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The War on Christmas

Opinion Column

Olivia Monahan

Managing Editor Lifestyle Editor

BREAKING: Social media users everywhere have officially declared that the United States of America is under attack.

The attacks started when Simon Malls decided they were not going to have a larger than life Christmas tree in the middle of their malls. Then, when things looked like they couldn't get any worse, Starbucks changed the design of their holiday cups. In an act of war, Starbucks decided to keep their cup red and not include images of snowflakes, stars, or snowmen.

The Christmas crusaders aren't happy with the deafening music that plays from the 1st of November to the 24th of December. They aren't content with the obnoxious Santa display sitting right in the middle of the mall. They want everything that you interact with for the next couple of weeks to scream "Merry Christmas!". They want to exercise their right to freedom of religion by shoving Christmas cheer down everyone's throats.

I have a question for these supposed "Christmas Crusaders". When did Christmas become about pictures on a coffee cup or a tree? Maybe my years of Catholic school education failed to review the key symbols of Christmas but I was under the impression that Christmas was a religious holiday.

(Continued in opinion section on pg. 4)

*The War on
Christmas*

WARM WISHES FROM HELL

December 2015

Graphic created by Canva, image taken by Olivia Monahan

God, Gentiles, and the GOP

Christopher Flores

Staff Writer

Although the Constitution calls for a separation of church and state, religion never fails to find its way into the political arena. Whether it's during speeches, interviews, or debates, candidates feel compelled to talk about God, their faith, and how it will impact them as commander-in-chief.

At the November 10th Republican debate on the Fox Business Network, moderator Neil Cavuto asked Ben Carson, "So whose [tax] plan would God endorse then, doctor? Yours, or Mr. Trump's?"

Jason Downer, a seminarian who works in the office of Campus Ministry at St. Peter's University believes that a question like that is uncalled for.

"I think that is an absurd question," Downer said. "Theologically speaking, trying to imagine what God would say about a tax plan is crazy. That's trying to limit God's understanding of economics."

While that was the only time God was brought up at the debate, it is not the first time "He" was mentioned on the campaign trail.

Recently, Ted Cruz was speaking at the National Religious Liberties Conference in Iowa where he was discussing the persecution of Christians in the U.S. and around the globe. Cruz then talked about the importance of having a Christian president.

"Any president who doesn't begin every day on his knees isn't fit to be commander-in-chief of the country," he proclaimed.

David Simon, a student at Saint Peter's does not agree with Cruz's remarks.

"I don't think you need to pray every day to be president," Simon said. In jest he commented, "I also don't think Ted Cruz probably prays every day himself."

(Continued in News section on pg.2)

New A.D. "Boe" Pearman Takes Over Athletics

*Photo taken by Samantha Storms edited by Callan Sheridan*

Callan Sheridan

News Editor

It doesn't seem like much could ruffle Belinda Pearman. She sits in her RLC office with the confidence and ease one might not expect from an athletic director barely four months into her tenure in a struggling athletic department.

Pearman, or "Boe," as she is mostly known (thanks to the shortening of her father's nickname for her – bo-peep), came to Saint Peter's in early September, aware of the struggles the athletic department was facing. She saw hope for the program, and was told the support from the administration would be there.

"They said we're really ready to make the

commitment, and I said 'if you are, I believe Saint Peter's has got things that we can build from.' I thought, 'I can do this,' even though everybody said it couldn't be done. Because I really believe...if [people] feel like you're really in it with them, they'll work for you. And if you feel as an athlete that I respect you, and that I care about you... you're going to feel good about yourself, and you're going to want to do well, because you're in an environment that makes you feel good."

Track and Cross Country athlete Georgie Nicholes has felt the support from Pearman already.

"Coming from the point of view of track and cross country, which is always on the lower end of sports in schools,

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News

God, Gentiles, and the GOP

(Continued from page 1)

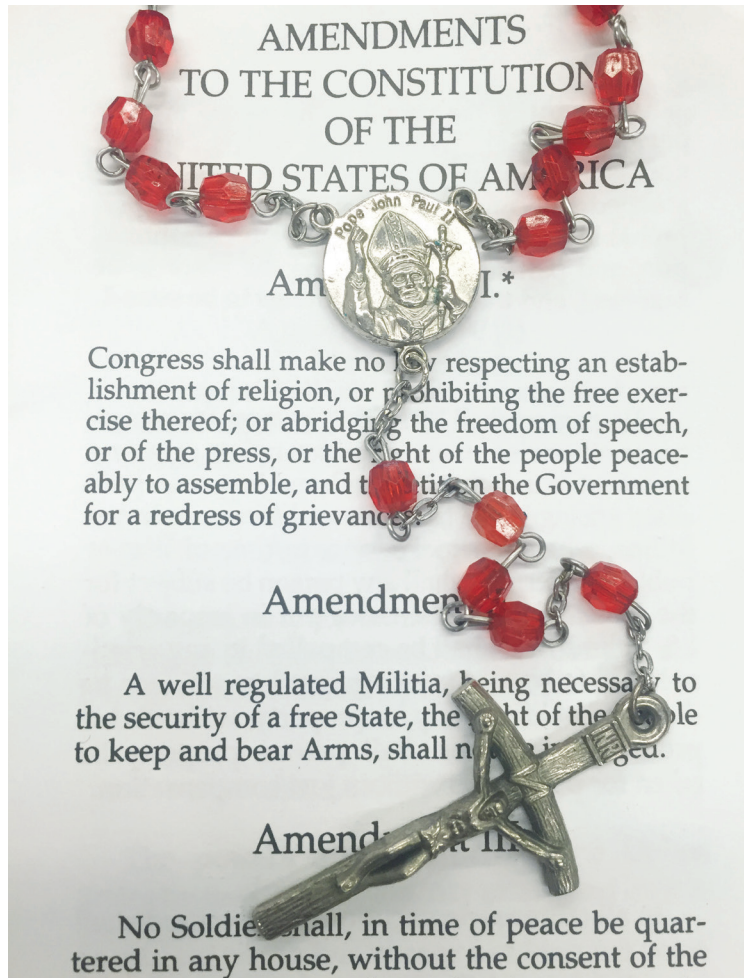


Photo taken by Samantha Storms edited by Callan Sheridan

Republican's, however, aren't the only ones who talk about religion. Although none of the Democratic candidates have said anything memorable about God or their faith during this campaign season, in 2008 CNN hosted a whole forum for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on issues of faith and religion.

Still, it seems as though conservatives discuss religion at a greater rate than liberals do. The reason for that might be simple. According to Pew Research, 70% of white evangelicals support the Republican Party.

Downer agrees that Republicans are pandering to their religious base.

"It's playing to the morality of that 70% of their base, which believes strongly against abortion and believes strongly... in traditional marriage between man and woman," he said. "I don't know how many [candidates] actually believe those things, but they do play to that base, certainly."

But it's not just their voter

base who the GOP candidates are pandering to; it's also their financial donors. In July, two wealthy Texan brothers, Farris and Dan Wilks, contributed \$15 million to a pro-Ted Cruz super PAC. The brothers are known for having donated to conservative and religious nonprofit organizations, such as the Family Research Council, according to CNN.

However, when Republicans talk about religion, they seem to only talk positively about one religion: Christianity. When it comes to other faiths, such as Islam, the right isn't as supportive.

In September, Ben Carson said that he believes a Muslim should not become president because their religion is not "consistent with the Constitution." More recently, Jeb Bush has expressed support for only allowing Christian Syrian refugees into the country, not Muslim refugees.

But the reason why liberals shy away from talking about religion may be the same reason why conservatives do just the opposite

– to pander to their base. 61% of religiously unaffiliated Americans consider themselves Democrats while only 27% consider themselves Republicans.

"The problem is that Republicans push everyone but Christians down, while Democrats push only Christians down," Simon said.

Over the past few years, white Catholics have been fleeing the Democratic Party and finding refuge within the GOP. In 2008, Democratic support among Catholics stood at 49%, but that number has since dropped to 42% this year.

However, sophomore Aitana Libreros, a devout Catholic explains why she considers herself a loyal Democrat.

"I believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity," she said. "That if they need help to achieve their potential, then they deserve that also. As Catholics, we are supposed to believe in equality for everyone," she added.

Campus Safety Unveils Major Update

Krystal Nurse
Contributing Writer

The director of Campus Safety revealed a major update to the campus at the November 4th Student Senate meeting.

Darlene Santos, Vice President of Student Government Association and President of the Senate, invited Scott Torre to the Senate's meeting due to the group's Oct. 20th Presidential Open Forum discussion consisting of Campus Safety. At the meeting, Torre showed student leaders the new call boxes, which are expected to be completed and ready for use by the end of 2015.

The seventeen call boxes are being placed in new locations so users can easily spot them.

Now, student, faculty, or staff members can easily contact the Campus Safety without searching for the phone number. They only need to press the red emergency button on the call box. The old, faded, yellow boxes will be removed and replaced by bright blue ones.

Some boxes, such as the ones

against Pope Hall, the rear garage exit at the Rec Center, and a new one on Montgomery St. against Dineen, will be wall mounted. Pedestal units will be installed for the two parking lots next to Rankin and Hilsdorf Hall, which is a completely new location, and 140 Glenwood's unit will be relocated to the fence lining the building.

Some of the call boxes will have a public address system, which is intended for the boxes in VMC, Lot #7, the quad by Gannon Hall, and Jesuit Court. The call box in Jesuit Court is one area that is receiving a box for the first time. According to Torre, the PA system "will enable [Campus Safety] to broadcast campus wide through a phone app in case of emergencies on campus."

Following the presentation, Torre addressed the Clery Act, which was published and sent out to all students on September 29th in compliance with the national October 1st deadline. It can be found on Campus Safety's page on the university's website. The Jeanne Clery Act makes it a law that all schools receiving Title IV funding need to make crime

and incident reports about the campus and surrounding areas public.

Torre said the report covers data from January 2012 until December 2014 and lists the number of incidents for each offense in its respective category. The report also compares the same stats to the neighborhood of Jersey City that surrounds the campus.

Approximately 2% of the 3,302 student body at Saint Peter's have had a reported alcohol violation, which is the highest reported offense at the school. Torre encourages students to compare the statistics to other, similar colleges, and they will find that Saint Peter's has a low numbers of incidents, comparatively.

Torre and Ed Hanley, day-time shift manager of Campus Safety, addressed concerns about the shuttle service. One concern was that there was a lack of shuttles running.

"Because of the amount of workers I have that live in this city, and who have lived in this city for a long time, there aren't many who have driver's licenses," said Torre. "So with the limited



Code Blue Emergency Call Boxes

amount of drivers, it limits how many shuttles we can run throughout the work week and the weekend."

According to Torre, shuttle buses are not to be driven down Glenwood Ave. due to the size of the buses and number of people who double park. Students can check where the shuttles are with the SmartTraxx app available for iPhones and Androids.

Shifting the meeting towards students' safety, Torre noted that he wants to update the University's emergency alert system, which sends an e-mail, pre-recorded phone call, and text message to students who sign up.

All students are encouraged at

their orientations to sign up, as those alerts are useful when there are weather issues or other emergencies. Torre, however, would like to reform the system where every student enrolled at the university will automatically be signed up for alerts.

Have an issue or question regarding Saint Peter's and campus life? Student Government welcomes newcomers to their meetings and encourages them to voice their opinions. The next two meetings for the semester are December 2nd and the 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Degnan Room of Saint Peter Hall.

Trouble on the Homefront: What REALLY Happened at Kean?

Chelsey Forbes
Staff writer

On November 19th, an anonymous twitter account threatened to kill black individuals at Kean University. This comes as yet another example of racial unrest in college communities across the country, as we have recently seen with protests and hunger strikes at the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri in response to racial incidents at the schools. Students feeling unsupported by administration's handling of racial inequality has lead to hunger strikes by sports figures at both schools, and the resignation of President Tim Wolfe of the University of Missouri System.

Most of the time as humans we rarely identify with situations until we have experienced them, or until they affect someone we know. Kean University, which is described as a welcoming and diverse school, is a twenty-five minute drive from our humble abode of Saint Peter's. Do the words welcoming and diverse sound familiar to you? If so, that's because many students who attend Saint Peter's choose this school because of its wide array of ethnicities amongst students and faculty.

As both Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Saint Peter's and advisor to the Black Action Committee, Dr. Brian Royster feels as though the diversity at Saint Peter's allows for students to come in with an open mindset.

"SPU does not say anything

that contradicts what they are trying to preach, in terms of recruiting students to come here. Diversity is the big push. Administration is coming from a genuine place, although we could better in hiring a more diverse faculty."

Royster also laments that because of the diversity here, students come in at a different level in terms of tolerance and understanding of others.

Still, the threats at Kean should not be taken lightly, regardless of how diverse the community may be. In a recent study conducted by Pew Research Center, there has been a significant shift in opinions on racism. Half of Americans now say race is a problem in society today. Racism continues to register as a bigger problem among non-whites, particularly African Americans. 73% of African Americans say racism is a big problem; that compares with 58% of Hispanics and 44% of whites. [*]

"There is no place for hatred on our campus. we will not tolerate it."

—Dr. Dawood Farahi President, Kean University.

Dr. Anna Brown, Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science at Saint Peter's says she spoke with her students about the incident at Kean.

"One student said, 'Why should black people be

threatened or harmed simply because we are black?'. All of us in the room felt much the same and we all expressed a desire to commit ourselves to anti-racism work."

Cera Jaffe, a twenty-year-old Polish/Israeli student who attends Kean says she's never experienced racial tension between professors, students, or Greek Life and clubs.

"I chose to attend Kean mainly because it was affordable and close to home, but the diversity was a huge plus. It's shocking to me that the threats happened because I truly believe the protests were to support the other universities and came from a genuine place. It's horrific that students are afraid to go to class now, especially when they pay thousands to go here."

With heightened security following the threats, Kean's campus released notices on its social media sites, including the school's website and Instagram account to assure students that Keane would remain open and operate on a normal schedule.

"Many students have told me of their experiences of racism at school. They speak also of noticing how white the faculty and administration is and how much of our student body is not reflected in those who teacher



Snapshots taken by Chelsey Forbes

and run the school. They speak also of an increasing anti-Muslim stance taught in some of their classes," says Dr. Brown.

As students, we should be aware of not only the feelings of unrest in our country, but first possible unrest on our very own campus.

Dr. Royster says that by being open and creating a comfortable atmosphere for students is how we at Saint Peter's can combat racial tension of any sort.

"Find out what it is that the kids want, what the issues are, and then find compromise. Don't give them everything but give them something so that they at least know that the money they are spending at school is being spent well. My students appreciate me because I keep it 100."

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Opinion

The War on Christmas



Christmas is going out of style in Roosevelt Field Mall in Long Island. Photo taken by Olivia Monahan.

(Continued in opinion section on pg. 4)

Joshua Feuerstein, a popular social media personality, posted a video to Facebook calling for all “great Americans and Christians” to go to Starbucks and give their name as “Merry Christmas”. I happened to have the great fortune of experiencing one of these people at a Starbucks recently.

His name was Devin Richey, 35 years old and an attorney at a New Jersey law firm. He explained to me that he was raised Christian in an Italian family. Richey walked up to the barista, ordered his drink, and then told the barista that his name was “Merry Christmas”.

“I did it because in recent years I’ve felt that Christmas has taken a back seat to many major holidays. For Christians, Christmas is the most important holiday of the year so I feel like we should be able to celebrate it as such.”

I controlled my outburst of laughter and didn’t say anything to him in the moment because I didn’t want to scare the rest of the Starbucks patrons. However, I wanted to ask what planet he was

living on. Being a member of the planet Earth, I’m struggling to see where that makes sense.

I work in a mall and every minute of my life is drenched in Christmas. There is an obnoxious Christmas display, Christmas music is blasting throughout the mall and in the individual stores, and the associates are trained to sell from a “gifting perspective”.

I also wanted to ask which holidays in specific Christmas was taking a back seat to? The last time I checked, I’ve never once seen any sort of Hanukkah display or a “symbol” of the holiday of Kwanzaa.

What makes Richey’s explanation even more ludicrous is that corporations know that Christmas spending makes them the most money. Simon Malls, for example, made an effort to be more inclusive in their “holiday” display. They had the most pivotal figure to Christmas (Santa, not Jesus), in front of the “Glacier Experience”. After all of the social media backlash, Simon Malls issued an apology and replaced all of the glaciers with Christmas trees.

Whether you are religious or not, Christmas is present everywhere. You can’t go down a Manhattan block without seeing some type of lit up ornament that’s supposed to signify Christmas. Perhaps, what these people need to be focusing on, is that Christmas has lost all religious significance for most people.

When you ask a child what Christmas is about, they are going to answer with things that have nothing to do with Jesus or religion. Christmas in America is about making money, plain and simple. Why do you think that Simon Malls quickly apologized and changed their displays? Because they couldn’t bare the thought of losing money in such a profitable time.

My final thoughts on the matter is that this is all stupid. If all the people actually cared about Christmas in the way that it meant to be celebrated, they wouldn’t be making such a big deal about a snowflake on a coffee cup. Also, thank you for boycotting Starbucks, I didn’t like waiting in long lines anyway.

Principles of Media Law & Ethics

Armond Marke
Contributing Writer

The University of Missouri is currently under-fire for failing to acknowledge countless concerns about racism on the campus. Students and supporters alike have pitched tents outside in the Mizzou quad area and have declared a hunger strike, forcing the President to step down and creating a media frenzy relevant to today’s social movements.

Even 65 years after the University of Missouri first opened its enrollment for African Americans, it is not unusual for black students to hear their colleagues refer to them as “Niggers” and professors not recognizing the potential in these same students. A combination of these negatives is enough to make you wonder why these students even decide to stay at Mizzou, but if you look around, racism is everywhere, and if these students keep running away from the problem, it can not be solved.

Mizzou students have expressed their dissatisfaction with the universities handling on the situation, and after countless efforts have gone neglected, they took matters into their own hands. A hunger strike.

Hunger strikes represent an agenda for a political aim. These protesting students have left control in the hands of the university; all the students have to do is sit in their tents and not eat, forcing the university to take action, otherwise face public shame. When students feel the need to starve themselves in order to get the attention they feel they deserve, it’s problematic to both the University for failing to provide a safe haven, and student morale.

Often times America relies on hope in order to see change. We starve for a forward progression

in providing a sanctuary for our youth and we reminisce about the tougher times of our history failing to realize that our history is still represented in today’s society. Many try to abandon the idea that racism is still prevalent, but current events prove otherwise. Social movements have become globalized hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter, in response to police brutality cases like Michael Brown and Eric Garner and even more recently on the Mizzou campus.

Why? Why are people so fixated on the color of skin as means for judgement? How can we ever co-exist and move forward from history? These students just want to receive quality education in an accepting environment, how is that too much to ask for? Instead, they are silenced until they reach a breaking point and uprising, which are then associated with negative connotations— how “Wilding” was used to refer to the Central Park Five. Of course people are going to say these students should just shut up, and there is bigger problems in the world, but the people that are making these bold statements are usually the ones who are privileged enough to never have been racially profiled, segregated, discriminated against and looked down upon and not even by another student, but on a much larger scale. They will never know what it feels like until it happens to them.

According to a press release in the United States Census Bureau, college enrollment has declined in the past two years — we are losing the fundamental sources of our future and America, once recognized for its diversity is regressing towards our historic downfall.

New A.D Boe Pearman



Student-athletes were given "Strut Your Pride" t-shirts to promote a pride and community within athletics.

(Continued from page 1.)

I've never seen someone pay as much attention to our sport as she has.

She actually took the time to ask what was wrong and made us know [it wasn't just us] seeing the problems, that she also agrees, and that there are some major issues...that she plans on changing."

Pearman's confidence could come from the tremendous

success and depth of her resume. A four-year starter and Second Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference player at the University of Maryland, Pearman began her coaching career right out of college.

She quickly returned to her alma mater, where she served as an assistant coach to the women's basketball team, helping lead the Terrapins to a 227-120 record, three Atlantic Coast Conference

titles, and eight appearances in the NCAA tournament during her 12 years there.

After coaching with the New England Blizzard of the now-defunct American Basketball League, Pearman returned to college basketball at the University of Rhode Island, where she served as head coach of the women's basketball team, guiding the Rams to the Atlantic 10 Conference Championship game for only the second time in the history of the program.

She then began the start of her administrative career in sports, first with Southern Connecticut State University, then Manhattan College, and now, Saint Peter's University.

Pearman's plans for the athletic community begin with the student-athletes themselves. She says, "I've tried to get our athletes to understand...if we don't believe in ourselves, no one else is going to believe in us. Why would they follow us if we don't even act like we should be followed?"

Logistically, the athletic department has needs that Pearman can't directly provide

herself.

"Do we need things, financially? Absolutely," says Pearman. "There's no question we need things. But I thought if we could work on...our base - caring and creating that culture and being an athletic family and supporting each other... we've got really promising things ahead of us."

"I have felt like we are 280 individuals, instead of one family," continues Pearman. "So I'm looking to try and do some things where I want to bring our family together."

Aicha Elola, president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, understands and shares Pearman's goals for the student-athletes of Saint Peter's.

"She wanted all athletes to feel united," says Elola, "and then possibly gain a community. And as president of SAAC, that's what I wanted to do...have a community. She's already doing that, and she just started."

Pearman has some ideas for spring plans to bring the athletes together, but she wants to keep them a surprise. In the meantime, she wants to use the

momentum from the fortunate timing of the school's "Project Spirit" campaign.

"The place is ripe for it right now," says Pearman of the University. "People are ready. I think they're ready. And people want to be proud of something, and they want to feel good about something."

"She's doing a really great job of trying to implement new programs...to bring our athletic program to the next level," says junior soccer player Colin Covello.

Improving the entire program will come with time. Improving the athlete's experience can happen every day.

"The reason...I come to work every day is to impact our student-athlete's lives...in a positive way," says Pearman. "I've asked them to follow me off of blind faith, because I know they've heard it all before, but they've been wonderful. I want to make sure they get something back for that blind faith. We've got really good people here that deserved to be cared about, and that's what I want to give them."

Portley's 30 Crushes Brown in Season Opener

Men's Basketball

By: Joseph Hill
Staff Writer

Jersey City, NJ-- A great big roar could be heard inside the Yanitelli Center on Friday night. Fans had painted faces and were decked out in Saint Peter's gear. They were screaming, stomping their feet and chanting "De-fense!" as the Saint Peter's men's basketball played their home opener against Brown University. The crowd continuously kept the team in the game with their support.

Saint Peter's Freshman Antwon Portley dropped 30 points in his first collegiate game. Portley Shot 10-21 from the field, hit 7-9 from the stripe, and also added 5 rebounds with 2 assist.

Portley scored 23 points of his 30 in the second half, which put Saint Peter's on a 30-9 run to take the lead.

"The special thing about Antwon is even with the 30m he's a team-first player," said Coach John Dunne.

The Peacocks were down 54-45 at the 9:42 mark in the second half before they went on the huge run to take a 75-63 lead. Antwon scored 13 points during the run hitting a three pointer to tie it up.

"I hit a shot, then hit another shot, and that put me into a rhythm," said Portley. "My teammates started finding me, and then they started to set some really good screens so it made it easier for me to score."

Portley originally played for Lancaster High School where he averaged 13.6 ppg. His season high in high school was 30 points. He also played for an AAU team in Lancaster, the Tigers, where the team went 32-4 and went on to win the championship that year.

Returning player, Chazz Patterson, was no small factor in the win. He recorded 12 points and 8 rebounds with 4 assist shooting 100 percent (6-6) from the free throw line. But Paterson contributed to the game with more than just numbers-- his leadership kept everybody's head in the game.

"One of our teammates, Chazz, said to me 'Keep shooting it'll eventually go in.' He had faith in me so I had to have faith in myself," Porter said.

Paterson shot 3-12 from the field but made up for it with a block and a steal. He forced



"First time taking a rest" Portley photo taken by Jay Hill

his opponent, Tavon Blackmon, to shoot 4-10 from the field also forcing 3 turnovers.

"Blackmon is a really good player. We had Chazz on him and Blackmon couldn't get around him," said Dunne. "He played really good defense.. Even when he missed shots, his confidence never wavered."

Blackmon had 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assist. Brown's forward, Cedric Kuakumensah, assisted Blackmon with 10 points and 17 rebounds. Although, this wasn't enough to keep up with the Peacocks.

Saint Peter's shot 40% from the field and converted 12 points off of turnovers. They succeeded over Brown, 77-65.

The Rising Power of the College Athlete

Samantha Storms
Contributing Writer

College athletes across the United States want a change in the NCAA system. The power of the college athlete was recently demonstrated in the events that occurred at the University of Missouri.

Sajanna Bethea, a sophomore on the Saint Peter's University women's basketball team commented on the events that occurred.

"I think people will have more respect for athletes. Sometimes people have the idea that athletes can only play sports," said Bethea. "We have a voice, so I think we should speak up."

At the University of Missouri, racial tensions and the President's absence of acknowledgement caused protests on the campus.

The football team's threat to not play their ESPN game seemed to be a motivating factor in the President stepping down from his role. These events in Missouri demonstrate the football team's voice to help those who don't have as strong of an influence.

"I thought what the football team did was wonderful," said

Anna Brown PhD., Chair of the Political Science Department. "What is the problem with being black in this country? To see these football players standing arm-in-arm saying enough was amazing."

Football and basketball programs are by far the largest moneymakers in many Division 1 colleges.

According to the NCAA, a study done in 2012 shows that in Division 1 men's basketball, minorities make up 70.6 percent and the Division 1 football men's minorities make up 56.6 percent.

The threat of the University of Missouri football players to not play their big SEC game caused the president to step down because of the potential loss of millions of dollars. This situation brings up the question of whether sports dollars are deciding controversial issues.

In the case of O'Bannon v. NCAA (2009), Ed O'Bannon sued on behalf of the NCAA's Division 1 men's football and basketball players, challenging their use of the images of its former student-athletes for commercial reasons.

student-athlete graduates that they should be compensated financially for NCAA's profit-making use of the images. This case is currently still in litigation.

"I support the NCAA because I am a representative of the NCAA," said new Saint Peter's Athletic Director Belinda Pearman. "I believe that athletes are getting paid to play and there are scholarships. I came out of college without any bills and I look at scholarships as being paid a lot of money."

Pearman played basketball at the University of Maryland, where she was a four-year starter and earned second team All-ACC for the women's basketball team.

Many argue that Division

nobody is forcing anybody to play. Athletes do receive scholarships to help alleviate financial stress.

"Athletes should be paid to play because it is like having a full-time job," said Alyssa Velles, sophomore on the Saint Peter's women's basketball team. "We should be rewarded for what we do. We don't have time to get an actual job and athletes should be considered employees."

Student-athletes are making a lot of money for these universities and the schedules are unrelenting. They are expected to be scholar-athletes, but their schedules are demanding—traveling, games, practices, and conditioning leave little time for homework.

how commodified everything has become in this society," said Brown. "It's all about money, profit. What happened to just being students? The commercialization of sports needs to be modified."

Brown also discussed that there is so much money to be made that it puts pressure on people. "Don't ask student-athletes to be professional athletes before they graduate," said Brown.

The University of Missouri football team set a precedent for the rest of the country in terms of the power that college athletes possess. Their actions could prove to be a breaking point for athletes across the nation.



Peacocks Fall to Navy

Women's Basketball

Melissa Osorio
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 15, the Saint Peter's women's basketball team hosted Navy, with Navy rising 50-39.

Since Veterans' Day was four days prior to the game, all veterans were given free entry into the game. As well, free dog tags were given to the first 50 fans who entered.

"It is really great how SPU is able to honor the vets. It was just in time after Veteran's Day," said Denisse Peralta, junior at Saint Peter's.

The lady Peacocks did very well in the first quarter, with Sajanna Bethea leading the team throughout the game.

"I think just running through our plays...we did a good job with that," said Bethea, Sophomore at SPU.

By the second quarter, expectations for a win were high as Saint Peter's remained dominant throughout the first half of the game, with a score of 24-11.

Navy stole the lead, obtaining 20 points, and making the score 41-35 in the third quarter.

Ashanti Kennedy of Navy aided her team with 7 points in a 17-5 run at the end of the third quarter. Kennedy was the top scorer for Navy with 14 points overall.

Hala Mostafa, a senior on Saint Peter's explained:

"It's just the beginning of the year. It is just Game 2. We are still trying to get it together."



Dorm Room Dismay

Photo Journalism by Jenna Carbin Editor in Chief

Residents know all too well how bad the conditions are when it comes to living on campus. Considering the approximate amount to live here is “\$4,795 per semester / \$9,590 per year” according to the enrollment services Tuition and Fees page of Saint Peter’s Website, it would be safely assumed that the dorms would be taken care of with extra priority to the safety and welfare of the students. On top of the cost of living in the dorms, the extra \$250 Dorm Deposit fee is there to ensure that if any damages occur by the students residing in the room the school can pay to fix the issues. These photos are of Saint Peter’s Campus dorms where health and safety issues have not been fixed.



Lifestlye

Jersey City Street Art

Daniela Franco
Arts Editor
Social Media Manager

On September 27, 2013 Jersey City Mayor unveiled the Jersey City Arts Program. The project aimed to install 35 murals within the first year. As of August 2015 the city has spent \$150,000 of a state grant funding on the Jersey City Mural Arts Program and have set up a total of 55 murals. The murals have been placed in various neighborhoods throughout the city. Both international and local artists have been invited to take part in the Mural Arts Program.

One of the latest installations to the City-Wide Mural Program was created by famous street artist,

Shepard Fairey; the mural can be spotted on the corner of Columbus Avenue and Grove Street. The mural is drowned in hues of blue depicting the Hudson River and includes the silhouette of Lady Liberty. In a recent statement Fairey explains his art piece.

“The mural is designed to symbolize the renaissance and the cultural wave that Jersey City is riding while also acknowledging its waterfront location and the beauty and power of mother nature.”

Mayor Fulop explains the importance of the Mural Arts Project, “Jersey City’s economic renaissance is coinciding with an actual renaissance. More and more, you are seeing Jersey City become (Continued on page 8)



Shepard Fairey mural on Columbus Ave and Grove St. The mural represents the cultural renaissance Jersey City is currently undergoing. Photo taken by Mike Demoya

Art

Jersey City Street Art



Shepard Fairey mural at Monmouth and 13th in Jersey City. The mural speaks to Fairey's political stance on environmental issues. Photos taken by Mike DeMoya

Cozy Boy Lifestyle



ASAP Yams Behind the VICE stage, there to support his friend, California rapper Aston Matthews. Photo taken by Jessica Lehrman of Rolling Stone.

Mike DeMoya

The term "Cozy Boy" is used loosely to describe anyone that wears comfy and comfortable looking clothes. The clothing lifestyle has really become a synonymous pairing of streetwear or street fashion. Joggers and trainers plus large comfy sweaters is the staple look for those who call themselves cozy boys. It's a style that has been floating around since 2012.

Shepard Fairey's clothing brand Obey is one amongst many who support/cater to the cozy boy lifestyle. Obey's inspiration for its clothing comes from two kinds of people: the street artist and skater, whose clothes must be able to work with their environment. Durable, fashionable, but just the right amount of comfortable to move around in. You can't exactly scale three-story buildings in skinny jeans.

To be a real cozy boy, your closet has to be filled with the most decorative comfy gear possible. Baggy sweatpants and white tees aren't the pieces you'll see on a true cozy boy. Think about mixing the dope & wearable with the clean & comfortable.

There isn't an exact origin of the cozy boy, but most A\$AP fans will attribute the rise of the cozy boy lifestyle to A\$AP Yams, who ritually rapped and dreamed about a cozy world. His friend and fellow artist even mentioned putting out Yams' unreleased album called Cozy Tapes.

(Continued from page 7)

the go to place for the creative class. Our mural program in some cases is transforming blighted neighborhoods and making our entire city a gallery.

This is not the first time Shepard Fairey debuts his work in the state of New Jersey. Back in 2011 Shepard Fairey was invited to Asbury Park, New Jersey to cover the walls of deserted buildings at the Asbury Beach Boardwalk. Fast forward four years later Shepard has his hands on a 147ft wide and 47ft tall brick wall in Jersey City, making it his largest horizontal work to date. The Mana Contemporary partnered with Shepard Fairey and Jonathan Levine on the installation part which is part of the Mana Urban Arts Project. The 'Natural Springs' mural depicts a women holding a flower that drips oil. 'Natural Springs' speaks out on the artist's environmental concerns.

Shepard Fairey: The Artist and The Mogul

In an interview with Henry Rollins, Shepard Fairey explains his background. Shepard was raised in North Carolina in a typical American home. His DIY artistic influence came from the skateboard and punk rock scene he emerged himself in as a teenager. While being enrolled in the University of Rhode Island, Fairey created the famous Andre The Giant stickers. Fairey created stencils and stickers which he placed around town and soon the local newspaper starting questioning where these images were coming from. This would lead to Fairey's personal study of Phenomenology and quest to understand the power of images placed in the public eye.

The stickers that would come next would have the word OBEY printed at the front of the Andre the Giant imagery. Fairey's goal was to call into question commercial advertisement and influence people to question everything. The word OBEY across the stickers represents an obvious 'agenda' by telling people to obey, something. Fairey would place the OBEY stickers next to commercial advertisement to show how the American people have become desensitized to commercial advertisements. At the same time the word OBEY would represent a wake up call for people to begin to question advertisement and politics alike.

The word OBEY would later not only be placed on stickers and murals put printed on hoodies, t-shirts and beanies. In 2001 Fairey commercialized his artform and transformed it into a fashion brand. This would lead some of Fairey's peers to label him as a hypocrite and a sell-out.

Visual Merchandising Student, Christian Alzate, at LIM college for business and fashion in New York City explains, "Commercial artist devalue their art because everyone can buy it. It makes his art work way more accessible to have and to buy, by mass producing it on t-shirts."

Shepard Fairey is not only responsible for revolutionizing street art but since releasing his clothing line he has created a comfort luxury brand. Fairey along with others have been a wave in creating what is now known as the cozy boy lifestyle.

Climbing the Ladder of Death

Olivia Monahan

Lifestyle Editor, Managing Editor

Climbing the ladder of death, dodging sharp nails in the stage, and working with an outdated lighting system are everyday burdens that the Argus Eyes has to deal with. Not including the burdens of putting on a full production.

The Argus Eyes Drama Society is a theatre group that produces a fall and spring production. The club rehearses and performs in the Roy Irving theatre.

"As a cast, we have grown to love the space," Irene Christodoulakis, Present of Argus Eyes said. "But there are a lot of things that need to be done."

One of the Editorial Board's main concerns with the space is the stage floor. According to Christodoulakis, the floor was originally made with tile.

"Some of the wood on the stage has come up so we can see where the tiles used to be. You're definitely not supposed to build a stage floor with tile. And you can tell that they hastily put the wood down because the wood is warped and we have found several nails coming up from it," Christodoulakis said.

According to alumni Siobhan Gordon, dealing with nails protruding from the stage is not a new problem.

"There was a particular screw sticking out from the stage that we just could not pull out," Gordon recalled. "One of the cast members slid across the stage and the screw tore his jeans straight up the leg. So, thank god he was wearing thick jeans!"

The Roy Irving Theatre also operates as a multi purpose space, housing events from the Argus Eyes productions to meetings and presentations for various clubs.

"Because it is a shared space it does make the process a little harder," Gordon said.

(Continued top of next page)

Climbing the Ladder of Death



Christmas is going out of style in Roosevelt Field Mall in Long Island. Photo taken by Olivia Monahan.

"We would love to have our own space so that we don't have to worry about people coming in and out of the theatre during a rehearsal. If there was ever an event in the theatre right before, Student Activities would go out of their way to notify us. But most of the time are marks

were pulled up and whatever we put up during a rehearsal would be moved."

Daria Peace, the advisor to the Argus Eyes and leizon to the Student Activities office, is well aware of the work that the space needs.

"It's a beautiful space but it's a space that also needs a lot of upgrades. It definitely presents some added challenges to the cast," Peace said. "If I could wave a magic wand, we would have a full, production ready theatre.

But some of the upgrades needed are a huge expense."

While the stage itself is a priority for the club, there are several other updates that they think are just as important.

"The lighting system that is currently in the space is completely obsolete,"

Christodoulakis said. "For every production we have to rent lights which is a large part of our budget. At the same time, upgrading to a brand new lighting system would cost us almost half a million dollars."

Despite the challenges of working in an old theatre, the members of Argus Eyes stay hopeful that the necessary updates will be made.

"I know that the new provost cares so much about the arts so hopefully he'll understand the need for the theatre space to be upgraded," Gordon said. "Looking at the arts on this campus, just from the perspective of the theatre and the state of Rankin, it seems like this school doesn't care very much about the arts. I think making some upgrades will really improve the state of the arts on this campus."



Christmas is going out of style in Roosevelt Field Mall in Long Island. Photo taken by Olivia Monahan.

Lifestyle

The Glute-Free Hype

By: Briana Benitez
Staff Writer

Jenny Nguyen is out to eat with one of her friends. She calls over the waiter to take their orders. Nguyen requests her usual, and then her friend asks the waiter if they offer any meals that are gluten-free. Jenny thinks to herself 'that's funny I don't recall her ever mentioning being diagnosed with a gluten allergy'.

According to National Foundation for Celiac Awareness (NFC), one in every 133 Americans, or about one percent of the population has the disease. Celiac Disease is a genetic autoimmune disease that damages the villi of the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food. A 100% gluten-free diet is the only existing treatment for celiac today.

"I cook everyday usually once or twice a day and I get most of my groceries in Secaucus. None of the groceries I buy are ever gluten free. Personally, I think that's all part of a fad. I understand it may be the healthier alternative but we've gone so long unaware to the benefits of eating gluten-free so why start now? Because everyone is doing it?" said current university freshman, Jenny Nguyen.

Gluten-free sales reached more than \$2.6 billion by the end of 2010, and are expected to exceed more than \$5 billion by the end of 2015, according to NFC.

"My sister Tara has always had stomach problems just about all her entire life. It was not until she was older that my mom noticed how this was affecting her. When she was a sophomore in college my mom believed it might have been a gluten allergy and suggested Tara try going gluten-free. Going gluten-free worked, but only short term, her senior year all her discomforting symptoms came back," said Meghan O'Donnell, current junior at the University of Pittsburgh.

The question to ask is: if Celiac Disease diagnoses are reported to be so low, why have gluten-free sales raised?

The answer is simple. The gluten-free diet is the next big thing in the dieting world.

"I do not understand the hype of gluten-free diets. Gluten-free does not mean that it is healthy or that it is the best choice for everyone. If someone has a disease then by all means eat gluten-free but why take away certain wheats and vitamins from your everyday diet to be 'trendy,'" said Alexandria Theodorou.

Theodorou also added that gluten is present in a variety of different foods.

"If someone is trying to jump on the bandwagon they are going to have to do a lot of research on what exactly gluten is and what foods it's in. Personally I don't have the time to be apart of this trend and I like regular pizza too much," said Theodorou.

According to the Unit Marketing Coordinator of Sodexo, Staci Liu, Saint Peter's University provides gluten-free breads and desserts at the deli and at SubConnection upon request. While these items are not always on the menu, they are always readily available whenever requested.

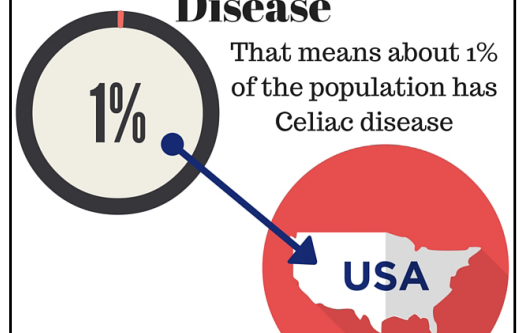
"We, the culinary team, try to be very conscious of people's allergies like being gluten-free or having a peanut allergy. That is a big part of our mission, to make sure everyone is being included and we have something available for them," said Liu.

Individuals are becoming more aware of what they put into their bodies and how they feel after. They are eating better than they were and this is good. But there is a downside that has to do with self-indulgence and narcissistic choosiness. Having a special dietary need, whether real or imaginary, is one more way to feel special in the ever so present "me" culture.



**1 in every 133
Americans have Celiac
Disease**

That means about 1%
of the population has
Celiac disease



Lifestyle

Single, Not Ready to Mingle: Dating on Campus



Christmas is going out of style in Roosevelt Field Mall in Long Island. Photo taken by Olivia Monahan.

By: Briana Benitez
Staff Writer

You're walking through the quad of Saint Peter's University just as the sun reaches its highest point in the sky and you stop to take a look around. What do you see? Your view is cluster of individuals walking face forward with little interaction. You receive little to no eye contact and you wonder: does anyone even like each other on this campus?

Saint Peter's University has an enrollment of 3,500 students. Of those enrolled, approximately 62% are female and 38% are male, according to U.S. News.

"I don't see many couples on campus. It's a really big black and white. It is either so many people as individuals or it's two people glued together," said sophomore, Veramarie Jimenez.

Jimenez recalled her personal frustrations with the dating life on campus. Her experience has now set the standard for the dating environment on campus.

"I was involved with someone and I thought: yeah he seems pretty dateable. Why not? It was all a façade. It ended abruptly, we completely stopped speaking, and it was really immature. I don't think anyone is serious because of how temporary our time here is," said Jimenez.

According to Media Education Foundation, 20 percent of hookups occur between people who have hooked up ten times or more, while 50 percent occur between people who have never

hooked up before. Jimenez says she can't relate to the 'hookup' culture here at Saint Peter's.

"My ideal date is a sit down date. Anywhere. But the date can't be sit down and watch a movie, there has to be a spiritual and verbal connection. A date should be something that brings you closer together," said Jimenez.

In the "Understanding Hookup Culture" documentary, Paula England states that Less than 15 percent said they did not know the person at all. Jimenez feels as there is a divide between friendship groups on campus.

"I want to take out the divisions in our school. Everyone thinks 'I'm an athlete I have to do this or I'm a bio major I have to do that' when in reality we all have finals the same week. The point is we all have a lot more in common than we're letting ourselves believe," said Jimenez.

Some individuals do not believe dating at this time in life is of urgency.

"At this point, I'm just focusing on my studies right now. I want majority of my focus to be on my school work," said Kirolos Niseem.

Some members of the Saint Peter's community are challenging the assumptions that no one has time for one another and making it work.

John Brecko, junior, makes it work with his current girlfriend by making time for her.

"I make the trip back home to Ewing, New Jersey every weekend to visit her," Brecko

said.

According to USA Today, Facebook Data Sciences found that about 28 percent of married graduates attended the same college as their spouse. About 15 percent of individuals on Facebook attended the same high school as their significant other.

"We met here at Saint Peter's. I'm the secretary of the English club. I was manning the table for our club fair and he came up with our friend Rachel. Then I run into him again, and then that Friday he ended up being with one of our mutual friends and we ended up having a four hour conversation," said Samantha Lehmbeck, of her boyfriend, Nicholas Dawyblda.

Lehmbeck and Dawyblda have been together for a month and a half. The couple went to rival high schools and have overlapping friend groups. They have a number of common interests and their schedules are compatible, allowing for ample time together.

"We should have met a long time ago technically. I'm a strong believer in the philosophy of meeting the people you're supposed to meet when you're ready to meet them. September second was the day I was ready to meet him," said Lehmbeck.

Whether you're focusing on you, or looking for your other half one thing is certain: love is alive at SPU.

"The Problem with Sex Education"



Graphic created by Danielle Pimentel

Danielle Pimentel
Social Media Community Manager

Sex is not just a psychical act, but also an important part of a person's overall health. That is why it is important to be correctly informed about it. How to prevent STDS, which birth control is right for you, going to the doctor yearly, and other precautions. This starts with sex education in schools. In the United States, sex education is being taught in two different forms: comprehensive or abstinence-only. According to the Guttmacher Institute, in a 2012 study, sixty percent of young adults (ages 18 to 29) may not truly understand how proper use of contraception can prevent pregnancy.

Comprehensive sex education is medically accurate information on topics related to sexuality. This includes but isn't limited to relationships, decision-making, abstinence, contraception, and STD prevention. Studies have shown that comprehensive education reduces risky behavior, prepares young adults to make healthy choices, and correctly informs young adults about correct sexual health. Out of 50 states, only 13 mandate that sex education be medically accurate information.

Javier Lua Freire, 20, took the required sex education classes all four years at Bayonne High School. He says that he learned more about sex from his family because the classes were not informative. Lua Freire says, "The sex ed classes where ridiculous, all they told us to do was use protection. Sometimes my teacher wouldn't even show up to class."

Abstinence-only education focuses on the importance of waiting
(Continued on top of next page) pg

SEX ED

Currently, 20 states and the District of Columbia mandate both sex and HIV education; one state mandates sex education alone, and another 13 states mandate HIV education

A total of 37 states require that sex education include abstinence. Twenty-six require that abstinence be stressed, while eleven simply require that it be included as part of the instruction.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia require that sex education programs include information on contraception; no state requires that it be stressed

Thirteen states require that the information presented in sex education classes be medically accurate and factual. However, a recent review of 13 commonly used abstinence-only curricula found that 11 had incorrect, misleading or distorted information

Strong evidence suggests that comprehensive approaches to sex education help young people both to withstand the pressures to have sex too soon and to have healthy, responsible and mutually protective relationships when they do become sexually active.

55%

Adolescents consider parents, peers and the media to be important sources of sexual health information

41%

Young Adults ages 18-19 report that they know little or nothing about condoms

75%

say they know little or nothing about the contraceptive pill

INTERESTING FACTS

Exposure to high levels of sexual content on television is associated with an increased risk of initiating sexual activity, as well as a greater likelihood of involvement in teen pregnancy

In December 2009, Congress replaced the rigid Community-Based Abstinence Education Program with a new \$114.5 million teen pregnancy prevention program to support evidence-based interventions, as well as other programs that have demonstrated promise.

There is no evidence to date that abstinence-only-until-marriage education delays teen sexual activity. Moreover, research shows that abstinence-only strategies may deter contraceptive use among sexually active teens, increasing their risk of unintended pregnancy and STIs.

Through another provision in the health care reform legislation, Congress also renewed the Title V abstinence-only program for five years. This funding stream makes available \$50 million annually for grants to the states to promote sexual abstinence outside of marriage

Source: <https://www.guttmacher.org>

Chart created by Danielle Pimentel, info by <https://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-Teen-Sex-Education.pdf>

The Problem with Sex Education

until marriage before having intercourse. The problem with this type of education is that it is religiously based and biased. It is also filled with medical misrepresentations. A pro-abstinence website, Abstinence Clearing House, is riddled with false information which can do more harm than good. States that teach this form of sex education tend to have higher rates of teen pregnancy.

Even Schoendorf, 23, who went to Union Catholic says that while he was informed, the school pushed for abstinence. Schoendorf says, "They really didn't want us having sex, they showed us graphic pictures of STDs during class. I guess it was to make sure we really understood what could happen if we weren't careful."

In New Jersey, it is required that sex education includes information on contraception, be medically accurate, and that there is an inclusive perspective on sexual orientation. The importance of abstinence is also to be stressed. However, the push for abstinence takes away from the comprehensive information. With many of the high schools starting sex education late, usually by the 3rd or 4th year, by which time it might already be too late for some kids.

Devon Reilly, 20, went to West Orange High School. He was only required to take one sex education class during his junior year. Reilly states that the class was only a month long and lasting only a quarter. He said that the class was very informative and he learned not only about STDs but also about contraceptives. He goes on to say, "I think that those classes should have started earlier, because my school was filled with a lot of pregnant freshmen. I think that if those girls were informed earlier, that whole situation could have been avoided."

"A Home away from Home"

Diamond Reid
Editor in Chief

Thanksgiving, a special day out of the year that many people spend with family and friends to enjoy a special meal. Like other holidays on campus, Saint Peter's can become a bit of a ghost town during Thanksgiving with many students going home for the long weekend.

But what happens when you're going to school 3000 miles away from home with no way there? Or you don't have a family to spend the holidays with?

The Saint Peter's family has a special person who opens up his home on Thanksgiving for not only the Saint Peter's students and faculty but also the family and friends of people who attend(ed) or work for the school.

David S. Surrey, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the sociology department, holds an Annual Counter-Thanksgiving Gathering at his home in Montclair, New Jersey, and has been doing so for the past 25 years.

Dr. Surrey accounts two driving forces for this annual gathering.

"I grew up in a very small town in Missouri and there is a small college there where my parents used to do this (opening up their home for Thanksgiving) for students who didn't have a place to go," he said.

After taking part in the tradition growing up, he also adds losing his parents at a young for another reason for this tradition.

"It helped me to see what it was like being in college and not having a place to go during the holiday season."

Being raised on this tradition and later seeing the struggle first hand, pushed Dr. Surrey to get this family tradition started again when he got older.

Dr. Surrey, along with Robert Perry who previously served as the director of minority affairs at Saint Peter's, used to alternate homes for this gathering. It has been at Surrey's home for the last several years.

On average about 40-50 people usually come to Dr. Surrey's home, and this year was no different with a large portion of attendees being faculty members.

"When they were here, we used to get a lot Napoli and Bulgarian students. But now the demographic is more reflective of who our regular students are," Surrey said.

Michelle Perez, a senior at Saint Peter's double majoring in Political Science Anthropology & Philosophy, has attended the gathering for the past two years with her family.

"My family brings food, like a ham or something but he does a lot of cooking, which fills a large table. This is all for good and he doesn't expect anyone to bring anything," she said.

Dr. Surrey is sure to not only host a meal at his home but bring great discussions to the dinner table as well.

"Because of his (Dr. Surrey's), extensive knowledge in anthropology and sociology he's educated me in particular in the actual history of Thanksgiving. During the gathering, we talk about how people are not acknowledging that there were particular native indigenous people who were eradicated at the expense of this meal that happens to be tradition," Perez stated.

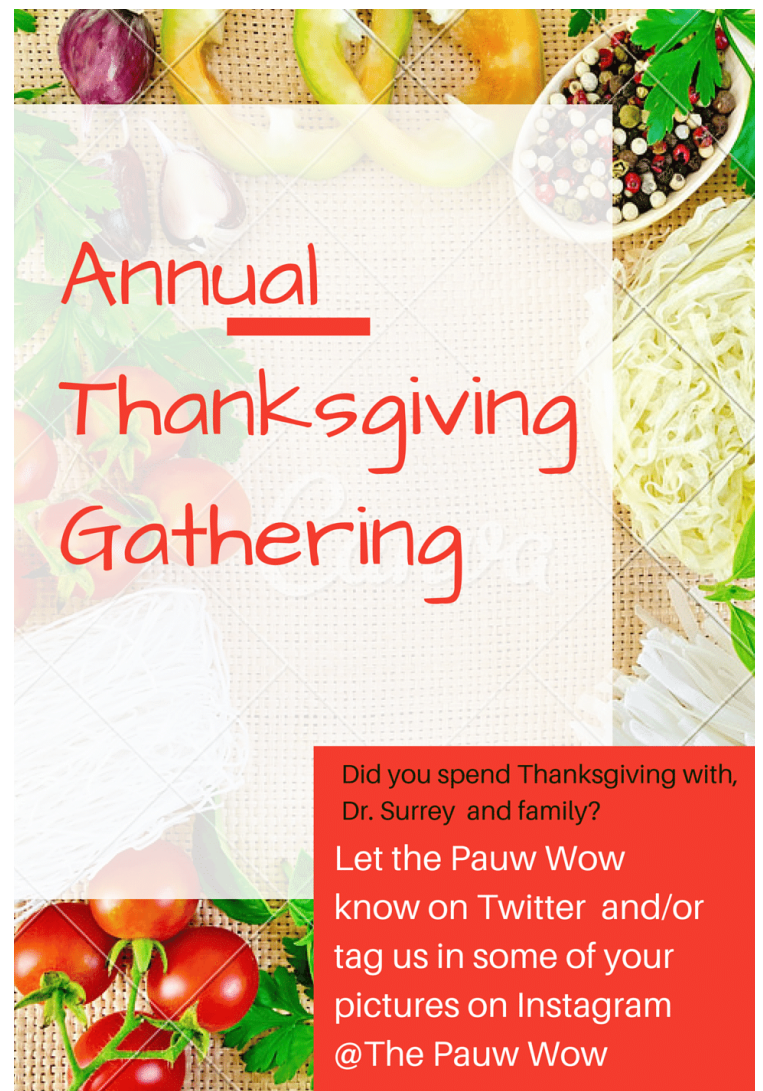
This year, Dr. Surrey drove a Saint Peter's shuttle to transport students and faculty members from campus to his and back. In past years, it has been a family affair with Dr. Surrey getting his son to take part and also drive a shuttle to help out.

This gathering has not only helped out other people and their families but also Dr. Surrey's own family as well.

"This has helped me raise my children in an environment that is important. They get to know the importance of helping others and appreciate the diversity of our friends," Surrey added.

Thanksgiving isn't the only holiday that Dr. Surrey invites people into his home, he also does this during passover.

Growing from a tradition that began from Dr. Surrey's own



childhood and expanding from Missouri to New Jersey, this long-standing tradition has grown and is a true reflection of the Saint Peter's mission, and what the holidays are truly about.

"I don't know if I'm going into education, or if I'm going to be in an environment where I am going to have a conglomeration of students to invite over but I'd love for my house to be a center for coming together. If I was ever to open my house, it will be just to come together to celebrate ourselves and our lives," Perez said.

This year, Dr. Surrey had about 40 guests in his home and served a meal along with great table discussions.

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