglomerate.

It is not yet clear whether Bezos will take any action in regards to the protests. However, workers are not likely to stop marching until their demands are satisfied.

Russian Missile Hits Poland

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

The months-long war between Ukraine and Russia has escalated after a Russian-made missile struck NATO member Poland, killing two people. The incident occurred on Nov. 15 during an attack on Ukrainian cities by Russia. The missile struck the village of Przewodów near the Polish-Ukrainian border.

According to CNN, world leaders gathering at the G20 summit in Bali attempted to diffuse potential escalation.

The circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear. It is not known where the missile was fired from, though the Polish Foreign Ministry has described it as “Russian-made.”

Both Russian and Ukrainian forces have used Russian-made munitions during the conflict. This makes the situation complicated, as fingers cannot be pointed outright at Russia.

Several nations, including the United States, came out at the G20 summit in support of Poland and the investigation into this attack.

According to CNN, the Kremlin has denied involvement in the explosion. The Russian mission said, “the incident in Poland is an attempt to provoke a direct military clash between NATO and Russia.”

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that evidence suggests the missile that landed in Przewodów was a “single act,” and there is no evidence of further missile strikes.

Morawiecki said Poland would increase its military readiness and contemplated the activation of Article 4 of the NATO Treaty. Article 4 is a consultation method that allows members of the 30-country alliance to bring an issue – usually about security – for discussion at the North Atlantic Council, its decision-making body.

The results of the Polish investigation are yet to be seen as tensions continue to rise in eastern Europe.

CAMPUS LIFE

Hounds Celebrate Winterfest Festivities

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Campus Activities Board put on a spectacular event to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Winterfest was held right after the SGA Tree Lighting on Nov. 18 from 8-10 pm. The festivities helped support the Assumption community by allowing everyone to get together and celebrate the holidays.

“It was just a really good way to get people together and give them something fun before finals,” said Erin Moynihan, CAB’s Marketing Executive. “It gives them a little taste of the holidays and winter before we go home.

The night was jam packed with fun activities for students and staff to enjoy. Because of the proximity of the event to the tree lighting ceremony, many professors stuck around with their families to enjoy the festivities with students. Food trucks provided sustenance for hungry patrons outside the Laska Gym while inside a hot chocolate bar waited for students who wanted to warm up from the cold.

“We were able to pull off [the event] really well because of our G board with a lot of members who were all eager to get their hands on it,” said

Moynihan, “Many hands make light work.”

In edition to the food, CAB collaborated with other clubs to host activities for the event. Chemistry Club had frame decorating, Human Services had bracelet making, SNA had a photo booth, Habitat for Humanity had card decorating and finally, Active Minds had canvas painting. In addition, Best Buddies provided a rock candy snack and SGA gave out gingerbread cookies.

“All of our collaborations with different clubs was really cool to see,” said Erin Moynihan, “It is a testament to the community of Assumption coming together and kicking off the holidays.”

The event was the most trafficked CAB had seen all semester, second only to Family Weekend. According to Moynihan, CAB was proud of the turn out, even though it posed some challenges.

“We didn’t anticipate as many students as there were,” said Cassandra Harvey, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership and CAB Advisor.

“It’s a tradition that changes every year, so just bringing in new ideas and new ways to execute,” added Moynihan, “But we were overall happy [with



ASSUMPTION CAB

CAB hosted Winterfest on Nov. 18, the biggest event of the semester since Family Weekend.

the event].”

Despite some issues, the event received a lot of positive feedback from students, as it allowed friends to get together to preemptively celebrate the holidays.

“It kicks off the holiday

season, which is a time for togetherness anyways,” said Erin Moynihan, “and when a lot of people live on campus and can’t be with their families, it’s a really good time to be with people and be with the people they love here and show

support and show a sense of giving and holiday spirit.” Thank you for a fun filled night CAB! It was a great way to start off the holidays and put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Assumption University

STUDY DAY

Tuesday, December 6th

Take a break from studying with free food and giveaways for a strong start to finals week!

11:30 am	Donuts, coffee, and cider <i>Outside Cross Cultural Center in Charlie's</i>
1:30-3:30 pm	Pizza and cupcakes <i>Career Development & Internship Center (Alumni 026)</i>
4:00-5:00 pm	Stress-free coloring books <i>Charlie's</i>
5:00-7:00 pm	Wings over Worcester snack <i>Charlie's</i>

ASSUMPTION OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Need to take a break from the stress of finals? Don't miss the activities happening on Study Day!

Take a Break With These Campus Events

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DESTRESS FEST

PAWS will host its annual Destress Fest on Dec. 3 for all those who need to take a break this weekend before it’s time to buckle down for finals. Nico-lena’s Cheesecake Truck will be on campus to offer students some sweet treats. PAWS will also be providing students with a chance to make DIY hot chocolate making kits, orna-ments, and sugar scrubs. T shirts will also be provided on a first come first serve basis. They will even have raffles! It’s sure to be a great time, so stop by! Destress Fest will be hosted from 9-11 pm in Hagan.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Best Buddies is hosting a gingerbread house session on December 3! Come relax and make a cookie house with the buddies- it’s a great way to get a good sugar rush and hang out with friends before the stress of finals sets in. The event will be hosted in Tsotsis 313 from 12-1:30pm.

SGA LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST

SGA will be hosting its annual late-night breakfast at Taylor Dining Hall on Dec. 5. If you need a break from some late-night studying, come down to the dining hall for some pan-cakes or eggs and bacon. It is first come first serve, so if you want to get some breakfast,

get there early. Doors open at 9 pm!

ALANA DONUTS AND COFFEE

On study day, ALANA will have a table with free coffee and donuts in Charlie’s! Swing by the Cross-Cultural Center Office to grab some free break-fast and chat with ALANA. It’s a great way to start study day off right- and it’s free! It is first come first serve, so if you want to get some free coffee or donuts, get there early! The coffee and donuts will be there at 11:30 am.

CDIC PIZZA AND CUPCAKES

If you’re looking for some free lunch on study day, visit the CDIC Office, located in Alumni Hall for some free pizza and cupcakes from our Career Development Center. It’s a nice time to take a break from test prep and essay drafts. The event is first come first serve, so if you want to get some free pizza and cupcakes, get there early. Be sure to swing by at 1:30!

OSA WINGS

If you miss out on pizza, don’t worry, OSA has you covered! On study day, the Office of Student Activities will be providing Wings Over Worcester from 5-7, which is the perfect dinner for a jam-packed study day. As with most of our events, it’s first come first serve, so if you want to get wings, get there early!

CAMPUS LIFE

Finals
Tips for
First Years

Naima Rauf
STAFF WRITER

1 Most important: If you have 3 exams in one day, you should talk to your professor as soon as possible and see if there is another time for you to take it!

2 Start contacting your professors beforehand to get as much information as possible about the content, what type of exam it is, and if it is cumulative or not.

3 Spend time with your friends and do stuff to free your mind from studying for a little. Also, find a group of classmates to create a study session.

4 Go to the Academic Support Center or meet with your professor in Office Hours to review the content.

5 Look over past notes and clarify any unclear details. Also, create flashcards and quiz yourself!

6 Time yourself in learning the content, and plan out breaks to avoid burnout. Also, Prepare snack rewards for studying, to keep yourself motivated!

7 Use the previous exams to study, and go back and highlight information that is key for the exam.

8 Do any packing to return home beforehand, so you are not stressed during finals week! Also, go on walks and make sure you get fresh air.

9 Review the study guide on Brightspace if available.

10 Plan and mark your calendars – fit in a schedule for studying, and check the exam schedule posted on the Registrar’s page.

Hanrahan Has the Holiday Spirit

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE EDITOR

Hi Hounds! Ending this semester’s Hall Highlight series is Hanrahan Hall — last, but certainly not least! I lived in this hall my freshman year and made lots of great memories, even with the weirdness that was COVID.

First, a quick overview of Hanrahan: it’s one of the three halls (the others being Young and Nault) located at the top of the Hill. This spot also features Salisbury Hall and the Ts on its perimeter — both of which have been highlighted in previous issues! Hanrahan is co-ed by floor, housing mainly honors program students in doubles and singles. There is also a

basement-level apartment for the hall’s Minister in Residence, Tim Cody.

And now, on to the lore. To be honest, Hanrahan didn’t see much during my first year, especially with less than 800 students on campus. But thanks to RA John Roper, Class of ‘24, the dorm feels like a proper community again! One annual tradition he’s started since last year has been going all out on the Christmas decorations, both indoors and outdoors. If you visit Hanrahan, you’ll be able to see the huge inflatable Santa in the common room!

Speaking of Mr. Roper, he was also the first RA to rent a bouncy house for the Hill during spring 2022 finals week.



ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

Hanrahan, located on the Hill, houses first-years in the honors program.

Although he used up the entirety of his program budget to do so, it was an event that definitely made Hanrahan history.

And that wraps up the final hall highlight of the semester. I hope you all stay sane during finals week and have an enjoyable Christmas break!

FROM THE KITCHEN OF WANDA PRYTKO

A Tasty and Teriyaki-fic Stir Fry Recipe

Wanda Prytko
STAFF WRITER

This week, I had originally thought about doing a Thanksgiving-themed meal but with finals and due dates looming around the corner, I found I did not have enough time to find a suitable recipe that would be easy for a college student to make.

It is not like we all have five-star kitchens and cabinets full of supplies at our disposal after all.

However, I thought that beef teriyaki stir fry would

make for a yummy recipe to make as the days seem to get shorter with the sun setting so early.

It is filling and warms you up. The perfect recipe for a chilly autumn day.

Some useful tips when cooking this is to cook your rice before so you do not have to do twenty different things at once because this recipe has you doing a lot of different things at once and to clean your utensils and kitchen as you go in order to lessen your cleaning afterward.

If you want to make this fancier, you can add some honey, ginger, and toasted sesame oil to the sauce to give it some more flavor!

If you make this recipe or

any of the others I have featured in this column, please share them with Le Provocateur’s social media accounts @assumption_provoc!

Beef Teriyaki Stir Fry

SERVES: 2
PREP TIME: 15 MIN.
COOK TIME: 30 MIN.

INGREDIENTS

Beef	Corn Starch
Salt	Soy Sauce
Oil	Mixed Vegetables
Garlic	Rice
Beef Stock	Brown Sugar

DIRECTIONS

If your beef is not already in small pieces then cut it into bite-size pieces.

Pour some oil into a frying pan and heat it up. Once it is heated, add your beef to the pan and sprinkle with salt and pepper for flavoring. It is easiest to cook your beef in batches so it has enough room to cook. After it is all cooked, set it aside.

Add more oil to the frying pan and cut up mixed vegetables to add to the frying pan. Cook the mixed vegetables and set aside once done.

Turning towards the sauce, add around a tablespoon of brown sugar, a tablespoon of garlic, and ¼ cup of soy sauce to the frying pan. Stir all those ingredients and bring them to a boil.

Mix 2 tablespoons of cornstarch with ½ cup of water. Add that mixture to the soy sauce. The goal of this is to make the sauce thicker.

Add the vegetables and beef to the sauce and stir it all together. Enjoy!



WANDA PRYTKO

LE PROVOCATEUR

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CAMPUS LIFE

Get a Head Start With This Packing Checklist

Tips for a stress-free start of your break

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It’s always hard to know exactly what you are going to need over break, especially when we only have a month in between semesters. However, here’s some tips to help you plan your packing lists.

EVERYDAY STAPLES

When I pack up clothes for break, I always remember to grab the items I wear most often. Makes sense, right? You don’t want to leave your favorite pair of jeans because chances are you will find yourself needing them at some point. Anything you wear more than once a month should be at the top of your packing list.

UNNECESSARY ITEMS

I usually pack a separate bag full of clothes I haven’t worn this semester, or ones that I won’t be wearing next semester due to the weather change. I find it’s helpful to switch out clothes over break- it saves a trip later next semester when you realize you actually do need those boots you forgot to pack. And you can use the same bag or bin to bring back new clothes you got over Christmas!



TORTUGA BLOG

No one likes to be in a rush to pack after finishing a stressful week of finals. Get the ball rolling early with this checklist!

JEWELRY

I always bring all my jewelry home with me- I never know what I’m going to need! Especially if you have any valuable pieces here, I would take them back with you. Not only do you not want anything to get lost, but you most likely will want to wear it for a Christmas or New Year’s

party.

ALL NECESSITIES

This goes without saying, but please remember to bring home all the essentials- medications, toiletries, anything you know you’re going to need over break. Don’t be that person who has to buy all new shower stuff because you left

it sitting on your dorm shelf.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

I reuse school supplies every semester, so I find it helpful to bring back my essential school supplies and clean them out before the next semester. For example, notebooks, folders, and binders are usually what ends up

in my bag for break. That way you can clean out material from past subjects to make way for your new courses. I hope my list has inspired you to think about what you might bring home. Let us know what you think should be on a holiday packing list! DM us @assumption_provoc on Instagram.

Favorite Memories From the Semester

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE EDITOR

I’m going to be honest — this has been a whirlwind of a semester. Juggling my Provoc editor position with a part-time internship, RA work, and a Campus Ministry student leadership has kept my schedule quite packed, even during the beginning weeks and the lull that came after midterms. As I sit and write this article with the backdrop of finals projects looming over me, though, I’m reminded that it’s important to think about what you’re thankful for. And even though this semester has had its ups and downs, there have been a lot of blessings, big and small, that I hadn’t given much thought.

Introducing my younger brother, a freshman, to our campus at the start of the semester was definitely one of them. With my older sister graduating from Assumption in 2021, I guess we now count as a legacy family (I wonder if it makes us eligible for a tuition discount?). I had a “proud older brother” moment seeing him dap up my residents in the Des common room and instantly befriend



TASNEEM MOHAMMED

Bringing the Provoc back in print was one of our biggest highlights!

all of them.

A second memorable experience was when we distributed the first physical issue of Le Provocateur since before COVID hit. After our hours of torture learning InDesign and going through the production grind, having the copy in my hands definitely made our hard work worth it. And hearing feedback from my English professor about our “excellent work” was super validating!

Lastly, I’m blessed to have an amazing RA staff and amazing residents at AlumniDes. From our 2 a.m. post-duty McDonald’s runs to messing around with my VR set in the common room, the memories I made with you all keep me in good spirits, even with how hectic these past few weeks have been. Here’s to an even better (and hopefully less stressful) spring semester!

THANK YOU, BLUE JEANS!

Dear Readers,
We just wanted to say thank you to Blue Jeans Pizza for sponsoring our club meetings with free pizzas. They have been very accommodating this semester, as our staff is not only new to Le Provoc, but we are also new to advertisers in general. They have been kind enough to help us with through this new territory. We would like to give a spe-

cial thanks to Steve, the owner of Blue Jeans Pizza. Blue Jeans opened in 1980 and has been serving Worcester delicious pizza ever since. If you haven’t tried it, you absolutely must before the end of the semester. Thank you again Blue Jeans for your help this semester. See you in the Spring!
-Maureen Lynch
Editor in Chief



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK. We look forward to hearing from readers about timely issues affecting people on campus.

Please send your letters to provoc@assumption.edu or via campus mail, addressed to Le Provocateur. Submissions may

also be brought to our office, located in the Office of Student Activities.

All letters must be signed with a real name. Anonymity can be arranged, but submissions must include your name.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for length or clarity, and to reject libelous materials.

OPINION »

Beer, Guns and Equal Rights

In Defense of Country Music

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND
OPINION EDITOR

When I tell people I like listening to country music I usually get the same response; “oh I hate country music, I’ll listen to anything, but country music.” Where did it get this bad rep from?

One of the things I often hear is that country music is only about “trucks, beer and girls” which definitely has truth to it, but it also covers many other topics such as soldiers dying while in combat in “If You’re Reading This” by Tim McGraw. You might not have any involvement or association with the U.S. Army, but I’m sure you can empathize with the idea of losing a loved one in such a tragic way.

There is also “Most People Are Good” By Luke Bryan which literally has the lyrics “I believe you love who you love, Ain’t nothing you should ever be ashamed of.” This whole song in general has a message of love, and shows that country music can be just as inclusive as any other genre.

Many associate country music with conservatism because of its tendency to show disdain for authority and alignment with working-class ideas, but many might be surprised that country music has quite a lot of inclusive themes in its music containing themes of economic justice, prisoner’s rights and evening questioning the role of women in society, according to The Aggie. Johnny Cash in particular was seen as quite radical, according to The Aggie, he once performed at Folsom State Prison and empathized with the prisoners there, something that drew up a lot of controversies. He also performed in front of Richard Nixon in 1972 where he voiced his critiques about the Vietnam War and also stood up for the rights of Native Americans.

Women have had a powerful voice in country as well, in the 70s Dolly Parton brought up the topic of women’s lives



FREEPIK

There’s more to country than what many seem to think there is.

in the workforce in her song “9 to 5” and Loretta Lynn talked about how birth control helped her regain control of her life in her song “The Pill” which was banned from many radio stations, according to the Washington Post. More recently in 2014, Maddie & Tae released “Girl in a Country Song” where they expressed frustration with girls often being portrayed as sex objects by many male performers. There are many more country songs with feminist themes, a whole article could be written on this subject alone.

Although it might not be as evident, there are feminist themes in both traditional and modern country music. Many believe that is it the men who sing about the same thing, beer, guns and girls (girls in a derogatory way). However, there are many men who have also discussed feminist themes in their music. “If You Told Me To”(2015) by Hunter Hayes discusses consent, “Irma Jackson” (1972) by Merle Haggard is about the difficulty of being in a bi-racial relationship, “Karate” (2013) by Braid Paisley is about domestic abuse, “Red Rag Top” (2002) by Tim McGraw hints at an abortion.

There is also a distinction to be made between contemporary and traditional country music. There are many country fans who say that contemporary country is not “real” country and has become more pop-influenced. Well it is true that the pop-country subgenre has emerged, it does not mean that it is not “real” country, it is only different. Some artists who can be con-

sidered pop-country are Carrie Underwood, Taylor Swift and Miranda Lambert. Other subgenres of country include Americana, bro-country, country rock, country neotraditional/alt-country, outlaw country and more. Americana artists include Johnny Cash, Kasey Musgraves and Tyler Childers (although he has rejected this label), some bro-country artists are Luke Bryan and Morgan Wallen, country rock includes Neil Young and the Rascal Flatts, artists like Zack Bryan and Reba McEntire have been considered be to neotraditional or alt-country and outlaw country contains artists like Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson.

So next time you think all country music sounds the same, listen to “Beer in Mexico” by Kenny Chesney and then “Jolene” by Dolly Parton or “Would You Go With Me” by Josh Turner and then “Breaking More Hearts Than Mine” by Ingrid Andress.

If you are looking for some good songs to get into the genre, I will recommend some of my favorites. “Just to See You Smile” by Tim McGraw, “Change Your Name” by Brett Young, “Happy Instead” by Zack Bryan, “So Small” by Carrie Underwood, “Stay” by Sugarland, “Stay With Me” by Josh Gracin, “Chasin’ You” by Morgan Wallen, “Abeline on Her Mind” by Buddy Jewell, “I Told You So” by Keith Urban, “Better Man” by Big Town, “What’s In It For Me” by John Berry, “Smile” by Uncle Kracker, and there are more where those came from.

Trump Launches 2024 Presidential Campaign

ROB MULLINS
STAFF WRITER

After losing the popular vote in 2016, losing re-election in 2020, and costing the GOP the Senate majority and several tossup House seats, Donald Trump did the most rational thing in light of this track record: he began his campaign for president in 2024. He announced on November 15th, after a lackluster performance by congressional Republicans in the midterm elections nationwide.

The somewhat muted tone and restrained rhetoric drew mixed reactions from fans and detractors alike. Politico reported that this is an indication that the former president is “no longer having fun.” The low-energy announcement and the failure of hand-picked candidates like Kari Lake and Blake Masters have shaken the GOP’s faith in Trump as leader and kingmaker—and rightfully so.

Trump’s precipitous fall from grace came astonishingly quick. Voter enthusiasm for his third presidential run has not materialized. Even Republican officials are shocked at the lack of engagement. “The excitement’s just not there,” Saul Anuzis, former chair of the Michigan Republican Party, told Politico.

Although several politicians have expressed an interest in the Republican nomination, right now the only serious threat to Trump comes from Florida governor Ron DeSantis. According to a poll released in November by the conservative pollster Club for Growth, DeSantis leads Trump in a hypothetical primary matchup in the states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Georgia, and Florida.

The numbers in Florida are stark, where DeSantis leads Trump 56% to 30%, according to US News & Worldly Report. DeSantis’s lead hardly shrinks outside his home state; he leads Trump 55% to 35% in Georgia, and 52%

to 37% in New Hampshire. If Trump still retained any competent advisors, and it is very unlikely that he does, these results would set off alarm bells.

The Republican Party made much-needed inroads with blue collar Midwestern voters, white women, and Hispanics under Trump’s leadership in 2016. Since that singular win, the GOP has largely languished under the continuing burdens that Trump’s lack of focus has forced on them. Sadly, because the party is now dominated by spineless, out-of-touch sycophants, it does not appear capable of changing course, even with a much more vibrant, virile, and competent potential successor waiting in the wings.

It is apparent that the Republican Party has lost confidence in Donald Trump, a convenient sentiment to emerge after he achieved total control of the party apparatus. This was no cause for complaint when Trump was at the helm and Republicans are winning, but this is clearly no longer the case.

The majority of Trump’s endorsed candidates lost in the midterms. Ann Coulter noted that if Herschel Walker loses, which appears increasingly likely as Georgia’s senate race enters a runoff, it would be the third successive time Trump has caused the loss of what should be an easy GOP pickup in the state.

It’s not as simple as the GOP abandoning Trump either. Without him, the Party will find itself in the same situation it was in 2015 before Trump took over: a party of out-of-touch consultants and figureheads with no political program other than lowering the marginal corporate tax rate. So while it may be easy to blame upcoming Republican losses on Trump, it is important to remember that the Party’s leadership is just as much to blame, and these losses will continue until both Trump and the leadership are replaced.

We’ve Got all Your News Needs Covered

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Now that the semester is ending, Le Provocateur will stop printing until we resume classes next semester! But, there is no need to fear.

If you want to keep up to date on all current events, we have a list of recommended news sources for you to peruse. Chosen for their integrity and clarity, these sites are our top picks for go to news sources! **Reuters**

Another international news site, Reuters reports on global politics, business, and current affairs. According to All Sides and Media Bias Fact Check, it is one of the least biased news sources you can find, with

straightforward reporting on some of the most controversial subjects.

According to makeuseof.com, they headlines are geared towards capturing the everyday experience of people rather than pontificating on official statistics or interviews.

According to accountable journalism.com, Reuters has also published a manual called the 10 Absolutes of Reuters Journalism, which details their ideology and rules for covering stories.

With that kind of transparency, Reuters is one of the least biased sites you can chose. **Associated Press**

The Associated Press is an independently owned global news organization that covers

topics without favoritism for one side or the other.

According to the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, the AP is owned by its American news and broadcast members, which allows it to stay a not-for-profit news organization.

The AP was founded in 1846 and since has covered all topics related to international news, from coverage of elections to royal weddings, according to the Roper Center. According to makeuseof.com, the AP is a top pick for journalists themselves and if often consulted when looking for story ideas or information. **The A.V Club**

To switch gears a little bit, let’s talk about great sources

for other types of news. Entertainment news is near and dear to our hearts at Le Provocateur- it is our biggest section typically. We take our entertainment news seriously, and only trust the best sites.

The A.V Club is a partner paper to the satirical Onion, but don’t let that dissuade you. It is not connected to the larger Entertainment magazines like People or E! and mainly focuses on reviews and content creators rather than the drama that surrounds them.

It does contain bias, but the journalists over at The A.V Club are well informed and use reliable sources. This is where we recommend you go if you’re looking for updates on the

world of pop Culture. **CBS Sports**

CBS Sports is one of the best places to go if you want to know what’s going on in the world of professional sports. According to sportsmanagementdegrees.com, CBS Sports’ website provides viewers with minute-by-minute updates on competitions going on around the globe.

The site also provides news on all sports- everything from NASCAR to horse racing. For those of you who want to keep up to date on athletics, CBS Sports is the best place to go.

We will miss you Assumption, but until we return in 2023, you can use these sites to stay up to date!

Who is Sexiest Man Alive For?

Are women the intended audience?

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Pop culture has recently been discussing the female gaze- and what better way to explore such a topic than by looking at People’s Sexiest Man Alive. For this article, I will be focusing specifically on the heterosexual female gaze, as People’s target audience is women, though I acknowledge that the sexiest man is for everyone, no matter their sexuality. With that being said, I want to examine who exactly is the sexiest man alive for?

Chris Evans made his debut as sexiest man alive for 2022, appearing on the cover of People on November 7. For those of you who don’t know, the sexiest man alive is a title given by People magazine to a male celebrity they believe is emblematic of the word “sexy.” According to CNN, People’s Editor in Chief, Dan Wakeford, the process is more than just picking the most handsome face. People’s journalists sit down and examine what “sexy” means in the present cultural moment, and then begin to make a list of men they believe exemplify the qualities associated with their current definition of sexy.

Though People claims to examine the current cultural moment, the list of past winners doesn’t seem to reflect that. When I think of the male celebrities that my peers talk about most, I think of Harry Styles, Timothee Chalamet and Tom Holland. But, when I look at the men chosen by People in the past, they certainly lack

luster. Just last year, Paul Rudd was named Sexiest Man Alive- but I couldn’t tell you the last time I heard anyone call Rudd “sexy.”

I understand that People’s demographic is mostly middle-aged women, the choices still don’t seem to make sense. For instance, the title rarely seems to go musicians. Blake Shelton and Adam Levine are the only two musicians to receive the title. This seems weird, considering the music of Justin Timberlake, Tim McGraw and Kanye West are popular among middle aged women, not to mention the thousands of other male singers out there.

Additionally, there have been few men of color on the list- only five to date. When I think of the men of color in Hollywood, several names come to mind that could have made the cut, including Will Smith, the late Chadwick Boseman, Daniel Kaluuya, Antonio Banderas, Andy Mackie and Andy Garcia, to name a few.

It seems odd that only white movie stars are chosen for the role, when so many other men deserve a chance to be the sexiest man alive, regardless of the demographic the magazine is trying to reach.

Which brings me back to the female gaze. It seems that the magazine utilizes the male gaze when considering who best suits the title Sexiest Man Alive. The female gaze is term coined by modern day feminists that essentially is the way women portray women in media versus how men portray them.

The concept was a response to the idea that the conventions of Hollywood filmmaking



IMDB

The Sexiest Man Alive often caters to the male gaze instead of the female force all spectators, regardless of their gender, to identify with the male protagonist, according to Oxford Reference. For example, if you’ve ever watched Riverdale, you know what I mean. The show clearly focuses on the female figures in the show during sex scenes, even though most of the people watching the show are women, who are mostly heterosexual.

When I look at the pictures of the men that People have chosen, I see a clear bias. Most of the men chosen, regardless of their race or occupation all have strong jawlines, built triangular frames, and a nice smile. And, except for John Legend, most men are depicted fully clothed. Now, that’s not to say that women only want to see men in the nude, but, just like men, women do enjoy seeing a little skin, especially when judging sex appeal.

All these attributes attest to the fact that men are the ones responsible for choosing, and then posing, these “sexy” men. According to Refinery 29 and Sociomix, the female gaze does

not objectify, but instead takes in the whole frame of a man. Women find the whole person sexy, not specific aspects of a man. Now, yes, there are women who want the stereotype, most of women pride substance over appearance. Considering that women are not necessarily interested in the typical features that supposedly make men attractive, why is it that all the “sexiest” men, have those attributes. If you were to ask a man what he thought a woman wanted, they would say a built triangular frame and a strong jawline. But, as we have seen, this couldn’t be farther from the truth.

So, that brings me back to my original question. It seems then that the sexiest man is chosen based on what men think women want, rather than what we want ourselves. So, People, take some notes please. Consult a woman when you pick your “sexiest” man. I don’t want to see another carbon copy movie star on your cover.

These are a Few of My Favorite Christmas Things

The holidays are full of special traditions

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND OPINION EDITOR

Christmas is one of the biggest holidays of the year and many of people’s favorites, including mine.

There are many traditions that my family and I take part in, some that came over from Poland and have existed for generations and others are one’s that my direct family formed on our own.

Christmas is traditionally a Catholic holiday and Poland is a very Catholic country, so it makes sense that there are a lot of Polish Christmas traditions. One of my favorite ones is Wigilia, or the annual Christmas Eve dinner.

Traditionally it is supposed to start when the first star is spotted in the sky, but nowadays you tend to start whenever the meal is ready. Before you start the meal itself, the family also shares opłatek, a wafer-like food, and wishes each other prosperity and health.

The dinner is made up of 12 dishes, none including any meat products. Instead, we eat fish, soup, potatoes, pierogi

(can be blueberry, potato, cheese, kapusta etc.), vegetables and more.

After dinner we go to Pastertka, or Midnight Mass. It is similar to a traditional Christmas mass, but one of the main differences is we sing Polish Kolędy, carols, instead of English ones.

Christmas cookies are a big part of our traditions as well. Every year we bake a ton of different types, but one that we always make, multiple times as well, is sandwich cookies. They are small cookies that we cut into fun Christmas-themed shapes like Santa Claus, stockings and more. We coat them in colored sprinkles that we specifically have to get from Pennsylvania and make homemade frosting to fill them with. They don’t usually last very long.

Although half of us work at a farm that sells Christmas Trees, we don’t actually get a real tree. We do our best to make it look as real as possible though. We have a mix of fancy and aesthetic decorations and fun ones that we made as kids that have withstood the test of time. My parents also started a tradition when they first got married to make a heart-shaped ornament with their

names on it as well as the year. It is something special to see the family grow every other year from 1999 to 2005.

Something else that my family does that might seem old-fashioned is Christmas caroling, yes that’s right. We stop at a couple of our neighbors houses that we are friends with, don’t worry we don’t go to strangers’ houses.

Our family is a very musical one, from both my mom and my dad’s side, so it is not surprising. My dad brings his concertina and we have compiled a couple of binders with songs that we can pick from.

My dad picks our set list and we practice it an hour or two before we head out and then we are all set. Our direct neighbors have been living next to us since we first moved in 23 years ago so they are like grandparents to us.

They have always blessed us with gifts, baked goods and love so the least we can do is remind that of how much we appreciate them by spreading some Christmas cheer and spending time with them.

There are many other little things that we do that make the season feel even more special and I can’t wait to share them with my family in the future.



TERESA PRYTKO



PINTEREST



TERESA PRYTKO

Musk’s Media Mess

What is going on with Twitter?

Danielle Aiken
STAFF WRITER

Elon Musk recently acquired the infamous social media platform, Twitter. After the long battle he faced on the business deal itself in order to obtain it, he immediately cleaned house once he got his hands on the company. Firing close to 3,700 employees, he created more enemies. Originally firing a majority of the marketing representatives, he then moved to the software engineers and content moderators in an effort to make room for his own people.

Musk holds quite the reputation for himself. Beyond being the ‘richest man in the world’, he is also known for his hard-hitting managerial skills. According to The Guardian, Musk puts product above all else. There have been numerous lawsuits against his two major companies: SpaceX and Tesla. The recent boom in Tesla’s sales in recent years have pushed employees in manufacturing to extreme limits. Employees attest to their long hours accompanied by little to no sleep.

Now, I understand having a reputation to uphold, but he is already filthy rich. As all companies he owns serve as successful companies, the sacrifice that is expected of employees is far too strenuous for the high success of this company. Fact: I do not have a Twitter account. Another fact: all of my friends do. My hot take is that I am not a fan of Twitter; I have no use for it personally. I do believe that it is a valuable tool for communication. As it is most popular amongst gen z, we use it to spread all types of messages to the public; both positive and negative. It also serves as the bridge between the wealthy class/celebrities and us normal folks.

As Musk absorbed this company into his empire, he has since changed the intentions behind it. Many celebrities have to pay to keep their status, which defeats the purpose (in their eyes) of the social media platform. As a business major myself, I can report that so far, Elon has made Twitter worse. Major companies such as General Motors and Volkswagen have paused their spending for their platform due to the safety of advertisements. In short: there is concern regarding brand safety as a whole; it’s challenged, and brands do not want to play ball.

In my opinion, Elon Musk continues to push limits far beyond normal reach, and I am interested to see just how his business model goes before it projects a major company into the ground.

OPINION »

Ukraine Involvement: Good or Bad?

Does the U.S. have the responsibility to help out the Ukraine against Russia?

Caroline Branch
STAFF WRITER

Ukraine has been a heavy topic of conversation throughout the world since the Russian invasion in March of this year. But the question on people's mind is this: should the United States further involve itself in this global issue?

Many critics, according to The Jerusalem Post, say that US or even NATO involvement in this dispute will cause nuclear war and in certain ways it could. But is this enough of a threat to keep the United States out of the conflict?

To answer this question, it is important to go back to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. In the next year after the invasion the US and an allied coalition intervened under the United Nations Security

Council and ended the Iraqi invasion. According to Vox, the Russian invasion is similar as it is pushing an aggressive war against Ukraine, but the reason the US will not engage is simple: the Iraqi government did not have nuclear weapons.

According to the Federation of American Scientists, Vladimir Putin and the Russians hold approximately 6,000 nuclear weapons. This fact and the way US military officials have characterized Putin as a military leader mean all the difference in this case.

The logic of mutually assured destruction, or the logic of if the US is to send troops to Ukraine Russia will react in extreme measures. This viewpoint has been around since the Cold War, the United States and the Russians will avoid engaging with each other if possible because both hold a viable threat to each other, but most importantly everyone else.

In a sense, Russia's nuclear weapons make it less likely



U.S. EMBASSY

The news is always changing, don't miss out on the latest story of a third world war but more likely of a nuclear war. According to the Federation of American Scientists, combined the United States and Russia hold approximately 90 percent of the world's nuclear warheads. Nuclear war is a war that should be avoided at all costs because if it is deployed it could swiftly wipe out the

entire human species. According to Vox, if a nuclear war between the US and Russia were to unfold neither power can hope to 'win' this nuclear war. Even if one nation struck first, decimating major military bases and population centers, the other would still be able to launch a devastating nuclear counterattack on their

enemy's homeland from (for example) submarines out to sea. The only way to win is not to play. This appears to be the reason the Biden administration has been so adamant on avoiding any kind of involvement in Ukraine; the risks of any direct intervention are far too high.

Where to Get Everything For the Holidays

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND
OPINION EDITOR

With the Christmas season now upon us, it is important to think about decorating for it. Decorating helps set the mood and can improve one's Christmas spirit. Instead of a barren tree left out in the darkness, you can put lights on it and suddenly it is the cutest thing ever. Although there may be some who are willing to spend up to one thousand dollars or more on decorations, some prefer to do it on a budget. It does not matter how extravagant your decorations are, as long as you put effort and pride into them.

If you're looking for somewhere to get all your greens and find some unique gifts, the Farmer's Daughter in Auburn, MA is one of the many places in the Worcester County area to go to. If you are looking for a tree they have a wide variety of trees in an even wider variety of shapes and sizes. If you're all set with your tree then you can look at everything else they have to offer. They have wreaths that you can get plain or have an employee decorate it with bows, pine cones, bells and more. There are also different types of garland and mixed greens that you can use in any

way you want for any decoration. My sister picked up some balsam and juniper to use in a wooden sled that she just got and it looks incredible.

If you want to escape the cold you can go inside to find Christmas decorations galore and ornaments. You can grab some local apple cider or eggnog and of course the famous apple cider donuts which are freshly made daily. If it sounds like I am advocating for them, it's because I work there! Also I make the donuts, so you better like them.

There are also other farms in the area where you can get trees such as Maple Hill Christmas in Leicester, Oakwood Farm Christmas Barn in Spencer, Frommers Christmas Trees in Lancaster, Evergreen Haven Garden Center in Hopkinton and more. It is great to support small businesses and farms in the local area, your support means a lot!

If you're looking for other places to get decorations you can look at the Dollar Tree if you're on a budget. Michael's has very cute things as well, from fake greens to ornaments to foam to use in decorating and more. The Christmas Tree Shops in Shrewsbury and Natick is also a must visit. They have a sale for \$10 off



TERESA PRYTKO

A row of Balsam trees at The Farmer's Daughter in Auburn, MA
your purchase of \$50 or more from now until Dec. 4. It might be a bit of a drive (or flight), but the best Christmas store I have ever been to is absolutely Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, Michigan. There were decorations and ornaments everywhere, it was the biggest Christmas store I had ever been to. My family and I spent hours in there and we still didn't look at everything. Once you've gathered all your decorations you just have to find the time to actually decorate! You should get your family or friends to do it with you, because it makes it go by faster and you get to spend some quality time with them. They also bring a different set of eyes to any display you might be struggling with. You can even put on some Christmas music to set the mood. This weekend looks like it will be rather warm (if you

consider the mid-40s warm) so it will be a great time to decorate outside. Since it gets dark really early now you can decorate outside during the day, hanging lights from trees or around your garage doors, then you can move inside during the day. You can wrap garland around bannisters, put up all little figurines and lights and whatever else you desire. If you are decorating in your dorm, you can find a small tree from Target with your roommates and get some cheap ornaments for it, or make your own! A polaroid with a cheap frame is a easy way to personalize it. You can get cheap lights and some command hooks to bring some light to your common area and there are some Assumption themed stockings at the bookstore. Overall decorating is whatever you make it to be. You can continue family traditions or start new ones with your friends. You might end up arguing over which ribbon to use or get anxious as your dad crawls up the ladder, but at the end of the day you're helping to boost your own and others spirit for the Christmas and holiday season. It is all worth it when you can sit down at the end of the day and bask in it all.



TERESA PRYTKO



TERESA PRYTKO



TERESA PRYTKO



TERESA PRYTKO



TERESA PRYTKO

Marvel’s Best Film of the Year

How good is the second Black Panther film?

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

SPOILER WARNING
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is the most recent movie to enter the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). In the sequel to the 2018 film Black Panther, director Ryan Coogler attempts one of the most difficult tasks in movie making in the last decade: making a Black Panther movie without Chadwick Boseman.

Chadwick Boseman, the original actor behind King T’challa of Wakanda and the Black Panther, passed away from colon cancer in 2020. This shocked the entertainment world as he had not been open about his illness. This also left a gaping hole in the MCU with no canonical reason for the Black Panther’s death.

Now in 2022, Ryan Coogler has come out with the next chapter in the story of the Black Panther, and although there were many skeptics who thought that without Boseman, there was no movie, the results did not disappoint.

At this point, if you have not seen the film, I recommend you stop reading this and go buy a ticket. There are spoilers ahead!



WAKANDA TICKETS FOREVER

The nation of Wakanda faces an entirely new threat that challenges everything they know, how will they win?

From the movie’s opening scene, it is clear that it is not only meant as a love letter to Boseman and his legacy but is also a story of overcoming loss and moving forward. T’challa’s sister Shuri, played by Letitia Wright, starts the movie failing to save her brother’s life after he falls ill. The rest of the movie shows Shuri’s journey through the grieving process until she can finally accept her loss.

Inserted into this emotionally driven film is one of the best comic book movie villains to date. Namor is the ruler of an underwater, vibranium-controlling nation whose people are threatened when scientists build a device that can detect their precious metal. This is a villain with a noble goal and

flawed execution, which makes the struggle of the movie a powerful one in which the protagonist and antagonist do not have many differences from one another.

This movie contains some of the most powerful scenes in the MCU to date. Coogler manages to make Namor an extremely powerfully looking character despite his classic comic book appearance. During Namors invasion of Wakanda and the death of Shuri’s mother, the tone of the movie is clearly portrayed through visuals, as no words are needed.

However, the movie was not all good, as so few movies are. The introduction of Riri Williams, who will be getting her own Disney+ show Iron-heart, felt forced at times. She

is an American MIT student that Namor is after and is the catalyst of the film’s struggle. Unfortunately, she feels out of place amongst the Wakandans. Also, a subplot of the movie, including the CIA, could have been completely cut out with little changes being made to the story. This was not necessarily a negative, but it felt like wasted time.

Overall, the movie was one of the best MCU additions in the past two years, and what Coogler was able to pull off was incredible. After Boseman’s passing, it would have been very easy for the movie to have been scrapped, but the emotions and drive put into it, and the love that was had for Chadwick Boseman made it a reality.

Better Believe That The Black Eyed Peas are Back!

A detailed look into the latest album by this talented band.

Matthew Willar
STAFF WRITER

You know them for their hits, “I Gotta Feeling” and “Let’s Get It Started”, but now in 2022, they are back with a brand new album. The Black Eyed Peas newest album, titled, “Elevation”, released earlier this month, features collaborations from artists with different genres. It is the group’s ninth studio album, following “Translation” which was released in June of 2020.

The Black Eyed Peas are a hip-hop and pop group that features rappers will.i.am, apl.de.ap, and Taboo, and vocalist J. Rey Soul. Founded in 1995, the group has released nine studio albums and topped the Billboard charts with seven of them.

Their newest album, Elevation, features songs of numerous genres including pop, latin, and hip-hop. It features the hit single, “Don’t You Worry”, which was released in June of this year and features Shakira and David Guetta.

The album opens up with the group’s newest single, “Simply the Best”, featuring Anitta and El Alfa. Personally, this song is one of my least favorites from the album, but it does a good job of getting the audience to want to listen to more.

“Muevelo”, featuring Anuel AA and Marshall Jefferson is the next song on the track list, followed by “Audios”. Both

songs are very upbeat and feature some great samples.

“Double D’Z” is the next track, which features J. Rey Soul, and in my opinion it is one of the best songs from the album. It’s production is steller, and the newly released music video showcases the incredible artist that J. Rey Soul is becoming.

Daddy Yankee and Nicky Jam make appearances on the next two tracks, and help to showcase the Black Eyed Peas latin side of their music. I appreciate the fact that the group is still collaborating with latin artists but also staying true to their identity with some of the pop and hip-hop songs from the album. The songs, “Dance 4 U” and “Guarantee” are great examples of this, as they allow each member of the group to thrive in their own unique style of lyrics.

Like nearly every Black Eyed Peas album, a Phillipeans-inspired song makes the tracklist. Some of my favorite songs the group has released in this style have been “Bebot” from 2005 and “Mare” from 2009, but this album has by far the group’s best ever. “Fillipina Queen”, which again features J. Rey Soul has one of the best chorus lines out of the entire album, and apl.de.ap’s rap verses are more creative than I have ever heard from him singing in Filipino.

As if the album couldn’t get



SPOTIFY

Elevation by the Black Eyed Peas deserves a listen, check it out.

any better, long-time Black Eyed Peas fans can appreciate the next song, “In the Air”. It starts out instrumental, but fans will freak out when they hear the voice of none other than Fergie to start the song.

Fergie used to be a member of the group but decided to leave in 2017 to raise her newborn child. The group sampled her voice from a previous song they recorded with her, “Boom Boom Pow”, to incorporate her into “In the Air”. When I first heard her voice on the song, my reaction was, “they did not just do that.” It’s nice to see the group acknowledge Fergie’s contribution to their songs for over a decade by bringing her voice back into this song.

The album concludes with a

song featuring Nicole Scherzinger which in my opinion is probably the weakest off the album. “Don’t You Worry” is the penultimate song, followed by “L.O.V.E.” featuring Ozuna which caps off one of the group’s best albums they have ever released.

The amount of detail this album has is remarkable to me, and I appreciate the Black Eyed Peas paying homage to their fans with all of these incredible songs.

You can listen to the album, “Elevation”, on all platforms now. It’s definitely one you don’t want to miss.

Also favorite holiday movies rudolph frosty elf home alone etc.

That’s a Wrap!

Taking a look at your listening data on Spotify

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND OPINION EDITOR

It’s that time of year, and no I’m not talking about Christmas, I’m talking about Spotify Wrapped. Each year Spotify takes your listening data from January 1 to October 31 and piles it all together in a pretty graphic show that you can watch and then share on your social media.

Although it might seem that they stop collecting data for Wrapped at the end of October so it won’t interfere with Christmas and holiday songs, it is mainly so the designers and data analysts have the time to put everything together.

Users can open up the Spotify app on their mobile device, it works for both Android and iOS, and see what they have been listening to. Not only does it give them their top songs in the form of a playlist, but it also reveal the total time spent listening, their top artists, top genres, and other quirky things such as their moods and listening personality. Although Spotify in general is available on desktop, Spotify Wrapped is only available on mobile. If you’re Wrapped is not showing up, then you can try updating the app and you should be fine.

If you’re anything like me than it is something you constantly think about throughout the entire year, there are times when I have turned to YouTube to listen to a song that I did not want messing up my data and other times that I purposefully replayed a song multiple times so that it would show up.

I started listening to my top artist in the beginning of October, and they ended up being my top artist which is crazy. Every year, however, I always find something that I am disappointed in and say that I will do better next year. I think I find an issue with it because it a brutally honest review of me as a listener and although I try to be cool, I can’t deny that I will listen to what I want.

If you haven’t already, feel free to share your Spotify Wrapped on your story and let the world know what you love.



SPOTIFY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT »

There’s a New Ruler on the Iron Throne of Television

How does House of the Dragon compare to Game of Thrones?

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND
OPINION EDITOR

HBO’s “House of the Dragon”, based on the books by George R.R Martin is the prequel to “Game of Thrones”, which is often considered one of the greatest television shows ever. It takes place nearly 200 years before the events of “Game of Thrones”, specifically 172 years before the birth of Daenerys Targaryen, one of the main characters of that series.

“House of the Dragon” has a narrower focus than the series prior, focusing more on the Targaryen family as compared to the Seven Kingdoms as a whole as they plot and fight for the Iron Throne.

According to Insider, Martin has shared that he had more influence with “House of the Dragon” than he did with “Game of Thrones”.

“I had no contribution to the later seasons except, you know, inventing the world, the story, and all the characters,” Martin said. “I believe I have more influence now than I did on the original show.”

This might be part of the reason, why many are beginning to admit that they enjoy this series more.

Both series have some similarities in their plot. They both begin with the death of the king, Viserys Targaryen in “House of the Dragon” and Robert Baratheon in “Game of Thrones”. These deaths raise questions about the legitimacy and parentage of the heirs to the throne. Therefore, the first couple of episodes of each show serves as a set-up which results in a slower pace for the overall story. “Game of

Thrones” introduces a wider cast of characters as compared to the smaller cast and plot of “House of the Dragon”. This difference is crucial and contributes greatly to the viewer’s experience and who they end up becoming more invested in. They can focus on one of the many characters in “Game of Thrones” and follow their story as they progress through the season or they can pick their favorite Targaryen and follow all the family drama in “House of the Dragon”.

In terms of worldbuilding, “Game of Thrones” does an excellent job with visuals while “House of Dragon” focuses more on history and traditions.

The intro of “Game of Thrones” carries viewers across all of Westeros and Essos, setting up the geography. This way viewers get an idea of how long travel would be expected to take, and how far apart certain characters are from one another.

“House of the Dragon” does not add to the worldbuilding in terms of geography, but does extremely into depth on the Targaryen family, focusing on the importance of their dragons as well as exploring more into High Valyrian, their native language. Since “Game of Thrones” only had one main Targaryen, Danaerys, it was more difficult to go into her familial roots.

Speaking of dragons, they were in every episode of “House of the Dragon” and were not seen until the final episode of “Game of Thrones” and they were only babies. “House of the Dragon” had a considerably larger budget for its first season, \$20 million for each episode according to Screenrant, as compared to the first season of “Game of Thrones”, which only had a budget of about \$6 million for each episode. The increased presence of the dragons helps dive deeper into the tradi-



House of the Dragon takes place 200 years before Game of Thrones

tions of the Targaryen family and makes for more visually pleasing action-packed episodes. “Game of Thrones” had a larger cast and thus focused more on political conflicts than action, although as the show gained popularity the action increased rapidly.

Personally, I enjoyed both shows greatly. Unfortunately, “Game of Thrones” suffers in its last few seasons, since George R.R Martin has not yet finished the series so the creators had nothing to work on and went down a path that was not appealing to viewers (for any anime fans out there, this is basically the Full Metal Alchemist of life-action television). I greatly enjoyed the world and character-building of the first season, but I had only started to watch

it after it had produced a few seasons and a wide fan base. The CGI and action in “House of the Dragon” are cool, but I am also very invested in the story. However, I do appreciate “Game of Thrones” for taking its time because there were many parts that had to be flushed out fully. “House of the Dragon” felt very rushed at points. Longer episodes or pushing some plot points into future seasons would have easily solved this issue. However, “Game of Thrones” has eight seasons compared to one, so it is unfair to judge the stories based on how they develop. I think “House of the Dragon” has the potential to come out on top as more seasons come out.

What did you think of the series?

The End of Your Video Game Search

First impressions on the second installment

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE EDITOR

After the massive success of 2018’s *God of War*, this year’s sequel, *God of War: Ragnarok*, had incredibly high expectations to live up to. Released Nov. 9, *Ragnarok* does nothing short of providing more of the same that made its predecessor a defining release of a generation, upgrading in smart, innovative ways while weaving an unforgettable tale.

Graphics & Gameplay
Like its predecessor, *Ragnarok* just looks amazing. All sorts of varied foliage, bodies of water, bodies of sand, enemies and endlessly more look distinct and top of the line without a memorable weak

point across a huge amount of varied ecosystems players will visit.

Combat never really feels sluggish, but it can be punishing if players queue up too many movements and then feel locked in for free hits. But there isn’t one scenario that has truly felt unfair. There are bosses that will mow over the player a few times, for sure, but really concentrating on the tendencies and tells of the opponents ends up quite rewarding. It’s a product of superb encounter designs that after a few rounds of practice against a boss, players might dispatch of it easily and end up wondering how they struggled at all in the first place.

The Story
Players dusty on the details of *God of War* or who didn’t play it will be happy to hear there is a welcome video recap

available right from the main menu. Kratos and Atreus resume their journey from the first game by resuming a tug-of-war that features the father wanting to protect the son by any means necessary and the son wanting to not just up and hide from, well, everything.

But the story is so much more than a simple tale of a father-son relationship. Fate, acceptance and/or denial of it, forgiveness, the agony of loss, companionship and heavy theme after heavy theme ooze from nearly every single line of dialogue, in cutscene and out. No spoilers in this article, but when the big resolutions arrive, they hit hard and will leave players with open jaws.

Conclusion
God of War: Ragnarok is a fun, surefire classic and an epic follow-up to its pre-



decessor. In the video game landscape, there really isn’t anything close to the combination of gameplay and storytelling. The result is one of the most memorable experiences ever in gaming, and one that players will wish they could experience for the first time again and again.

Chris Evans is the sexiest man alive

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND
OPINION EDITOR

Actor Chris Evans has been named People’s 2022 Sexiest Man Alive. This is the second year in a row that a marvel actor has snatched the title, with 2021 being awarded to “Antman ” actor Paul Rudd.

Evans, best known for his role as Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, said the title “feels like a weird form of humble bragging.”

While Evans might be uncomfortable talking about himself in his way, there’s one person who isn’t shy to spread the news, his mother.

He told People, «My mom will be so happy,» he says. «She’s proud of everything I do but this is something she can really brag about.» It was probably a very interesting conversation to have during dinner on Thanksgiving.

The actor has been quite busy lately, in this year alone, he starred in Pixar’s “Lightyear”, Netflix’s “Gray Man” and filmed three new movies, including 2023’s “Ghosted” for AppleTV+.

Since he is now in his 40s, he says that he is trying to create a healthier work-life balance and has been spending more time with his family.

“The most enjoyable aspect of my career right now is feeling secure enough to take my foot of the gas.” He said “I feel like I have a bit more freedom to take time away from the industry.”

Marriage and fatherhood are both things that he has seriously considered, and with the security in his career he now has, it is a definite possibility for the single Bostonian.

Boston is pretty close to Worcester for all those girls and guys who can’t get enough of him as “America’s A**” or that knit sweater from “Knives Out” (2019).

Evans is very honored with this accolade and told People he will look back fondly on he honor when he becomes “old and saggy.”

What do you think of Evans being awared this title?



PEOPLE

There is Nothing Better than a Classic Christmas Movie

A look into the best Holiday films

Matthew Willar
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, as Andy Williams once sang to us, and there is no better way to get into the holiday spirit than by watching a Christmas classic. From “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” to “Frosty the Snowman”, you can’t go wrong with any of the movies that are now re-watch annually by Americans all across the world.

As much as I love the live-action Christmas films, what

gets me most excited for the holidays is watching “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” with my family. I don’t care that I’ve seen it probably over 50 times; you just can’t go wrong with watching the newborn Rudolph becoming the leader of Santa’s sleigh. Also not to mention Burl Ives and his amazing vocals on some of the movie’s songs.

“Frosty the Snowman” is another one of my favorite Christmas movies. Everytime I watch it I think of how excited I was when the bell rang on the day before Christmas break in elementary school.

These two movies are by far my favorite out of all Christ-

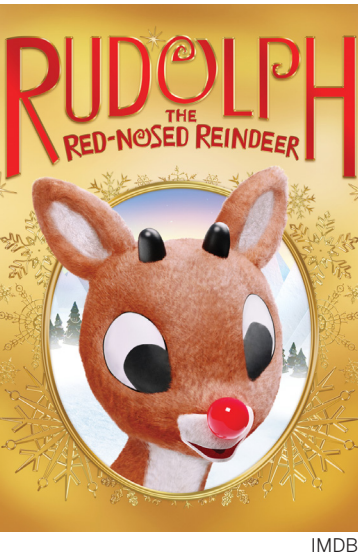
mas films, but I also enjoy watching “Elf” and “Home Alone” during December. This may be a hot take, but I am not a huge fan of Will Ferrell. However, I could watch “Elf” every day during the Christmas season, because the other characters in the film each play a huge role in developing the story. Also just the name “Buddy” makes me laugh every time I hear it.

“Home Alone” is just a classic. Everything about it just brings you laughter and joy, and is another example of how many characters can develop the story rather than just the main character.

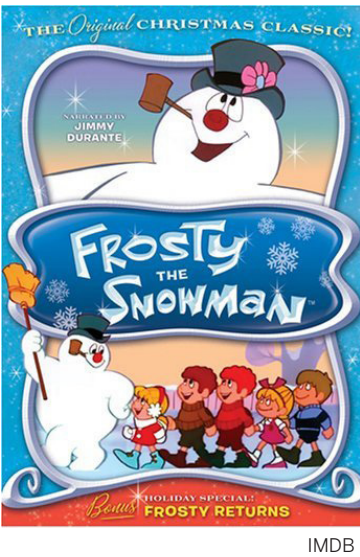
Here’s another hot take: I

prefer “Home Alone 2” over the first installment in the series. I really like the New York setting, and I find it funnier how Kevin McCallister is, “home alone” in this film more than its predecessor. Also, the bird lady is one of my favorite characters out of both films.

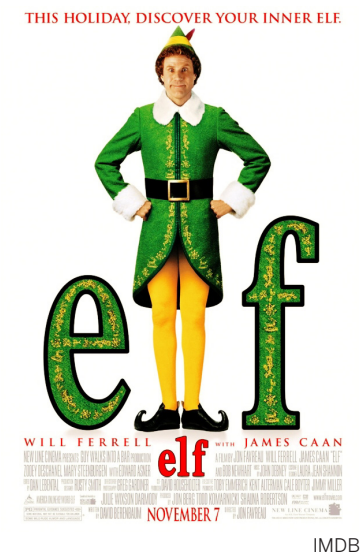
Christmas is my favorite holiday, and watching these classics brings so much joy to the season. Comparing these films to some newer ones, I really can’t compare them as the classics just have something special to them that can never be topped. If you’re looking for a Christmas movie that will get you in the spirit, one of these four will do the job in a second.



IMDB



IMDB



IMDB



IMDB

On the First Day of Christmas, Provoc Gave to Me: a List of Holiday Events in the Area

Go out and get into the Holiday spirit!

Wandzia Prytko
STAFF WRITER

Festival of Lights
Where: The Worcester Common Oval, 445 Main St, Worcester MA
When: Dec 2, at 4:30 PM
What is Happening: Enjoy a family-friendly event at Worcester Common to celebrate the holidays. With ice skating, food vendors, community organizations, and more, this is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. The lighting features will be the highlight of your night but make sure not to miss the lighting of the tree

at 6 PM.
A Christmas Carol at the Hanover Theatre
Where: Hanover Theatre, 2 Southbridge St, Worcester, MA
When: Dec 17 to 23
What is Happening: A Christmas Carol, an all-time classic during the Christmas season, is coming back to the Hanover Theatre. It is a fantastic performance that will leave everyone wanting to say “God Bless Us, Everyone”. There are six shows in total, so make sure to check the website to buy tickets before you go!
The Nutcracker
Where: Citizens Bank Opera House, 539 Washington St, Boston, MA
When: Dec 2 to 31

What’s Happening: The talented Boston Ballet will be performing the Nutcracker for the whole month of December. It is a beautiful and magical time. I highly recommend going to see this ballet at some point in your life. The music and dancing are so elegant and regal and it is such a beautiful story.
Kelly Square Tree Lighting Extravaganza
Where: Kelly Square, Worcester, MA
When: Dec 3, at 3 PM
What’s Happening: Explore more of Kelly Square and the Canal District at this thrilling event. Get a chance to try some new food and beverages thanks to many of the local busi-

nesses that will be having free samples. There will be a meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus as well!
Holiday Market and Craft Fair
Where: 120 Prescott St, West Boylston, MA
When: Dec 10 from 10 AM to 3 PM
What’s Happening: Look for the perfect gift at this entertaining event full of holiday fairs, craft shows, Christmas bazaars, and holiday spirit. With food to fill your stomach as you search amongst all the skilled vendors, this will be a great way to feel like you are in a Hallmark Christmas movie this year.



DISCOVERING CENTRAL MASS



RED SHUTTERS



HUDSON VALLEY MAGAZINE



HUDSON VALLEY MAGAZINE

TERESA’S TOP TEN

Top 10 Christmas Songs

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND OPINION EDITOR

1 Lulajze Jezuniu by: Traditional
Many of you will not be familiar with this traditional Polish carol, but I have been singing it my entire life. It is a sweet song that captures the essence of the season.

2 All I Want for Christmas Is You by: Michael Buble
No, it is not the Mariah Carey version. This version is slower and sadder and I like that better.

3 The Magic of Christmas Day by: Celine Dion
Celine Dion has an amazing voice and the lyrics also help elevate this song to greatness.

4 Nutcracker Act II: Pas de deux Andante Maestoso by: Tchaikovsky
I want to see the Nutcracker in person so bad. It is absolutely beautiful, there is so much emotion packed into the music and it paints the scene perfectly.

5 What Child Is This by: Michael Smith
This version might not have any lyrics, but it doesn’t need them.

6 Believe by: Josh Groban
My class used to watch “The Polar Express” before we left for Winter Break and it was one of my favorite childhood memories. I would do anything to live it again.

7 Greensleeves by: Boston Brass
Another instrumental song that will absolutely blow your mind. I feel so sorry for those who cannot appreciate the piano.

8 The Twelve Days of Christmas- Princess Version by: The Disney Princesses
This might be a strange addition, but I cannot deny my roots. I know this version better than I know the original.

9 Nothing But A Child by: Kathy Mattea
It’s a lesser known song from a lesser known Christmas album, but it is spectacular. Each song is very original and gives a perspective to the season that I haven’t heard in any other song from any other artist.

10 Christmas Time is Here by: Vince Guaraldi Trio
I included a more-traditional song here for our lovely Editor-in-Chief so I would not be considered a complete disappointment.

GAMES

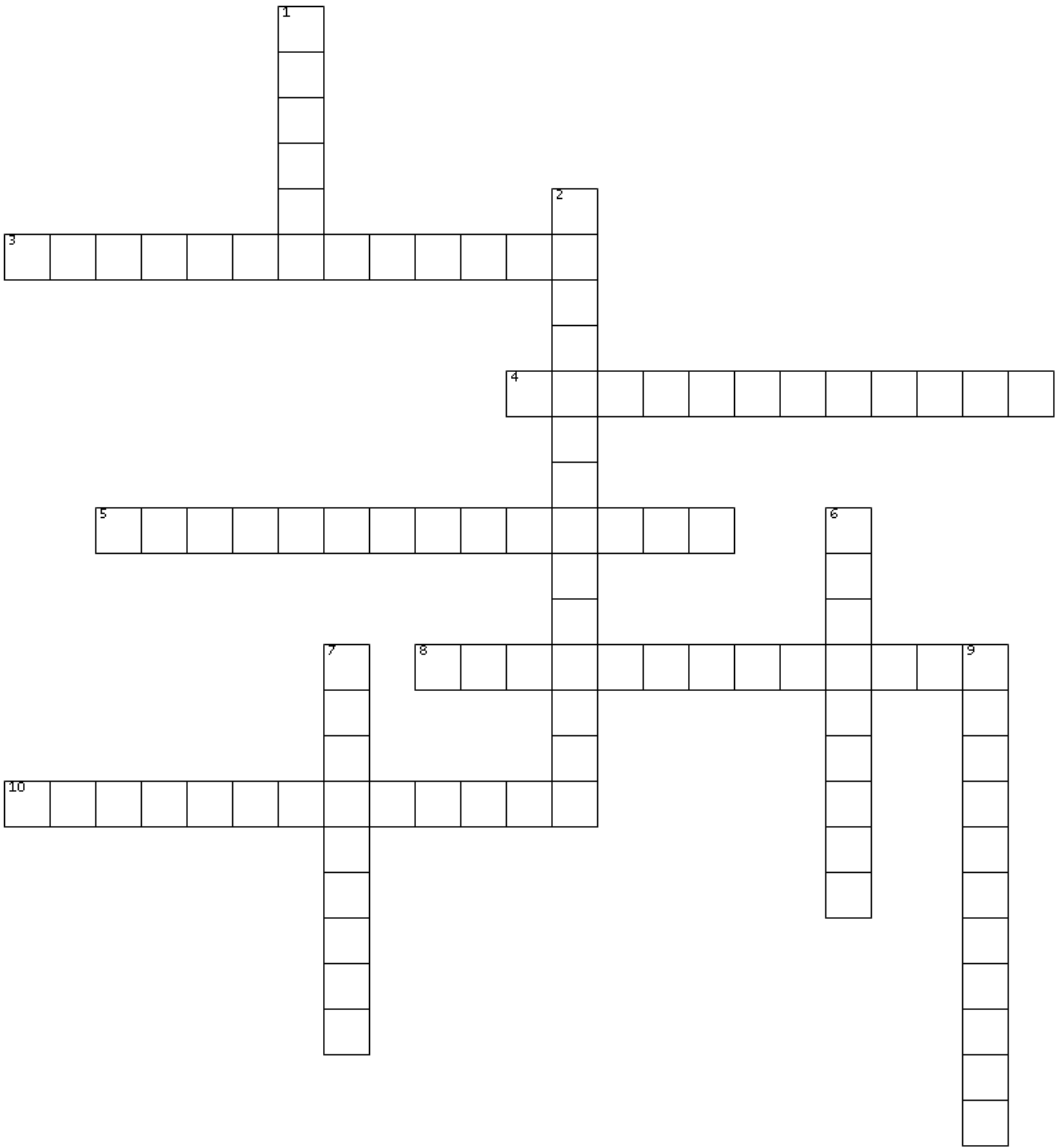
CROSSWORD
Classic Christmas
Tunes

ACROSS

3. "Santa, make him hurry, tell him he can take the freeway down."
4. "I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart."
5. "Jingle bell time is a swell time."
8. "But the very next day you gave it away."
10. "When those blue snowflakes start falling."

DOWN

1. Bells "City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style."
2. "Where the tree tops glisten and children listen"
6. "Trim my Christmas tree with some decorations bought at Tiffanys."
7. "I brought me some corn for popping."
9. "Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child."

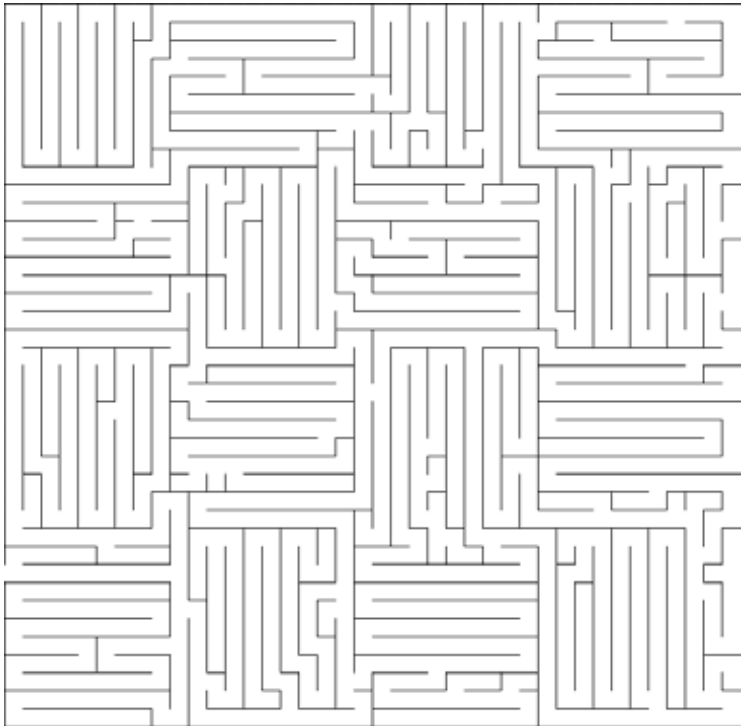


SUDOKU

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains numbers 1 to 9.

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

MAZE



WORD SEARCH

Words can go any direction and share letters as they cross over each other.

Carols	Kringle	Noel	Reindeer	Trees T
Christmas	Manger	Ornaments	Santa Claus	winkle
Frosty	Midnight Mass	Presents	Star	Wreaths
Green	Mistletoe	Red	Stockings	Yule Log

T	K	H	X	H	K	E	U	S	U	W	U	N	R	Z	S	S	G	F	
S	R	J	A	K	B	I	D	Y	W	G	I	T	A	E	N	I	R	D	G
T	E	E	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	N	T	W	D	E	E	C	L	M
M	F	I	E	Z	X	T	I	Z	D	G	S	I	T	I	E	O	S	E	I
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	O	W	X	C	K	N	N	G	E	O	S
M	J	I	G	H	S	V	I	L	J	F	G	A	V	C	I	K	W	N	T
M	Z	Y	Z	O	C	A	E	R	R	L	S	M	M	L	O	Z	L	H	L
I	U	S	R	R	U	L	M	O	I	M	J	Z	U	P	H	T	G	E	E
D	W	T	D	E	U	Z	S	T	C	R	E	G	N	A	M	W	S	G	T
M	Z	N	D	Y	I	T	E	A	H	M	K	D	X	P	L	R	V	N	O
K	E	E	U	B	Y	N	R	R	Q	G	X	C	Z	K	T	E	B	P	E
H	Y	M	K	L	Q	O	D	E	F	D	I	X	V	J	T	A	N	O	Y
C	D	A	G	F	L	O	N	E	X	D	T	N	H	I	L	T	A	B	P
H	E	N	A	S	A	K	Y	Z	E	K	G	X	D	I	E	H	I	P	I
U	V	R	P	L	B	S	R	M	B	R	E	T	E	I	J	S	C	O	B
T	P	O	T	L	V	V	D	G	A	J	Z	N	K	W	M	K	W	Z	O
U	A	X	Y	S	O	Q	B	P	N	J	W	A	X	O	C	J	D	L	O
B	V	E	Q	J	K	M	A	L	V	O	W	D	C	R	U	H	M	T	Y
S	O	L	M	L	K	R	I	N	G	L	E	L	M	T	U	X	J	Z	N
S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	V	S	A	O	K	H	K	T	Q	B

RIDDLES

1. Where does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?
2. I have wings but cannot fly, I am royal but not a king, I lay eggs but I am not a chicken. What am I?

SPORTS

Controversy in Qatar Shakes Up the 2022 World Cup

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & OPINION EDITOR

This year the FIFA World Cup is being held in Qatar. Normally it takes place in the summer, but FIFA decided that the heat would be too intense, so they moved it to the winter instead.

There have been a lot of controversies that arose from picking Qatar as the host. According to NPR, much of the criticism is focused on human rights violations mainly their treatment of migrant workers and women as well as their position on LGBT rights.

Qatar is the smallest country to ever host the World Cup, which is one of the biggest sporting events in the world drawing in crowds of millions.

To put it in perspective, Qatar is only 4,471 square miles. The state of Connecticut is 5,543 square miles, nearly 20% larger.

The nation won selection back in 2010 but lacked the stadiums, hotels and highways necessary to properly host the event, according to NPR. It was up to the migrant workers, who make up nearly 95% of the population, according to the Guardian.

An investigation from The Guardian found out that the living and working conditions for migrants were often “exploitative and dangerous”. Since construction began in 2010, there have been nearly 6,500 migrant deaths. Causes of death include workplace accidents, suicides, car crashes and more. Many workers collapsed on the stadium construction site and died shortly after.

However, FIFA and Qatar dispute these claims and have said that only three people have died as a result of work on World Cup construction sites and that there have been 37 non-work-related deaths, according to NPR.

Human rights groups have spoken up about it and asked that FIFA and Qatar create a remedy fund to compensate workers and their families. They say that the fund should be no less than \$440 million—the same amount as the World Cup prize money.

Many are now saying that Qatar should never have been picked to be the host. Sepp Blatter, A former head of FIFA, even said, “It was a bad choice.” His term as a FIFA administrator ended after a bribery scandal arose.

Bribery is yet another issue that has been plaguing FIFA. One can only wonder what else is going on that they aren’t telling the fans.



PRINT MAGAZINE

FOOTBALL

Wrapping Up The Season for Winter



ASSUMPTION ATHLETICS

The winter sports season has started at Assumption University and the greyhounds are off to a hot start.

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

With the Greyhound’s loss on Nov. 19 in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II playoffs, the Assumption football season has come to a close. The loss came at the hands of No. 20 Slippery Rock University in a close game.

The game ended in a 17-14 Slippery Rock win. Slippery

Rock University was able to outthrow the Greyhounds 96 yards, proving how good the Assumption defense was this year by managing to keep the game to a three-point deficit.

With the season over, it is time to look back on the team’s performance and what led them to become one of the most successful football teams Assumption has had in the past few years.

The season started with a

huge upset victory against No. 13 Kutztown University. That game was a defensive struggle, setting the tone for the rest of the season. Assumption was able to squeak out a 3-0 win against Kutztown and set them on a path toward victory.

After an early setback with a loss to Merrimack, the Greyhound ripped off three consecutive conference wins against Pace University, South Connecticut State University,

and Franklin Pierce University. By this point, Assumption had hammered their formula down, being able to hold all three teams to 14 points and scoring 26, 28, and 28 points, respectively.

Unfortunately, the homecoming game did not go according to plan as Bently University got the better of the Greyhounds once again. The team fought hard in another defensive battle with the final score of 10-3.

After the loss to Bently, Assumption brushed themselves off and returned to the winner’s circle. The Greyhounds finished their regular season with four consecutive wins against American International College, No. 25 University of New Haven, Saint Anslem College, and Post University. The defense continued to play lights out, only letting up a total of 32 points in their three division in-conference games.

With an absolutely destructive performance against Post University in the final game, Assumption won the NE-10 conference and was ranked No. 4 in the regional rankings. This secured them a spot in the NCAA Division II playoffs, being the first Assumption football team to make it to the playoffs since 2017.

Now it is time for the Greyhounds to dress their wounds and prepare for next fall so that they can attempt another run at the Division II championship.

Another Finals Run in the Celtics Future

Brandon Allread
STAFF WRITER

With the Boston Celtics coming just short of becoming NBA champions last season, they have been taking measures into their own hands to ensure a different outcome for the 2022-2023 season.

Even in the words of ESPN, “the Boston Celtics are the hottest team in the NBA.” Though the real question fans are asking is will they be able to end this season differently than last year, being just two games from victory in the finals?

The major difference between the current Boston Celtics and the Cs from last year is the maturity level and much needed roster depth.

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown have led the Celtics in most aspects, yet the whole team has been playing like all stars recently.

According to the New York Times, the offense has been “explosive from the 3-point line. Unguardable in transition.”

With a mediocre defense this season, the scorching hot offense has been the thing to do the trick. Especially with the addition of Malcolm Brogdon to the bench, and



CELTICSBLOG

Newcomer to the Celtics, NBA star Blake Griffin runs down the floor with guard Jayson Tatum during their win over the Charlotte Hornets

Sam Hauser who has been a difference maker from the three-point line.

Many other additions to the active roster have led the Celtics to several victories as well, such as Luke Kornet and Blake Griffin. What is most surprising would be that the Celtics are not even at

maximum strength yet, still awaiting the return of Robert Williams III who is an anchor on defense, and a recent addition in free agency, Danilo Gallinari, who averaged just below 12 points per game last season according to ESPN statistics.

Though banner 18 is not a

lock just yet, it seems like this season should ensure a very deep playoff run and a much-needed Boston victory on the big stage. The Celtics squad is playing at their highest level right now and hopefully will be for years to come, with the possibility of many more banners in the future.

SPORTS

FIELD HOCKEY

The Greyhounds Go to WA



The Assumption University field hockey team has punched their ticket for the second year in a row to go to the 2022 NCAA Division II Semifinals to be played in Seattle, Washington.

Field Hockey Heads to the Semifinals After Beating No. 6 Saint Anselm

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

The Assumption University field hockey team is heading back to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Semifinals for the second consecutive year. After forward Mia Salah scored the overtime-winning goal against Northeast-10 Conference foe Saint Anselm College, the Greyhounds punched their ticket back to the Final Four. According to the Assump-

tion University athletics page, last season the Blue and White received an automatic bye in the National Tournament, sending the team to the Final Four, where their historic season ended following a 3-0 loss to West Chester. After two early losses this season, things looked questionable for the greyhounds. However, these two defeats came at the hands of their biggest opponent last year, No. 2 West Chester, and the team standing in their way this year, No. 3 East Stroudsburg. Thankfully, the lady greyhounds were able to turn things around and rip off eight straight wins. This included five conference wins and two wins over Bentley

University, which was ranked No. 8 at the time. With a slight setback against the University of New Haven, losing 1 to 2 in overtime, Assumption was right back on track with another five wins. No. 9 Saint Anselm was able to cut the team's winning streak short, but that would not keep them down, with them winning in their final regular season game against Saint Thomas Aquinas College. Despite that team's extremely successful season and winning the conference last year, they were not able to advance past the NE-10 quarter-finals, losing against Pace University. Assumption was able to get their payback against No.

6 Saint Anselm for cutting off their winning streak by defeating them in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. The Greyhounds are out in Seattle for the Semifinals this season, where they will play a rematch against No. 1 East Stroudsburg University, who secured a bye. At the time of this article's printing, the game had not yet been played. If the greyhounds were able to beat the Warriors, they will play on Saturday, Dec. 3, in the NCAA Division II Championship. Both games will be live-streamed on NCAA.com, so make sure to tune in and support the greyhounds in their efforts to bring home a title.

TEAM HIGHLIGHT
Skating into the Winter

Caleb White
CAMPUS LIFE & ONLINE EDITOR

For the last team highlight of the semester, The Spotlight is shifting to shine on Assumption's women's ice hockey team. Earlier in the summer, the Department of Athletics shared exciting news — the team has accepted an invitation to compete in the New England Women's Hockey Alliance (NEWHA), an NCAA Division 1 conference. Beginning as a Blue and White sport in the 2019-2020 season, the women's ice hockey team played against other schools in the area, ending with a 1-5-3 record after COVID-19 halted the school year. This season, the team is temporarily playing under the Blue and White banner, competing against various New England schools. Starting next year, however, the Hounds will officially be playing in the NEWHA regular season schedule. The Hounds have put up a solid showing this year with a current 10-5-2 record. On Nov. 19, they took a notable 6-1 win against Saint Anselm College, another member in the NEWHA.

Head Coach Jack Sweeney expressed his excitement in leading the Hounds during the Department of Athletics announcement. "The NEWHA has created a fantastic opportunity for young women to continue playing the sport that they love to play at a very competitive level, and for all of us here at Assumption, that is very special. While this will be my 28th year working in the sport of ice hockey, I have never been more professionally excited than I am to lead this team." For more information about the women's ice hockey team visit the official Assumption athletics page and follow @assumptionbwhockey on instagram.

Team US Tries to Win it All in the Middle East

Teresa Prytko
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & OPINION EDITOR

FIFA is back, and this year pinned the U.S. against England. Although the match might have ended in a 0-0 draw, many U.S. fans are still celebrating the fact that the No. 5 team could not beat the No. 16 team. Soccer (football) is the biggest sport in England, while in the U.S. it is only the fifth most popular, according to Sportsunfold. Perhaps this is the push the sport needed to become more popular here. Over 15.3 million viewers tuned into Fox Sports for the match, setting a record for the most-watched men's soccer match on U.S. television, according to Variety. Foxs Soccer shared a video of fans who attended the match loudly singing along to the

National Anthem, which was inspired by a victory against the British during the War of 1812. Many other fans who flocked to social media to share support for the U.S. Men's National Team (USMNT) as well as poke fun at the English. One of the most notable faces for the USMNT is Forward, Christian Pulisic, who plays for Chelsea in the Premier League in England. Pulisic got close to scoring midway through the first half s he rattled the crossbar, but unfortunately, it wasn't close enough. Although the U.S. couldn't get a goal, thanks to the efforts of Keeper Matt Turner who had multiple incredible saves, England couldn't either. For those who are unfamiliar with FIFA, but are interested in learning more it operates

similarly to other big sporting events. The tournament is split into eight groups (Groups A-H) of four teams. Each team plays one match against the other teams in their group. The top two teams with the most points advance to the knockout stage. A win gets a team 3 points, a draw means one point and a loss equals no points. In the knockout stage, it starts off with sixteen teams. As each match is played, this number goes down to eight, then four, then the final two which will be on Sunday, Dec, 18, according to FIFA. There is also a third-place match for the losers of the semi-finals which is played the day before. The U.S. played Iran on Nov. 29 and thanks to a goal from Pulisic, they will move on. England also secured a 3-0 win

against Wales so they will also be moving on. After failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, moving onto the round of sixteen is a huge accomplishment for the USMNT. There is a schedule available

on Fox Sports or FIFA's website if you want to watch a game to help support the USMNT. After all, we have been the underdogs before and have come out on top so why can't it happen again?



The national US men's roster travelled to Qatar to play England and Iran in the World Cup.



LE PROVOC SPORTS

Tough Loss
for Ravens
Leads to
Twitter Storm

Maureen Lynch
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Baltimore Ravens’ quarter-back Lamar Jackson landed in hot water on Nov. 27 when he responded to a fan on Twitter. After their stunning loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars, an angry fan took to Twitter to say that the Ravens should find a new quarterback. Jackson did not take kindly to this criticism, with many news outlets calling his response “vulgar.”

The tweet was sent out Nov. 27, with both Jackson and Ravens’ kicker, Justin Tucker, tagged in the tweet. As a result, Jackson tweeted back at the fan. According to The New York Post, Jackson responded with profanity and homophobic comments. ESPN has reported that Jackson’s tweet has since been deleted.

The exchange came after a 28-27 loss against the Jaguars, with the Ravens giving up 18 points in the last quarter of the game, according to USA Today. Jackson was visibly frustrated by the loss and told ESPN reporters that things would have been different if earlier in the game the Ravens had been able to complete their drives.

The Ravens are currently 7-4, the top of the AFC North section of the conference. The team has had a good season until this upset, with this loss coming after a four-game winning streak for the team. This season the Ravens’ have had fourteenth ranked offense and seventh ranked defense according to lineup.com.

It is unclear what the future of the team is moving forward. Thus far, representatives from the team have not released a statement yet about Jackson’s tweet, or the loss against the Jaguars. The Ravens will play again this weekend at 1 pm against the Denver Broncos.

Winter is Here



ASSUMPTION ATHLETICS

The winter sports season has started at Assumption University and the greyhounds are off to a hot start.

No Hibernating for
Greyhound Athletes
This Winter

Adam Ide
SPORTS EDITOR

The winter sports season is upon us and with it is an entirely new slate of greyhound athletes to cheer on. With most teams already playing their early games, Assumption’s winter athletes are preparing themselves for greatness. Here is a breakdown of the Greyhound teams to follow through winter break and into

next semester.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Starting the season with two back-to-back wins, the greyhound men’s basketball team is rolling out two seniors and two graduate students, meaning they have an overall young team. We will see how coach Scott Faucher fairs leading this team to victory.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The lady greyhounds have gotten off to a hot start with six straight wins to open the season and no signs of slowing down any time soon. Another

young team, the team includes one graduate student and one senior. Head coach Kerry Phayre has done an excellent job so far, and everyone will be looking forward to more through the winter.

MEN’S ICE HOCKEY

The greyhounds on ice are looking promising this year, featuring five graduate students and six seniors. With three conference wins already, the men’s hockey team has been able to beat some good competition. Head over to the Worcester Ice Center to see coach Michael Looney and the

hockey team in action.

BLUE&WHITE WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY

Playing since the fall, the lady greyhound on ice have already proven that they are a force to be reckoned with and will be made an actual NCAA sport next season. The team’s senior captains have been able to lead them to ten wins already, with more, hopefully, on the horizon.

WOMEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING

Another team that has been competing since the fall, the women’s swimming and diving team, is ready to dive into the winter. Coming in second place in the 2022 Worcester City Championships is a good indicator that the lady greyhounds are a competitive bunch. Led by interim head coach Richard Ludemann, the greyhounds have a long winter road ahead of them.

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD

Led by one graduate student and a whopping thirteen seniors, the men’s track team seems like a formidable opponent on paper. Many team members competed on the cross country team in the fall, and if their performance indicates what is to come, then the greyhounds have a successful winter to look forward to.

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

With a total of sixteen seniors, the women’s track team is in a similar situation to their male counterparts. With many athletes returning from the fall, they should have no problem jumping back into competition and blowing past their opponents with new hire Whitney Cyr at the helm of the team.

SCORES AROUND HOUND NATION

FIELD HOCKEY (15-5) St. Thomas Aquinas College: W (2-1) Pace University: L (1-2) No.6 Saint Anselm College: W (2-1)	WOMEN’S HOCKEY (10-5-2) Saint Anselm College: W (6-1) Boston College: L (1-2) Rivier University: T (2-2)	MEN’S HOCKEY (6-5) Fitchburg State University: W (2-1) Neumann University: W (5-1) Neumann University: L (4-5)	WOMEN’S SWIMMING (1-3) Stonehill College: W (145-116)
FOOTBALL (8-3) Post University: W (65-21) No. 20 Slippery Rock: L (14-17)	WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (6-0) AIC: W (76-58) Dominican University of NY: W (82-59) Mercy College: W (64-49)	MEN’S BASKETBALL (2-3) Dominican University of NY: L (78-80) Franklin Pierce University: L (74-78) AIC: L (76-78)	MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY NCAA DII Regional: 6th/21 (204)
			WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY NCAA DII Regional: 12th/19 (309)